

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST

MINING AND INTRA-COMMUNITY CONFLICTS IN GBANE IN THE
TALENSI DISTRICT OF THE UPPER EAST REGION OF GHANA

BY

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Studies, University of Cape Coast, in partial fulfillment of the requirement for
the award of Master of Philosophy degree in Peace and Development Studies

OCTOBER, 2024

DECLARATION**Candidate's Declaration**

I hereby declare that this thesis is the result of my own original work, and no part of it has been submitted for another degree at this university or elsewhere.

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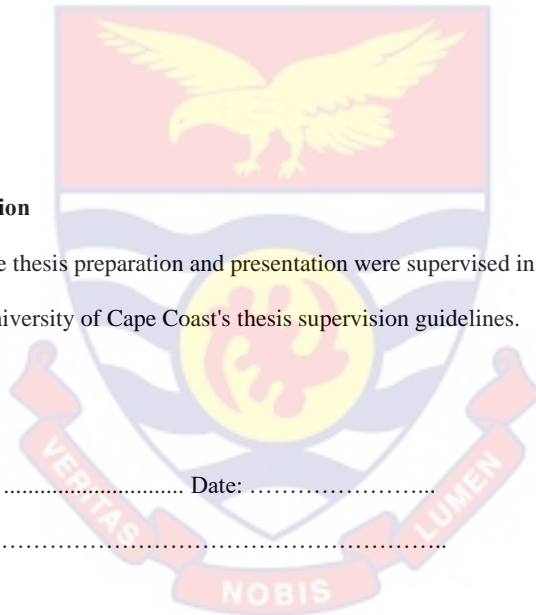
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ABSTRACT

This study explored the effects of mining on communal conflicts in Gbane in the Talensi Traditional Area of the Upper East Region in Ghana. The study employed qualitative research approach using purposive and snowball sampling methods to select the participants for the study. Data for the study was generated through in-depth interviews and focus group discussions. The findings revealed different forms of conflicts manifesting as a result of mining activities in the community. These conflicts involved different mining actors each with their interest and motivations. The conflicts include conflicts community against company conflict, small scale miners against large scale mining companies, a large mining company against another large company conflict. These mining related conflicts were found to evolve into intra-community conflicts in several ways with these old conflicts taking on new dimensions. Drivers of these conflicts range from inadequate consultation, trespassing into mining concessions, non-payment or delays in payment of compensation, and non-enforcement of mining laws. The resultant effect is a polarised community with a breakdown of cultural and social systems, leading to negative peace and stunted development. The study recommends that Mineral Commission and Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources should enforce the Ghana minerals and mining regulations to reduce conflicts over access to and control of land for mining. The role of chiefs and Tindanas in leasing land to prospective miners should strictly be enforced by the Minerals Commission.

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DEDICATION

To my family

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ASM	-	Artisanal and Small Scale mining
CENFAD	-	Centre of Alternative Development
CSR	-	Corporate Social Responsibility
DFID	-	Department for International Development
DRC	-	Democratic Republic of Congo
E and P	-	Engineers and Planners
FAO	-	Food and Agricultural Organisation
GDP	-	Gross Domestic Product
GNA	-	Ghana News Agency
GSS	-	Ghana Statistical Service
MIDRA	-	Mining Induced Displacement Resettlement Approach
MNCs	-	Multi-National Companies
MOU	-	Memorandum of Understanding
NGOs	-	Non Governmental Organization
RCC	-	Regional Coordinating Council
REGSEC	-	Regional Security Council
SDGs	-	Sustainable Development Goals
TB	-	Tuberculosis
UER	-	Upper East Region
UK	-	United Kingdom
UN	-	United Nations
US	-	United States
WANEP	-	West Africa Network for Peace Building

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Natural resources significantly contribute to poverty reduction by providing people with livelihood opportunities to improve upon their lives (USAID,2006). Mining is gradually becoming, for many, the most viable source of economic livelihood (Hilson & McQuilken,2014). In most rural communities in Ghana, mining is the major source of income because it employs both skilled and unskilled people (Owusu, Bansah & Mensah, 2019). However, people in communities where resources are discovered and extracted encounter many challenges that lead to violent conflicts.

These conflicts are caused by land ownership, unfair compensation practices, unequal resource distribution, and environmental degradation (Abuya,2016). Intra community conflicts develop at the critical junction where these factors interact with the motivations of different actors with diverse networks shaped by power and politics (Cleaver,2014, Osei-kufuor, 2010). The intersection of these drivers gives rise to multiple conflicts between the community members and their leaders and mining companies resulting into intra-community conflicts. This subsequently leads to a breakdown of cultural and internal community relationship and cohesion which affects the peace and development of the community.

The aforementioned issues lead to a breakdown of cultural and internal community relationships and cohesion, which has a profound impact on the peace and development of the community. This thesis contributes to the ongoing discourse on mining conflicts by exploring_the complex interaction between mining activities and the local context in Gbane, Upper East Region

of Ghana. Shedding light on how these issues evolve into intra-community conflicts, thereby deepening our understanding of the dynamics at play. Offering valuable insights into the far-reaching consequences of mining conflicts on community cohesion and development, ultimately informing strategies for sustainable peace and development in the community.

Background of the Study

Over the years, mineral resources have become the backbone for many countries worldwide. In countries with abundant non-fuel mineral resources, the mining sector contributes significantly to their economies (Hilson & Banchiriga, 2009; McMahon & Moreira, 2014). Global statistics indicate that the mining sector contributes to the economy of many low-and-middle income countries in Western, Southern and Central Africa, Oceania, Central Asia, and Latin America (Addison & Roe, 2018). Countries in these regions have experienced strong growth due to the rapid expansion of their mineral exports and a sustained increase in prices for more than a decade since 2014 (Ericsson & Löf, 2019).

Furthermore, available trends and patterns of the various indicators in low-and-middle income countries show that beyond economic growth, mining contributes to significant improvements in their human development index scores (HDI) (Yamarak & Parton, 2021; Yiridomoh, 2021). For example, in Chile, the overall impact of the mining sector was stronger leading to improvements in foreign direct investment (FDI), export revenues, and fiscal revenues. Similarly, Botswana has recorded increasing economic growth which is attributed to the country's dependence on mining.

In sub-Saharan Africa, countries such as Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger have economies that are dependent on mining. According to Reuters (2022), gold mining revenue in Mali increased by 35% in 2022 which contributed to 9% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Similarly, gold production in Burkina Faso increased by 7% between 2022 and 2023 contributing significantly to the country's GDP (World Bank, 2023).

Ghana is among the major gold producers in Africa with available production figures placing it second on the continent (Akotey, 2023). Gold production in Ghana existed before independence with Hilson (2002) indicating that it started from the pre-colonial period with artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) dominating. The period after independence saw a decline in gold production but the formalisation of the mining sector through the Economic Recovery Plan in 1983 resulted in a significant rise in output. Since the formalization of the mining sector, gold production has rapidly grown making significant contributions to Ghana's socioeconomic development. For example, gold production significantly increased from less than 20,000 ounces in 1990 to 1.6 million ounces in 2016. The expansion of gold mining in Ghana has also resulted in significant improvements in the livelihoods of gold mining communities (Ontoyin & Agyeman, 2014; Tuokuu, Idemudia & Gruber, 2019)

The gold mining industry in Ghana consists of a mix of small and large-scale mining operations (Tenkorang & Osei-Kufuor, 2013). Corporate organisations and multinational corporations often undertake large-scale mining operations while small-scale mining is done by local community members and migrants (Tseer, Marfo & Eshun, 2024). While large-scale mining dominates in the production of gold, small-scale mining has

proliferated since the restructuring of the mining sector under the ERP in 1998. Before the ERP, small scale mining was considered as an informal and unregulated activity which was largely rudimentary, unmonitored and uncontrolled practices (Hilson, 2002). However, the promulgation of the Small-Scale Gold Mining Law 1989 (PNDCL 218) and its subsequent incorporation into Minerals and Mining Act 703 (Parliament of the Republic of Ghana, 2006) significantly changed the ASM landscape in Ghana. The new mining law introduced registration and licensing regimes for ASM. Specifically, the law allowed artisanal miners to acquire 25 acres through the Minerals Commission and then apply for a license to mine. The formalisation process failed to regulate ASM in Ghana due to the problems associated with obtaining a license for mining (Hilson et al., 2014). The resultant effect was the proliferation of illegal gold mining activities in Ghana (Baffour-Kyei et al., 2021). These illegal gold-miners are referred to as "*galamseyers*," (Hilson & Potter, 2005).

The current legal framework for mining gives recognition to both large-scale gold mining and ASM. As a result, several communities in Ghana have seen the large scale operations of the ASM which is often undertaken illegally. The problem of small scale illegal mining has been compounded due to the window in the mining law that enables nationals to partners with foreigners to undertake gold mining. The opportunity offered to foreigners by the mining law and the increase in gold prices in 2008, resulted in the influx of foreigners into ASM sector in Ghana. The significant rise in small-scale gold mining was also due to the challenges associated with registering and obtaining a license for small-scale mining.

The significant rise in the gold production has resulted in transformation of many gold mining communities (Bice, Brueckner & Pforr, 2017; Korrppi & Mecklin & Heikkila, 2019). Notwithstanding the economic and social importance of gold production to the economy of Ghana (Amponsah-Tawiah & Dartey-Baah, 2011), the mining sector is not without challenges, which is dominated by the "resource curse" theory (van der Ploeg, 2011; Venables, 2016; Sachs, 1995; Warner, 2001). According to the proponents of the resource curse theory, the abundance of natural resources leads to violence and conflict, which disrupts economic growth and retards development (van der Ploeg, 2011). The literature on the resource curse theory highlights three dimensions of the resource curse as slower economic growth, violent civil conflicts, and undemocratic regime types (Brunnschweiler & Bullet, 2009; Collier & Hoeffler, 2009; Ding & Field, 2005). Even though these three dimensions are inter-related, this thesis focuses on the interaction between mining and violent conflicts.

According to Collier et al. (2009), resource dependence affects conflicts. Their main argument is that, non-cooperative behaviour and greed motives as well as grievance drive resource related conflicts. The first two, non-cooperative behaviour and greed motives, align with rational explanations of conflicts while grievance is rooted in a behavioral paradigm, and emphasises relative deprivation, social exclusion and inequality (Regan, 2003). These factors explain the manifestation of mining conflicts. Most mining conflicts occur between communities near mining sites and mining companies (Andrews et al., 2017; Oh et al, 2020).

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Mining conflicts between companies and communities have increased in recent years due to non-cooperative behaviours between mining companies and communities as well as grievances that encompass environmental problems and livelihood concerns (Hilson, & Banchirigah, 2009). The literature provides evidence of several violent conflicts that have occurred in communities due to the presence of mining companies (Abuya, 2016; Botchwey, 2015; Tenkorang & Osei-Kufuor, 2013; Kendie, Osei-Kufuor & Boakye, 2014; McFadden 2008; Wheeler & Gallagher & Brouer & Sablinski, 2007). According to these studies, mining-related disputes center on six issues: land ownership, compensation, unequal resource distribution, environmental degradation, mine-induced poverty, and conflict over human rights violations.

Other studies have found that the surge of migrant workers and their method of contact with the community is a source of friction due to migrant workers' disregard for local laws, customs, and traditions (Wheeler; Zandvliet & Anderson, 2009). The failure of institutions with the mandate to perform monitoring and supervisory roles in enforcing mineral and mining laws drives many of these community mining conflicts (Musa, 2023).

The commencement of mining operations with time exacerbates existing internal conflicts within the community. Intra-community conflicts, often happens as struggle between community factions, particularly over the control of resources, such as land, mining concessions, and mining areas in the study community. Intra-community conflicts arise when there is rivalry for the limited resources and occurs between members of the same community groups or opposing factions. It is a struggle between many factions or groups living in the same community. These intra-community conflicts are driven by

underlying structural violence that widens inequalities and systemic discrimination of certain categories of people based on past histories (Stewart & Brown, 2007). Also, the advent of mining in communities' results in increased competition over access and control of resources, contestation over power, and control amongst leaders within the community (Crawford, 2015). The mix of these grievances with mining conflicts mutates to new forms of intra-community conflicts that have generalised interest (Crawford).

Grievance-induced discontent serves as a main determinant for group mobilisation in several intra-community mining related conflicts (Langer, 2005). In many of such mining related conflicts, community leaders play a key role in violent group mobilisation by organising the process of grievance formation that often push community members to act in particular ways. These grievances arise as a result of perceived human right abuse by mining companies, competition over land for mining and agriculture, as well as mining companies' inability to translate their corporate social responsibility policies into development projects that meet community expectations (Kemp, Owen, Gotzmann & Bond, 2011).

Power contests at the community level shape intra-community mining conflicts in several ways. Power contests among the community élite can lead to both constructive and destructive outcomes (Crawford et al 2015). In mining communities, the latter seems to dominate with competing élite maneuvering to induce company leadership in their spaces to reinforce their positions in the conflict (Bastian-Daigle, 2008; Kearney, 2007; McFadden 2008). Such power struggles among the community élite are conflictual in nature and have the tendency to further draw other community members who

may feel deprived into conflicts with serious implications for internal community relations.

All of these grievance factors intersect resulting to conflicts and contribute to a deteriorating state of peace, which is exacerbated by mining and intra-community conflicts that impede development. Furthermore, a community that is divided along group and factional lines makes interaction, consensus building, the needed social capital and networking difficult for development. According to Sen (1999), peace and development as freedom appear to elude the community, which are critical elements for development, as the incidence of intra-community conflicts continues to occur.

Statement of the Problem

Gbane community in the Talensi District of the Upper East Region have experienced a significant increase in the incidence of protest, violence, and legal battles in recent years, as a result of mining operations engaged by both multinational mining companies and small-scale mining companies in the community (Ayamba, Dramani, & Agbenyega, 2017; Bakobie, Abaare, Ziblim Duwiejuag, 2020). These protests and violent incidents are still on the rise over several mining-related disagreements with no signs of abating anytime soon.

The influx of multinational mining companies into the community resulted in a series of disagreements and clashes with community leaders, community members, and local mining actors competing for land and mining areas (Talensi District Report, 2010). For example, it was found in their research that in the Gbane community, the displacement of approximately 527 farmers and subsequent destruction of significant economic trees (Shea trees)

by a Chinese mining Company resulted into violent clashes between farmers, youth, and the mining company (Crawford, 2015). In another separate incident, the youth of Gbane were incensed over 747,41 acres of land that the Chinese mining company had purportedly claimed. The youth staged protests against the operations of the company in the community (Crawford, 2015). The youth demanded that the mining licence be revoked and that the company should leave the community. Tension and violence persisted up to date because community members and small-scale miner's lands and mining concessions were captured by the company (Upper Regional Coordinating Council Investigation Report on mining disturbances in Gbane, 2018).

Furthermore, complaints about collusion between the community elite, mining companies, and government officials in granting of mining lease and permits that captured community and family lands without the knowledge of landowners, which resulted to grievances and protest by locals (Crawford, 2015). Also, these incidences in the community involve interest contestation and competition. Different interests are at play in the mining and natural resource sectors, and these competing interests often lead to the challenges that arise. Numerous conflicts arise as a result of the interaction between these multiple actors with conflicting interests.

All of these numerous grievances and many more arose as a result of land disagreements, displacement, access to resource, and failure to effectively enforce the mineral and mining laws of Ghana. subsequently, leading to confrontations and violence (Crawford, 2015). These incidences and many more necessitated this research on Mining and Intra-Community Conflicts in Gbane community in the Talensi District. This study seeks to investigate

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emerging trends of conflicts in the community of Gbane and how these conflicts affect the peace and development of the community to provide comprehensive understanding of the complex nature of the conflicts and provide recommendations for conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

Objectives of Research Study

The main objective of the study was to assess the interaction between mining and intra-community conflicts in Gbane.

Specific Objectives

1. Examine the dynamics of intra-community conflicts in Gbane.
2. Analyse the drivers and sources of mining conflicts in Gbane.
3. Discuss the effects of intra-community conflicts on the peace and development of Gbane
4. Make recommendations for conflict resolution and peace building

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study:

Specific questions

1. What are the dynamics of intra-community conflicts in Gbane?
2. What are the drivers and sources of mining conflicts in Gbane?
3. How do intra-community conflicts affect the peace and development of Gbane?
4. What recommendations can be made to ensure effective conflict resolution and peace building at Gbane

Significance of the Study

The study was conducted in a time when the activities of multinational and small scale mining companies are on the increase with the negative effects

associated with their mining activities drawing national attention. The findings of the study will be relevant to national development since it would enhance the activities of the Mineral Commission, Ministry for lands and Natural Resources, and Local Government in promoting peace in mining communities. The findings of the study, would further contribute to the literature on mining and conflicts in Ghana. This will provide information on the level of violence and instability in the mining community to the various stakeholder institutions (local and national). Providing them with further information about the need to work on mining to achieve a harmonious coexistence and sustainable mining.

The study will also be helpful to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and donor communities that are involved in resolving conflicts, addressing social injustice, and protecting the environment because the study's findings will bring to their attention the conflicts and livelihood difficulties that locals experience as a result of mining activities by mining companies. It is more likely that these NGOs, CSOs, and the donor communities may use the findings. Lastly, the research will add to the body of literature currently present in the fields of mining conflicts, peace, and development. Researchers may use the study as a resource for future research on mining and conflicts in other places where mineral extraction is taking place.

Delimitation of the study

The study addresses topics related to mining and intra-community conflicts, as well as the drivers of these conflicts and their effects on the peace and development of the study area. This research focuses on the Gbane

community in the Talensi District of the Upper East Region. Answers would be sought regarding the trend of intra-community conflicts, their drivers and the effects these conflicts have on the peace and development of the area where there have been mining conflict occurrences. Recommendations for policy actions would be made to lessen the issue.

Limitations of the study

Limitation of the study was the fact that miners declined to take part in the study because of their awareness of mining-related activities and acts of violence, as well as the frequent security arrests and pending legal cases in the community. This was the reason behind the adoption of snowball sampling approach to conduct interviews with few small scale mining leaders. However, the use of Focus Group Discussions and Key Informant Interviews made it simpler to access information to address the limitations associated with the field survey.

Organisation of the Study

The study is structured and presented in five chapters, each of which deals with a specific topic relevant to and connected with the research. Chapter one presented the introduction and background of the study, problem statement, research objectives of the study, research questions, significance of the study, scope of the research study, limitation of the study and organisation of the study. Chapter two looked at the introduction, theoretical framework of the study and also reviewed literature relevant to the study. It contains definition of key concepts used in the study, review of empirical studies, conceptual framework and chapter summary.

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Chapter three covered the study area, research design, the target population, the sample size and sampling procedure, the data collection methods and data analysis, ethical considerations and chapter summary. Chapter four covered the results and discussions of the data collected and chapter summary. Chapter five presented the summary of the findings, conclusion drawn and researcher's recommendations.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

Introduction

This chapter reviews related literature relevant to the study, divided into three sections. The first section covers the theoretical framework, which includes the theories of greed and grievances, relative deprivation, and the resource curse. In the second section, related concepts including conflict, mining, and intra-community conflicts were considered. The empirical review constitutes the last section of this chapter, which examines literature related to the key objectives: resource-related conflicts, the drivers of conflicts within host communities, and the implications of conflicts on host communities.

Theoretical Framework

Several theories could explain this study, however, considering the issues related to the study, the greed or grievance theory, relative deprivation theory, and resource curse theory were used to underpin the study.

Greed or Grievance Theory

The economic theory of greed and grievance provides a framework for understanding conflicts' occurrence, existence, and endurance. This theory has been extensively used to explain violent disputes, with economic factors being considered as crucial as collective grievances in driving such conflicts (Burton, Collier & Hoeffler, 2004; Gurr, 1970). According to this theory, conflicts often arise due to material gains, where greed (the intention to acquire undeserved benefits) or grievance (anger over increasing injustices) play pivotal roles (Burton, Collier & Hoeffler, 2004; Gurr, 1970). Greed,

characterised by the desire to control more resources than one deserves, often results in conflict.

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Collier and Hoeffler (2004) provided a pioneering examination of the concepts of 'greed' versus 'grievance' to further explain the origins of violent conflict. In their view, greed serves as the fundamental incentive for violent conflict, while grievance is the primary motivation for violent actions. This suggests that greed often leads to grievances, making the two concepts interrelated. Despite their apparent opposition, greed and grievance are sometimes complementary; greed can lead to grievances and vice versa (Murshed & Tadjoeeddin, 2007). This interrelation forms a primary source of conflict, though it is not comprehensive, as other social, economic, and political factors also contribute to the origins of conflicts (Osei-Kufuor, 2016).

Murshed and Tadjoeeddin (2007) emphasize that greed combined with grievances drives internal violent conflicts. Collier and Hoeffler (2001) argue that countries with abundant natural resources are more vulnerable to violent conflict than those without them. In governance and ethnic conflicts, greed is often for self-gain, leading to the unjust accumulation of resources at the expense of the powerless. Conversely, grievances are driven by specific interests such as ethnic or religious enmity, political marginalization, or inequity (Collier & Hoeffler, 2001). The greed model suggests that combatants assess opportunities for material gain, while the grievance model posits that combatants are motivated by religious, ethnic, or social class grievances.

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Greed also relates to elite rivalry over valuable natural resources (Murshed & Tadjoeeddin, 2007). Collier (2004) asserts that wherever there is greed, there is elite rivalry for significant natural resource rents, often masked

by communal grievances. The availability of natural resource rents continues to attract resource capturing and looting as long as global market links offer opportunities for rebel movements (Boas & Dunn, 2007). Some argue that the goal of some conflicts is not to defeat the enemy but to prolong violence for profit. This manipulation of systems often benefits competing and corrupt elites at the expense of the deprived and powerless.

Murshed and Tadjoeeddin (2007) further argue that grievance and relative deprivation, along with the resulting pain, promote conflict as a means of protest or resistance. In the context of conflict or rebellion, grievance is often cited as a justification for seeking justice. Grievances are typically rooted in issues of identity and group formation, with an individual's value linked to their social class group (Akerlof & Kranton, 2000). The deprivation caused by existing inequities contributes to grievances and polarises situations. Although not all conflicts fit neatly into the greed or grievance categories, social and economic grievances often overlap.

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The 'greed versus grievance' theory is widely accepted for analysing and understanding conflict, particularly in countries rich in natural resources. This theory suggests that aggrieved parties are motivated by resource control rather than genuine political conflicts with government officials or ethnic divisions (Ganesan & Vines, 2004). Collier (2004) argues that economic forces, such as entrenched poverty and the trade in natural resources, rather than ethnic tensions or ancient political feuds, are the true culprits in conflicts.

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This perspective has led to the assertion that the 'greed versus grievance' theory can be applied to analyze conflicts at a national level. According to the theory, conflicts arise when there are palpable group

disparities, often with historical dimensions, resulting in grievances that drive internal violence (Gurr, 1970). Stewart (2008) notes that power differentials between groups, along with horizontal inequalities, explain the grievances that lead to conflict. Horizontal disparities among culturally defined groups are significant contributors to violent conflict. The unrestricted access to resources by one group at the expense of others is a recipe for violent conflict driven by perceived grievances (Osei-Kufuor, 2016).

While the 'greed and grievance' theory offers valuable insights into conflict dynamics, it is essential to consider other historical factors contributing to societal conflicts. Horizontal inequality combined with relative deprivation can lead to divisions and, eventually, conflict. Horizontal discrepancies among various groups based on race, religion, linguistic distinctions, tribal affiliations, and other elements are significant catalysts for contemporary conflicts (Stewart, 2000).

This theory serves as a solid foundation for examining the root causes of conflicts (Murshed & Tadjoeddin, 2007). Greed, especially in regions rich in natural resources, can instigate and prolong conflicts. However, the formation of factions and the presence of past grievances are prerequisites for engaging in violent collective actions. In summary, grievances can exist without greed, but sustaining selfish motives without underlying grievances is challenging (Murshed, 2002). Murshed (2002) argues that conflict is driven by relative deprivation and the resulting sense of injustice.

The greed and grievance theory is particularly relevant in this study. Collier and Hoeffler (2000) highlight that much of the debate on the economic causes of present-day armed conflict revolves around the 'greed versus

grievance' contradiction. This model is useful for analysing and understanding conflict, particularly in developing countries and community settings, such as the conflict in Gbane. The theory is relevant in interpreting intra-community conflicts, where both greed and grievances are present. Applying this theory in the study will help analyse intra-community conflicts and their contextual manifestations, with the Relative Deprivation Theory explaining the driving factors and incidents of social disorder, such as frequent protests, demonstrations, and violence, that underline the conflict in Gbane.

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Relative Deprivation Theory

The Relative Deprivation Theory posits that conflicts arise when there is a perceived discrepancy between what individuals or groups expect to receive and what they can attain (Gurr, 1970). This perceived gap between expectations and capabilities leads to dissatisfaction and unrest. The theory highlights that discontent stems from comparing one's situation with that of others, particularly when structural inequalities exist. This sense of deprivation is not merely about lacking resources but also about not having the means or time to maintain a certain lifestyle or activities that one has grown accustomed to.

According to this theory, it becomes evident when individuals or groups compare their situations to a reference group and feel deprived or disadvantaged to them. This feeling is particularly pronounced when goals become legitimate expectations but are thwarted by societal resistance, leading to a collective sense of deprivation (Morrison, 1971). The theory is crucial for understanding social movements, which often emerge from shared experiences of relative deprivation.

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Absolute deprivation, a related concept, differs from relative deprivation in that it refers to a level of poverty where basic needs like food and shelter are unmet, posing a threat to survival. In contrast, relative deprivation may not threaten life directly but can significantly impair one's ability to participate fully in society (Gurr, 1970). Both forms of deprivation lead to dissatisfaction, but relative deprivation is particularly potent in generating feelings of discontent and resentment when individuals focus on what they lack compared to others in a society marked by structural inequality.

Gurr's (1970) theory suggests that the likelihood of collective violence increases with the intensity and scope of relative deprivation. This deprivation often becomes the root cause of conflict, as people perceive their rights and expectations are being denied, leading to shared grievances. These grievances foster group identity and unity, eventually leading to **organised** opposition against perceived injustices. The risk of civil strife and conflict rises as perceived deprivation intensifies relative to expectations.

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Structural inequality, another aspect of relative deprivation, is crucial in understanding the roots of violence. When large segments of society feel they are not receiving a fair share of resources, frustration against the system builds. This frustration is particularly strong among those at the bottom of the social hierarchy who feel **marginalised** and disadvantaged. If these feelings are not adequately addressed, large-scale violence can erupt, particularly when political, economic, and religious discrimination are involved. These factors often lead to **organised** resistance and violence as marginalized groups seek to address their grievances.

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Relative deprivation theory thus helps explain the causes of social disorder, including rioting, property destruction, and conflicts. It is particularly relevant to marginalised groups, such as settler communities, youth, and women, who often experience deprivation in various forms. Gurr (1970) found that relative deprivation and inequality are major causes of conflict and political violence.

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Polarization is another concept related to relative deprivation, where inter-group heterogeneity combines with intra-group homogeneity to predict communal conflict (Esteban & Ray, 1994). This polarization can lead to inter-clan conflict, which is a significant predictor of communal violence (Montalvo & Querol, 2005). The theory thus aids in understanding conflict situations in host communities, where such dynamics are often at play.

In sum, Relative Deprivation Theory highlights the importance of the gap between aspirations and achievements in fostering discontent and conflict. Gurr's (1970) work suggests that collective violence is strongly correlated with the intensity of relative deprivation among group members. This theory is particularly relevant in understanding conflicts, such as the Gbane conflict, where issues of economic and mineral resource deprivation are evident. The theory provides a micro-foundation for understanding how perceived deprivation can lead to significant social unrest and conflict.

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Resource Curse Theory

The Resource Curse Theory suggests that countries rich in natural resources often experience negative economic outcomes, including low economic growth, corruption, and resource-led conflicts. According to this theory, there is an inverse relationship between high revenue from natural

resources and economic growth (Warner, 2001). Despite having abundant resources, these countries do not achieve the expected levels of economic development. Various explanations have been provided to support this phenomenon, which Sachs (1995) and Warner (2001) argue is a resource curse situation.

One prominent explanation within the resource curse theory is the Dutch Disease. This refers to the negative impact that a large inflow of natural resource revenue can have on other sectors of the economy, such as manufacturing and agriculture. The increase in revenue can lead to inflation or an appreciation of the exchange rate, which shifts labour and capital from non-resource sectors to the resource sector, making them less competitive. This shift can result in de-industrialization and economic decline.

Another aspect of the resource curse is its potential to foster increasingly authoritarian and less democratic governments. This phenomenon is often explained through the lens of taxation. In countries where governments rely on taxing citizens for revenue, there is a greater degree of accountability and responsiveness to the needs of the populace, which can encourage democratic governance. However, in resource-rich countries where governments derive significant revenue from natural resources, there is less dependence on taxation. This reduces the government's accountability to its citizens, as natural resource revenues are often acquired through opaque means, depriving citizens of transparency and participation in the management of these resources.

As a result, politicians and government officials are less answerable to the public, as they are not reliant on taxes. This lack of accountability is

exacerbated by weak institutions, which fail to ensure proper governance and transparency (NRGI, 2015). In many resource-rich countries, weak law enforcement allows elites to seize or steal large sums of money from one-time revenue sources, such as mineral or oil projects, which are often managed outside the traditional budget process. This lack of oversight further strengthens the case for the slow or negative economic growth observed in these countries (NRGI, 2015).

Corruption is another factor contributing to the poor economic performance of resource-rich countries. The resource extraction sector is often rife with corruption, as mining firms pay bribes to government officials, politicians, and traditional leaders to secure favorable treatment. This weakens governance systems and creates an environment conducive for rent-seeking behavior, where individuals or companies try to increase their share of the nation's wealth without contributing to the overall well-being of society (Fosu, 1996; Baland & Francois, 2000). Rent-seeking can occur when regulatory agencies are manipulated to favor certain entities, leading to a competitive disadvantage for others and hindering economic growth.

The point-source nature of extractive industries often exacerbates social and environmental problems in communities surrounding mining locations. Conflicts over resources such as land, water, and livelihoods are common, as these resources are vital to the well-being of local populations. The resource curse theory explains how these conflicts arise and persist, as various groups struggle for control over resources, often leading to socioeconomic grievances and environmental degradation (NGRI, 2015).

The theory also predicts the emergence of resource-led conflicts as different entities vie for control and maximize their benefits from recently discovered resources. This is particularly relevant in the context of the study community in Gbane, where the majority of the population relies directly on key resources like land, forests, and livestock for their livelihoods. The denial of access to these resources due to mining operations threatens their survival, leading to violent behaviour and conflict. The availability of these resources determines the community's well-being, and their scarcity or denial due to external factors like mining exacerbates tensions and triggers conflict.

The Resource Curse Theory therefore highlights the negative economic and social consequences that can arise in countries abundant in natural resources. The theory is particularly useful in understanding intra-community conflicts, as it reveals the economic grievances that often underlie these conflicts. By applying this theory to the study, we can better understand the dynamics of conflict in resource-rich regions like Gbane, where economic grievances and resource scarcity play a significant role in shaping the community's conflict.

Conceptual Review

This section of the study reviewed the various concepts embedded in the study. Among these concepts include; the concept of mining, small-scale mining, conflict, intra-community conflict, Peace and Development,

Mining

Mining is the extraction of minerals from the earth's crust for human use (Down & Stock, 1977, cited in Acheampong, 2004). According to Down and Stock, mining is the process of digging into the earth to extract naturally

occurring minerals. It is the world's second oldest and most important industry after agriculture (Down & Stocks). It is currently the world's fifth largest industry and plays an important role in global economic development (Amponsah Tawaih, 2011). Mineral commodities trade accounts for a sizable portion of global trade (Madeley, 1999).

Small-Scale Mining

Unlike mining that has a well-established and acceptable definition, there is no widely accepted definition of Small-Scale Mining (SSM). The concept applies to a wide variety of activities. Despite numerous efforts, no consensus on an SSM definition has been reached. Notwithstanding its arguments in Ghana, the definitions below reflect the Ghanaian context and are provided for clarity to the study as well as provide a common basis of understanding for the discussion. Small Scale Mining (SSM), also known as small-scale mining in this context, is a catch-all term for low-tech, labour intensive mineral processing and extraction (Hilson & Pardie, 2006). Though no precise definition of SSM exists in Ghana, the term is almost exclusively used to refer to licensed operations based on a concession of less than 25 acres, as well as several other pre-qualifications mandated by the Minerals and Mining Act, 2006 (Act 703), which requires a small-scale mining license applicant to be a Ghanaian citizen of at least 18 years of age.

In the case of formal SSM, the operations must have the necessary licenses and permits, as well as adhere to regulations, policies, and management practices. While informal artisanal mining (galamsey) operations lack the necessary licenses and permits required by law, they do have a social license to operate from the local community or other local actors who lack the

state's authority to award mineral rights and concessions (Hilson & Pardie, 2006).

For this study, small-scale mining refers to operations that are small to medium in scale, possess the necessary licenses and permits, and employ a medium to high level of mechanization. This definition aims to clarify the concept of small-scale mining within the context of this research..

Conflict

Coser (1956) defines conflict as a struggle over values or claims to status, power, and scarce resources in which groups or individuals seek to neutralize, injure, or eliminate rivals. Conflicts are likely to arise when opposing interests, values, or needs are dependent on people's interactions with one another (Jeong, 2009). Conflict is an essential part of society and social life. Conflict is unavoidable, and it is not always bad. Surprisingly, it can both destroy and bind relationships.

Similarly, Nicholson (1992) defines conflict as "an existing state of disagreement or hostility between two or more people." This suggests that two or more parties have failed to reach an agreement and are thus on opposing sides of the same issue. As a result, it implies pursuing incompatible objectives. Conflict, in other words, denotes a collision course; it also denotes opposition to an existing point of view, stand, or position. When two or more groups clash over values and claims to status, power, and resources, the opponents' goals are to neutralize, injure, or eliminate the rivals (Coser, 1956). Goal incompatibility refers to opposing or completely opposing motives or pursuits.

Conflict also implies different perceptions, which may or may not lead to hostility. In this context, conflict simply refers to "differing perceptions" or points of view on an issue or situation (Barash & Webel, 2002). It could be a different interpretation of a motive or a different point of view. Conflict can also be associated with hostility or physical confrontation (Jeong, 2000). When incompatible goals or perception value differences reach a critical point, they can manifest as actual hostility or clash. Technically, conflict refers to an existing state of disconnection between two or more parties on a prevailing issue.

Intra-Community Conflict

Intra-community conflict is a struggle among factions within a community, particularly over resource control bases such as mineral-producing areas, land, mining concessions, and mining areas within a community, is known as intracommunity conflict. Families that support intracommunity causes are often faced with opposition from other families or community factions. There could be a rivalry between the elites of the community and the urban. Rivalry over the limited resources between members of the same community groups or competing factions gives birth to intracommunity conflict. There is conflict between numerous factions or firms that reside in the same community (Ibeogu, Abah, & Chukwu, 2019)

These groups are usually from different sections within the same community divided into various group factions that fight each other. The use of violence by the parties to gain control of some disputed and perceived indivisible resource, such as a piece of land, mining concessions, or local

political power, is referred to as violent conflict. This is consistent with a widely accepted definition of armed conflict (Galtung, 1965).

The groups involved are non-state actors, which means that neither actor has control over the state or its armed forces, though state actors may play an important supporting role in a communal conflict. The groups, in particular, are organised along a shared communal identity, implying that they are not formally organised rebel groups or militias, but that the conflict occurs along the line of group identities (Brosche & Elfversson, 2012). Some would equate communal identity with ethnic or religious identity, but the definition as conceived here is purposefully left open, because group identity can be considered socially constructed rather than static.

Communal identity is defined as subjective group identification based on a shared history, culture, or core values and goals (Gurr 2000). By stating unequivocally that communal identity refers to ethnic or religious identity, the term becomes less flexible and incapable of accommodating other forms of possible communal identity. For example, in local conflicts where the dividing line is between 'original' inhabitants of an area ('indigenes') and more recent settlers (migrants), identity group formation should be viewed as a communal conflict because people strongly identify as 'we' and the 'other group' along these lines (Brosche & Elfversson, 2012).

Differentiation along such lines usually results in 'sons of the soil,' where indigenous peoples believe they are the rightful owners of the land (Fearon & Laitin 2011). Similarly, in other areas, one's primary identification may be based on one's occupation, and battles may be fought along those lines

(for example, pitting pastoralists against agriculturalists, small scale miners against mining companies).

These intra-community conflicts are in different types and characteristics, based on apparent level of intensity and strengths. these include latent conflicts, medium and escalatory conflicts. The latent conflicts are those at emerging stages and lying low but loaded and pregnant with discontent waiting for the least trigger to increase, whilst medium level conflicts are the ones that are not immediately violent such as those seeking to resolve disputes in the law courts and traditional conflict resolution methods in a non-violent way. Lastly, the escalatory type of conflict appears to be the violent and destructive, it is usually accompanied by protests and demonstrations.

Peace and Development.

In Galtung's theory, peace is the absence of both direct and structural violence. He notes that negative and positive peace are interconnected, as demonstrated by studies linking war (direct violence) with absolute poverty, vertical and horizontal inequalities, famine, and relief efforts—all forms of structural violence.

According to Galtung's theory of peace, there is more to violence than the absence of direct violence. Structural violence is violence caused not by direct physical harm, but by systems of unequal power that structure unequal life chances such that a person 's potential is unrealised. So, in that racial and gender discrimination, decreasing terms of trade, malnutrition, famine and unemployment, access to resources, and social disorder all affect people's life

chances(opportunities) such that realisation of their potential is limited, these and many more can be said to be forms of structural violence.

Structures with historical and geographical roots impact different people through various systems in diverse ways, often negatively affecting their development. To counteract this structural violence, it is essential to promote social justice and equality, referred to as positive peace. However, a limitation of Galtung's theory is that, while it aims for perfect equality, achieving this ideal in practice is challenging and often impractical.

Underlying Galtung's principle of structural violence is linked to basic human needs provision, informed by the basic needs approach to development that emerged in the 1970s. Thus, for Galtung, Structural violence, then, is about social justice and equality (called positive peace). Social Justice is the view that everyone deserves equal economic, political, and social rights and opportunities, access to opportunities for everyone particularly those in need or in short human rights. In summary these are the determining factors of development which are within the context of Galtung's principle of structural violence.

The link between basic needs and development of people is such that, where the needs and assets of people are effectively combined and utilised for a change, growth and development takes place. Therefore, in addressing inequalities, economic, social and political rights, injustices, access to resources which are a structural violence is an indirect way of addressing the challenging fundamental elements of development which may be structural and equally addressing issues of peace which are also development issues.

On the other hand, Sen (1999) defines development as freedom. He argues that anyone, including the poor, can develop if given the opportunity, but high levels of social and economic inequalities prevent the poor from doing so. Sen (1999) contends that development should encompass the following types of freedoms: political freedom, economic opportunities, social opportunities, transparency guarantees, and protective security.

In Sen's argument, these are the freedoms needed for development. Freedoms from the inequalities which are within a structured system which are the structural violence as explained by Galtung theory will lead to development as well as peace. Sen argues that the presence of inequalities created by existing structured systems with prescribed outcomes can be termed as not freedoms, but as inequalities which is also the view of Galtung's theory of structural violence.

The presence of inequalities, discrimination, deprivation, injustice, and abuse of human rights constitutes structural violence with prescribed outcomes. These conditions are not expressions of freedom but forms of violence. When such circumstances prevail, peace becomes unattainable, and development is stifled. Structural violence, such as inequalities, disrupts people's capabilities and hinders their development. Individuals should have the freedom to determine their path of development rather than having it imposed by a structured system.

Therefore, imposing decisions on people within an environment of structural and direct violence fails to create the necessary peace and consequently hinders development. This study integrates Sen's theory of development as freedom with Galtung's theory of peace, considering peace

and freedom across all facets of development, to establish the conceptual framework for identifying indicators of both peace and development.

Empirical Review

This review covers previous studies that investigated natural resource extraction as a primary cause of community conflicts, as well as those examining mining-related drivers of conflict and the effects of mining and conflict on the development of host communities. These studies were chosen because they provide relevant examples of issues such as intra-community mining conflicts, drivers of mining conflicts, their effects, and their impact on development. The studies illustrate how these factors contribute to the complexity and underlying causes of specific conflicts. The empirical review offers valuable insights for this research, though further investigation is still necessary despite significant progress thus far.

The resource curse theory has been the subject of numerous studies on the relationship between economic growth and the extraction of natural resources. One well-known study by Sachs and Warner (1995) suggests that, between 1971 and 1989, countries with rich natural resource endowments tend to grow more slowly than countries with poor endowments; they contend that the fact that poorer countries outperform rich resource countries has long been a feature of global economic history. Additionally, the theory's conflict assumption explains why the extraction of natural resources is often characterised by conflicts.

Natural resources can frequently generate and sustain internal conflicts as different groups fight for control of the resources or use newly discovered natural resources (Sachs and Warner). Each entity seeks to maximise their

own benefits from newly discovered natural resources. The resource curse theory predicts the emergence of resource-led conflicts. For instance, political instability and civil wars have been spawned by natural resources in Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Angola, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, and Liberia. In contrast, countries with fewer resources such as Norway, Botswana, South Korea, and Singapore have been successful without experiencing conflicts.

The inverse relationship between natural resource abundance and economic growth, Sachs and Warner contend that even after accounting for a number of variables, such as the fact that violence hinders economic growth and degrades the state of the economy. The negative relationship between the natural resource abundance and economic growth, Sachs and Warner argue that even after taking into consideration several factors, such as the fact that conflict hinders economic growth and has a negative impact on the performance of the economy.

Another study by Poncian and Kigodi (2015), titled "Natural Resource Conflicts as a Struggle for Space: A Case of Mining in Tanzania," examined resource conflicts as a struggle for space among communities, artisanal miners, small-scale miners, and large-scale foreign mining corporations. Data on conflicts involving natural resources were analysed from case studies and secondary sources. The study used the struggle for space as a different approach or concept, in contrast to the usual approaches centered on greed and grievances, corruption, political struggles for state capture and control of resources, and economic liberalisation policies to attract investors.

This study found that some natural resource extraction conflicts in Africa can be better understood if approached as a “struggle for space.” This does not render other approaches useless or unimportant; rather, it complements them. The study generalizes all issues and factors that contribute to conflict, such as land, livelihood, environmental degradation, competing interests, and human rights violations, within the broader context of environmental or natural resource space without being specific.

Ariza-Montobbio and Lele (2010) emphasized that the value people place on natural resources can be an underlying factor for conflict. Homer-Dixon (1999) reaffirmed that scarcity of natural resources can lead to conflict. Svampa (2015) argued that land conflicts directly affect control over natural resources. The identified gap is that the study emphasises space as an approach to dealing with resource conflicts, rather than focusing specifically on mineral resource extraction and its related causes

Ibeogu Aloysius (2019) conducted a study on inter- and intra-community conflicts in selected communities in the states of Nigeria, with an emphasis on the implications for the socio-economic development of the areas. The study examined the socio-economic importance of these conflicts on the Nigeria’s state and their communal existence. The study used secondary sources and observation as a data collection method, and it was anchored in the framework of systemic oppression and frustration as a theoretical framework for analysis. The study found that a number of factors, including supremacy among feuding communities and the quest or struggle over resource control, breed inter- and intra-community crises. The study provided empirical evidence of numerous historical instances of intercommunal conflicts. Struggles over resources, such

as socioeconomic and cultural ones, land ownership, socioeconomic status and ethnic supremacy, as well as struggles for access to grazing land, are common to all of these struggles.

The underlying drivers of these conflicts include depriving particular groups of people of resources, ethnic supremacy, power struggles, and discrimination based on issues of culture and identity. These and other factors combined to cause grievances, which in turn sparked a number of conflicts. Conflict is common among people or communities who feel deprived of certain resources or goods (Gurr,1970). Similarly, Brosché and Emma Elfversson (2012) found that land is also often at the heart of communal conflicts that centre on groups' main livelihood. Conflicts between herders and farmers and conflicts between different pastoralist groups are few examples (Aloysius, Emma, and Chukwu,2019). These conflicts negatively impact communities, causing serious harm to vulnerable groups. This includes effects on local livelihoods, which may significantly depend on land and resources (Boudreaux & Vhugen & Walter,2017).

Moreover, Kemp, Gotzmann, and Bond (2011) researched into Just Relations and Company-Community conflicts in Mining. The study examined the "process" aspects of resource conflicts by analysing grievance-handling procedures at six mining operations where company-community conflict was present. The study employed a qualitative research design and analysed extant academic literature and case studies. The study found that grievance handling procedures were insufficient in their capacity to advance justice. Procedural and interactional forms of justice therefore lie at the very heart of some of the real and ongoing challenges in mining, including intractable local-level

conflict; emerging global norms and performance standards; and ever-increasing expectations for the industry to translate high-level corporate social responsibility policy into on-the-ground practice. They concluded that the inequitable distributions of risks, impacts, and benefits are key drivers of resource conflicts and are likely to remain at the forefront of mining-related research and advocacy.

The study findings also highlighted that conflicts relate to the allocation of land; relations of power inequity; and, the company's lack of respect for Indigenous understandings and worldviews. However, procedural and interactional forms of justice lie at the very heart of some of the real and ongoing challenges in mining, including intractable local-level conflict; emerging global norms, and performance standards. Mining actors, stakeholders, and communities are under increasing pressure to address company–community conflicts defined here as interactions that range from minor disagreements to escalated or violent conflicts.

Global mining companies, in particular, are frequently accused of either knowingly or inadvertently causing conflict or exacerbating existing or latent grievances within communities (Humphreys et al., 2007; Wheeler et al., 2002; Zandvliet and Anderson, 2009). Such conflicts are usually motivated by community concerns that relate to economic or livelihood security; land or water access, ownership, use or degradation; environmental effects; gendered impacts; impacts on social cohesion and cultural beliefs; treatment and claims of human rights violations and other injustices; disparities between the distribution of benefits and risks; and the very meaning of development

(Bebbington et al., 2008; Bridge, 2004; Cragg and Greenbaum, 2002; Franks, 2009; Hilson, 2002; Reed, 2002).

According to Calvano (2008). Company–community relations have been described as the “battleground” upon which the activities of multinational companies are contested, with several seminal works on mines and communities overtly adopting a combative discourse in ‘Resource Wars’ by Ballard and Banks (2003). There was a theoretical gap in the study because it only used case studies and scholarly literature for data analysis without discussing the underlying theories.

In a related study by Mensah and Okyere (2014) titled “Mining, Environment and Community Conflicts: A Study of Company-Community Conflicts over Gold Mining in the Obuasi Municipality of Ghana”. The study examined cases of company-community disputes over gold mining and the underpinning issues, the dispute resolution strategies, and the weaknesses in the existing framework. Cases of disputes centered on compensation, resettlement packages, unfulfilled promises, mistrust, and lack of alternative livelihoods for economically displaced groups. The study gathered data from both primary and secondary sources and adopted informant interviews, and case studies to obtain the qualitative information required for discussion of the study. the study revealed that mining-induced conflicts stem from the company-community interface. The case is particularly true for large-scale mining operations and the effect on the habiting space of local people, their livelihood sources, and the changes to their social ties due to mining.

The implications are that the nature of mining activity suggests that conflicts are bound to ensue especially in the context of large-scale

multinationals companies' operations in local impoverished communities. Because a corporate social responsibility strategic framework alone is insufficient to resolve underlying grievances resulting from mining impacts. The deprivation of community and intricate underlying grievances has to be explored, understood, and addressed.

The study recommends that a new resolution framework be created that would support and enhance local alternative livelihoods and community-led, co-designed sustainable development plans, while also acknowledging communities as essential components of the larger framework. A theoretical gap was noted, although social legitimacy and the resource curse theory were employed to conceptualise mining conflict and company-community conflict, the study did not specify the theoretical context in which it was conducted. The research's main focus is a framework for dispute resolution which is outside the scope of this study.

Adonteng-Kissi (2015) investigated "Identifying the Sources, Causes, and Cost of disputes in the Preastea Mining Community in Ghana about community-company disputes in mining locations". The study examined the sources, causes and costs associated with conflicts to help improve risk management for handling conflicts between the local community and Golden Star Resource Limited (GSR), a major mining company in the area, the research's main goal was to identify the origins, causes, and costs related to conflicts. The study analysed data from surveys and stakeholder interviews with 1220 participants using a mixed-methods approach. The Sustainability Framework and the Legitimacy theory (Suchman,1995) served as the study's guiding concepts. The study concluded that land use and environmental

impact are the major sources and causes of conflicts with huge costs to both the company and the communities.

The study further revealed that power imbalances that has to do with unfairness, unfair distribution of risk, mining company's disrespect for local perceptions and worldviews are major drivers of conflict in Prestea community. According to Hilson (2002) the immediate triggers or causes of violent disputes between large-scale mining companies and indigenous populations are in connection with land use and more of inadequate communication, the inability of companies to meet their corporate social responsibilities, and accidental but preventable environmental impacts rather than normal environmental issues such as erosion, degradation, and sedimentation. Use of Sustainability Framework and Legitimacy Theory (Suchman (1995) is seen as an alternative to the relative deprivation and greed and grievances theories because all have the similar components that contribute to conflict.

Another study by Crawford, Agyeyomah, Botchwey, and Mba (2015) titled "The Impact of Chinese Involvement in Small-scale Gold Mining in Ghana: The Cases of Gbane and Dunkwa-on-Offin, in the Upper East and Central regions of Ghana", respectively. The study examined foreign involvement in small-scale mining, its overall impact on the sector, and its implications for economic growth and development. The study gathered information from primary and secondary sources using a qualitative methodology. Key informant interviews, focus group discussions, case studies, interviews with key government institutions, and interviews with private sector actors, were complemented with data from secondary sources.

The study revealed that the impact of foreign involvement, especially of Chinese miners, has been significant, and that small-scale mining in Ghana will never be the same again. Also, the study revealed a wide range of mining-related activities that are not clearly defined in the law. The inconsistency uncovered leads to various negative consequences and wholesale disregard for existing regulations, where due processes are ignored in order to enhance private benefits.

The study recommends that the need to amend the small-scale mining legislation to formally allow foreign miners to work with registered Ghanaian concession holders. This will create the space and set clear guidelines on the nature of partnerships, financing regulations, service provision, subcontracting rules, and ensure effective reporting and tracking of the gold produced and the revenues that accrue, that will contribute to economic growth and development. The gap identified in this study is that the study highlighted the degree of collaboration, rather than conflict, that existed between Ghanaians and Chinese miners, therefore this study will fill the gap identified in discussing the conflict aspect in detail.

A study by Taabazuing, Luginaah, Djietror, and Otiso (2012) titled “Mining, conflicts, and livelihood struggles in a dysfunctional policy environment: the case of Wassa West District, Ghana”. The study explored the impact of mining on the everyday lives of people in the Wassa West District, Western Region, Ghana. It was based on an interpretative methodology using focus group discussions and in-depth interviews, supported by an analysis of policy documents. while the theory of Rural livelihood approach was adopted as a theoretical framework for analysis.

The results reveal an extensive geographic transformation of livelihoods at various scales as a result of the local people being displaced from their lands that have become contested economic spaces. The findings point to a conflicting and confused mining sector policy environment that disadvantages local communities. The study recommends that the need to revise the country's mining laws to reflect international best practices, to help make Ghana a sustainable mining investment destination in Africa. Kleinpenning (1982) indicates that as users of space, the poor are suffering from competition to the point where in some regions there is already a direct and open struggle for space, which is often to the detriment of local communities. The livelihood approach theory could not explore the underlying grievances aspect of individual experience of deprivation and claims over spaces. Also, the study generalised all mining issues and linked them to non-functioning mining policies, with a focus on those policies this study seeks to fill the gap in specific and more explanation.

In a related study by Sulemana and Agyemang (2015) titled "The Socio-cultural implications of small-scale mining in the Talensi-Nabdam District of the Upper East Region of Ghana". The study examined the activities of illegal mining and the implications on the socio-culture of host communities. The study adopted mixed methods approach for data collection and analysis so as to enable the study add figures to the descriptions given by the respondents. The study revealed that even though there are instances of violent confrontations between some community leaders and among small-scale mining operators the incidences of violence in the study communities have been minimal in the last five years and the study also observed that

illegal mining activities do not occur on the cultural heritage sites in the five communities.

The study recommended that communities to designate site as sources of raw materials for craft industry; setting up of community sanctioned task force to ensure that miners refill pits; the need for state institutions to adopt a purposive approach in dealing with illegal miners. The illegal mining and associated conflicts aspect is not explored in the study and this study intends to fill the gap.

In addition to implications of conflicts on communities, Ontoyin and Agyemang's (2014) studied "Environmental and rural livelihoods implications of small-scale gold mining in Talensi-Nabdam Districts in Northern Ghana" and explored the subject in detail. The study examined the effects of small-scale mining on the environment and the rural livelihoods of the Yale, Digari, and Datuko communities in the Talensi-Nabdam Districts of Northern Ghana. The study also examined the coping strategies employed by those who were affected by the small-scale mining operations in the study area. A qualitative research methodology was employed in the study to collect data from primary and secondary sources. Field surveys, Focus Groups Discussions, key informant interviews, and observation were conducted. Additionally, secondary data from agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency, the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), the District Assembly, the Ministry of Minerals and Natural Resources, and the Minerals Commission were gathered. In addition, data was gathered from relevant desk research sources.

The study revealed an interesting linkage between the Small Scale Mining activity, the natural environment and rural livelihoods as the activity

tends to destroy more sustainable natural resource base and rural livelihoods, while at the same time, also provide and diversifies other non-mining livelihood sources. However, the gap identified is that study has not address the grievances and conflicts resulting from the destruction of the environment and livelihoods by the small-scale mining activities this study will fill the gap of the conflict situation.

More research is required to determine the precise causes of the various intra-community conflicts that arise from mining. There is a dearth of literature on the relationship between mining and intra-community conflicts. Specifically, little is known about the drivers of these Intra-community conflicts and how they affect peace and development. In this study, I aim to close this knowledge gap by arguing that the challenges that arise from intra-community conflicts as a result of mining have a significant impact on the development of host communities.

Conceptual Framework

Figure 1 illustrates the conceptual framework for resource extraction (gold mining). It depicts the interaction between gold mining and the host community, the mining-related factors that interact, and the types of conflicts that emerge. These conflicts can evolve into new forms, such as intra-community conflicts, and have various implications for the community's economy, society, and politics.

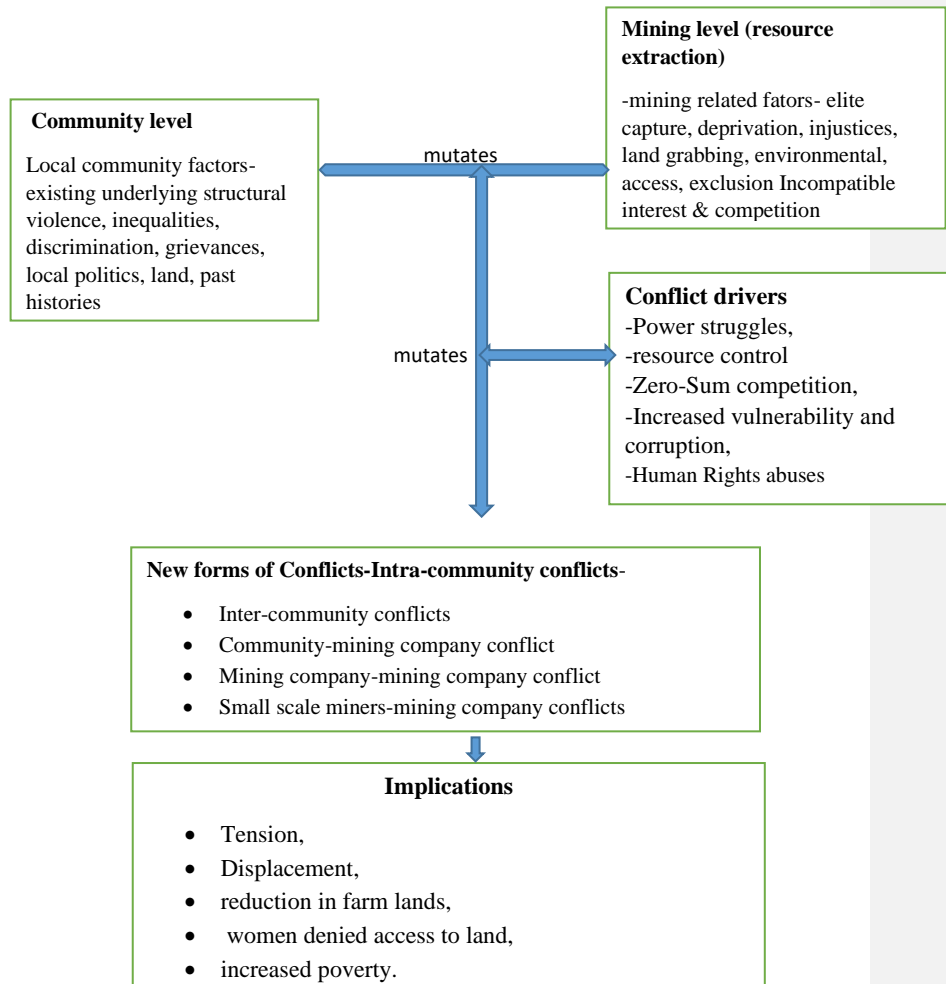


Figure 1: Depicts the Conceptual Framework

Source: ; Andrews, Elizalde, Le Billon, Oh, Reyes, & Thomson (2017).

An illustration of the conceptual framework for resource extraction (gold mining). The interaction between gold mining and the host community, mining-related factors that interact, the types of conflicts that emerge which eventually evolved into new forms of conflicts, such as intra-community

conflicts as well as the implications for the community's economy, society, and politics are all depicted in Figure 1.

Mining operations (resource extraction) give rise to disappearance of farms and livelihoods, land acquisition and access issues, lack of consultation, illegal mining, environmental degradation, injustices, human rights abuse and incompatible competing interest. This greed and deprivations motivations for limited resource creates grievances which fuels conflict.

On the other hand, at the community level the existence of underlying structural factors, horizontal inequalities, discrimination, local politics, past histories and land issues, all these also intersect to create grievances and produce latent conflict situation. The interaction between mining (resource extraction) and the community, leads to some more complex grievances situations, resulting into conflict. Greed combined with grievances compels internal violent conflicts (Murshed & Tadjoeeddin, 2007).

Lastly, conflict drivers emerged due to the accumulative effect of the various causal factors leading to grievance as result of the effects of mining on community people resulting in protest, violence and conflict emerges. This subsequently mutates to news forms of conflicts which are intra-community conflicts. Consequently, the economic, social and political implications of the intra-community conflicts on the community give rise to tension, displacement, reduction in farm land, women denied access to land and increased poverty.

All conflict factors in the framework are linked to each with a causal relationship working in their respective directions. The arrows show the

direction of causality with unexpected consequences of resource extraction (gold mining) with associated outcomes and conflict.

Chapter Summary

The chapter has been useful in giving definitions and meanings to theories and concepts linked to mining, small-scale mining, and intra-community conflicts so that lessons can be learned from how the problem appears in different situations. Empirical research on the topic and its implications for socioeconomic development in both general and particular circumstances have also been covered. The causes of disagreements inside communities and how they impact the development and cohesion of the host communities. Host communities that are endowed in mineral resources deal with a range of challenges related to mining and the ensuing intracommunity conflicts.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

Introduction

This chapter outlines and elaborates on the research methodology utilized in the study. It begins by detailing the research paradigm and design and then delves into an overview of the study area. Subsequently, it elaborates on the sampling techniques and data collection and analysis methods employed. The chapter concludes with an examination of the ethical considerations that governed the research process.

Research Philosophy

The study is situated in the interpretivists philosophy. This is because the study aims at understanding and describing the subjective meanings in the studied area, as well as the lived experiences of several individuals in relation to a phenomenon (Creswell, 1998). In human society, this usually translates into gathering 'deep' information and perceptions through the use of qualitative research methods such as interviews and observation, and then representing this information and perceptions through the perception of research participants (Lester, 1999). Interpretivism allows us to understand the world as it is through the subjective experiences of individuals and supposedly unbiased evidence, which includes subjective views, opinions, emotions, and values that cannot be directly observed and counted and thus require interpretation.

The interpretivism method was used in the study to gain insights into deep and hidden information about mining and intra-community conflicts in the study area. Individual perspectives, understanding, and interpretations of

mining and intra-community conflicts are central to the study, and the use of the interpretivist method was appropriate for the research to allow respondents to provide detailed explanations of the conflict around them, which aided in data interpretation. The interpretivist philosophy is clear as an approach that creates new, richer understandings and interpretations of human society and contexts. The study focuses on meanings, descriptions of the lived experience of the participants' recollections and interpretations of those experiences.

Research Design

The study employed a qualitative approach because the emphasis of the study is on the meanings and understandings that people associated with mining and conflicts. Thus, there are ways to understanding such a reality. Qualitative research employs an interpretive, naturalistic approach to its subject matter; it seeks to make sense of, or interpret, phenomena in terms of the meaning people bring to them (Denzin and Lincoln, 2003). According to Myers (2009), qualitative approach help researchers understand people, and the social and cultural contexts within which they live.

In qualitative research approach, different knowledge claims, enquiry strategies, and data collection methods and analysis are employed (Creswell, 2003). Qualitative data sources include observation and participant observation (fieldwork), interviews and questionnaires, documents and texts, and the researcher's impressions and reactions (Myers, 2009). Data is derived from direct observation of behaviours, from interviews, from written opinions, or public documents (Sprinthall, Schmutte, & Surois, 1991). Written descriptions of people, events, opinions, attitudes and environments, or combinations of these can also be sources of data. qualitative research presents

data as descriptive narration with words and attempts to understand phenomena in “natural settings”. This means that qualitative researchers study things in their natural settings, attempting to make sense of, or to interpret, phenomena in terms of the meanings people bring to them.” (Denzin & Lincoln, 2000).

The qualitative approach was more appropriate for this study since it provided the necessary insights from heterogeneous actors. The study assumed that mining and conflicts are complex and dynamic, and the qualitative approach offers the opportunity to get into these different perspectives.

Study Area

This study was conducted in the community of Gbane, which is located in the Talensi District of Upper East Region, Ghana. The Talensi District was formed in 2012 from the Talensi-Nabdam District. It has a land area of 838 km² square kilometers, with Tongo as its capital (Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), 2021). The Bolgatanga Municipality borders it on the north, the West and East Mamprusi districts (both in the North East Region) on the south, the Kassena-Nankana district on the west, and the Bawku West and Nabdam districts on the east. The Talensi district has an estimated population of 87,021 people, with 50.4 percent males and 49.6 percent females (GSS), accounting for 6.7 percent of the Upper East Region. Eighty-four percent of the population is rural, there is a sex ratio of 101.2, with a youthful the population of 41.2%.

Gbane is in the Talensi District and can be found at latitude 10.68N and longitude 0.67°W. Gbane is located in the district's eastern part, 40 kilometers from Tongo, the District capital. The Tongo areas' topography is dominated by

relatively undulating lowlands with isolated outcrops and some uplands slope. It falls within Ghana's Birimian, Tarkwaian, and Voltarian rocks, and there is evidence of the presence of minerals, particularly gold (GSS, 2014)

The vegetation is Guinea Savannah woodland, with sparse short deciduous trees and a grassy ground flora. Sheanuts, dawadawa, baobab, and acacia are the most common economic trees (GSS, 2014). The climate is tropical, with two distinct seasons: a rainy season that lasts from May to October and is erratic, and a dry season that lasts from October to April. The district's annual rainfall averages 95mm and from 88mm to 110mm. Temperatures in the area from 45 degrees Celsius in March and April to 12 degrees Celsius in December (GSS, 2021).

The district's population is quite youthful, with 51.9% under the age of twenty 20years and 65. 3% under the age of 30years. Gbane's population is multi-ethnic, with the Talensi ethnic group constituting the majority and the Nabdams and Gurisis constituting minorities and migrants (GSS,2014). The district is experiencing a massive influx of migrants from all over Ghana and neighboring countries of the Economic Community of West African States. There are also foreign migrants, such as Chinese and Australians, who work in gold mining. These migrants are mostly concentrated in mining enclave communities such as Gbane in the district's east (GSS,2014).

Agriculture is important to the socioeconomic development of the people. Approximately 84.5 percent are involved in agricultural production (GSS, 2014). Crop farming, animal husbandry, fishing, and hunting are the district's main economic activities. Agriculture is primarily rain-fed, with little irrigation, and is the primary source of employment, accounting for 84.5

percent of total economic activity (GSS). The main agricultural products are groundnuts, sorghum, millet, rice, and maize. Economic trees such as Shea and dawadawa can be found in the wild. Women are the primary harvesters and processors of Shea nuts and dawadawa fruits.

Mining and quarrying are two other low-intensity industrial economic activities in the district and study area. The primary extractive activities in the district are gold mining and quarrying. Granites and Marbles Company Limited operates a commercial quarry in the district that produces cut rocks for export (GSS, 2014). Meanwhile, it appears that gold mining has surpassed agriculture as the most important economic activity in the study area. Gold was discovered in the study area, attracting a large number of migrant miners, as well as local and international gold mining corporations, including well-known Gold mining corporations (GSS)

Social and Cultural Structure of Gbane

The Talensi Traditional Council has one paramountcy (Talensi). Sub-chiefs who administer specific areas of jurisdiction assist the paramountcy and traditional councils. Each village or community has a chief who is in charge of judicial and administrative functions (GSS,2014). Tindanas are custodians of sacred traditions as well as administrators of ancestral and community lands held in trust for the living and the dead (GSS, 2014).

System of land tenure

In the study area, customary land tenure systems and land administration practices continue to predominate. In many cases, the community holds the allodial title, implying that there is no superior interest in land above it (Kasanga & Kotey,2001). Tindanas are holders of allodial titles

who hold lands in trust for families, clans, or village communities. In Ghana, every allodial titleholder is a titular holder, but chiefs and Tindanas are not supposed to assume ownership of community lands.

Target Population

In Gbane, the Chief and the Tindana, or earth priest, are two vital community's traditional leaders who play distinct roles in maintaining social harmony and promoting cultural awareness (Aryee, 2013). The Chief is responsible for overseeing the traditional governance structure, managing community affairs, and mediating conflicts (Ubink, 2008). In contrast, the Tindana serves as the spiritual leader, holding allodial titles and acting as a custodian of community lands, which he holds in trust for the people (Kasanga, 2001). Additionally, the Tindana mediates conflicts related to land ownership and community procedures, and offers prayers to local gods for a bountiful harvest and the prosperity of the people (Nukunya, 2003). Due to their significant interactions with mining firms on behalf of the community, the Chief and Tindana were selected as a target population for this study

Likewise, the landowners and farmers are indigenous community members who possess land assets; they were purposively selected to be respondents because they have the responsibility of managing the land resource, which provides them with a means of livelihood. Also, the youth and their leaders including women were purposefully selected to be among the targeted population because they are equally indigenous community members, the sons and daughters of the community, and they support development. They have the right to fight for any property, especially land for their future development, and they would protect any resource belonging to them. They

work in many capacities, such as community organisers, advocating for fair resource distribution, preserving farm lands, and opposing environmental destruction. The researcher included the youth and women leaders as part of the target population because they participated in protests, demonstrations, and violent acts against mining companies to express their dissatisfaction.

Small-scale miners and licensed concession owners are a varied group of people, some of whom are indigenous and some of whom are not. These miners had been operating legitimate small-scale mining businesses with the required permits prior to the entrance of large-scale mining companies into the community. The forceful removal of small-scale miners from their legal operations resulted into insecurity, protest and violence between the large mining company and regulator Mineral Commission. Since the small-scale miners actively participated in protests, demonstrations, and violence against the mining company, they were singled out for special attention and selection as a target population.

The mining company was selected as the research's target population because it has been operating in the area for some years now and has been the main subject of controversies and conflicts, including protests, demonstrations, and acts of violence due to its mining operations. The main government institutions comprising of the Mineral Commission, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the District Assembly and the Police service that are major stakeholders in mining sector and its operations and challenges. Mineral commission is the major regulator of the mining sector, and responsible for issuance of mining licenses, mining permits and enforcement of mining laws. Similarly, Environmental Protection Agency is a

regulator and its duties include environmental impact assessment, issuance of permits and enforcement of environmental laws. The District Assembly, the local government is the major authority responsible for all development agenda in the district including mining sector, mining leases and publications and collaborates with the stakeholder's institutions. The Police service plays a very vital role in law enforcement and maintenance of security and order during protest, demonstrations and violence. Thus all these institutions were selected based on their functions and roles they played in the mining operations in the study area.

Individuals as well as the private sector such as CSOs an investigative journalist and teachers played important roles in an effort to address some mining problems resulting their inclusion. NGOs called Centre for Alternative Development (CENFAD-Ghana) worked with IBIS to promote reconciliation, justice, and nonviolence among all parties involved in the conflict and to make the best use of available resources for a more effective response. Investigative journalists who focus on corruption in the study area have exposed numerous government officials and have a lot of information on mining issues in the study area. The selection of teachers as part of the target population of the research was based on their interaction with large mining companies as well as with small scale miners' use of minors in their operations and the effect on the minors. The target populations were selected based on their direct involvement, interaction and knowledge on mining in the study area.

Study Map

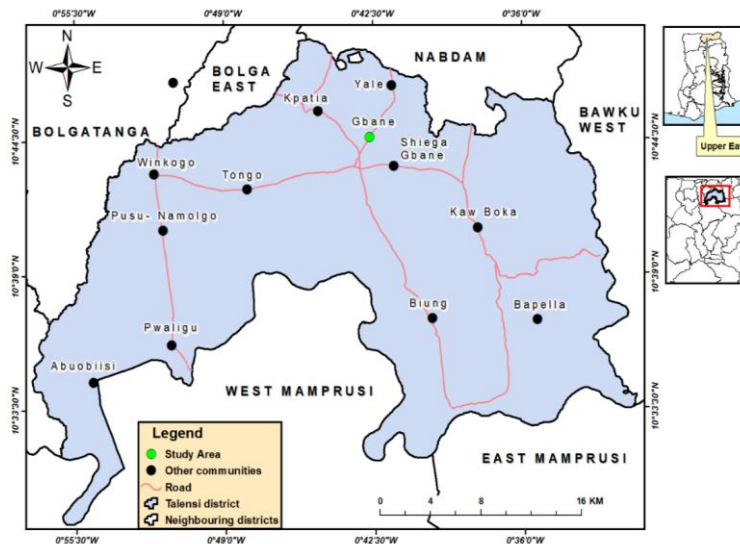


Figure 2: Map of Talensi District showing the location of Gbane and surrounding communities.

Source: GIS/Remote Sensing and Cartography Unit: Department of Geography and Regional Planning, UCC, 2021

Study Population

Traditional leaders, youth leaders, small scale miners, land owners and farmers, licensed concession owners, and mining companies in the Gbane community are among the target population. Officials from the Mineral Commission, the District Assembly, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Security Services (Police), School Teachers, investigative journalists, and Civil Society Organizations are among those targeted. Each member of the target population was considered important in providing relevant information to the subject under investigation. These are all key, hence their inclusion in the study.

Sampling Procedure

The research employed non-probability sampling techniques in selecting the respondents. Purposive sampling method was used to select respondents with knowledge or experience about the conflict and mining in the context of the study. The traditional leaders, youth leaders, assembly members of the area, Police officers, leaders of small-scale miners(licensed), officials of the District Assembly, Mineral Commission, Environmental Protection Agency, an investigative journalist, an official of a mining company, an official of an NGO, youth leaders and head teacher of primary school were all purposively selected for the interview.

The snowball sampling procedure was used to identify respondents through interactions with lead persons. Respondents included landowners and farmers, licensed small-scale miners, youth groups, and illegal miners (galamsey operators), there was no predetermined sample size at first; nonetheless, the saturation point was reached at 75 sample size. Respondents involved in community protests and conflict against gold mining concealed their identities and refused to grant interviews for fear of being arrested and implicated in cases, so the snowball sampling method was used. The researcher had to be introduced to the respondents by one of the youth leaders who knew them before they agreed to an interview. Following that, each respondent recommends and connects another respondent to the researcher, and the process is repeated with subsequent respondents. Some interviewees objected to their voices being recorded. Table 1 provides the sampling procedures used for the different categories of respondents and interview

methods of data collection used and Table 2. the Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

Table-Sampling and Data Collection Method.

Table 1: Category of Respondents and Sampling Procedure and Data Collection Methods

Category of respondents (Community level)	Sampling Procedure	Sample Size	Data Collection Method
Traditional leaders	Purposive	3	Interviews
Leaders of small scale miners	Purposive	4	Interviews
Leaders of youth		3	Interviews
Assembly Man	Purposive	2	Interviews
Landowners	Purposive	2	Interviews
Farmers	Purposive	2	Interviews
EPA	Purposive	1	Interviews
Mineral Commission	Purposive	1	Interviews
Official Shannxi Company	Purposive	2	Interviews
Mineral Commission	Purposive	1	Interview
District Assembly	Purposive	1	Interview
Environmental Protection Agency	Purposive	1	Interview
water vendor	Purposive	1	Interview
Food Vendor	Purposive	1	Interview
Police officers	Purposive	2	Interview
Investigative	Purposive	1	Interview
Journalist			
Head teacher of primary school	Purposive	1	Interview
NGO officer	Purposive	1	Interview
Total		30	
Grand Total			

Source: Field Survey, March, 2021

Sources of Data

The study used both primary and secondary data sources. Interviews and focus group discussions were used to collect primary data (Appendix A&B). A focus group discussion was used to gather specific information about the conflict (Appendix B). Secondary data were gathered from District Assembly reports, courts, news articles, journals, and the internet.

Commented [A18]: Merge the two tables

Data Collection Methods

For this study, in-depth interviews and focus group discussions were used to collect primary data. The in-depth interviews consisted of one-on-one discussions about the topic and issues under study. In-depth interviews were used to collect data because they are an effective method of gathering detailed information about the conflict. The method also allows for additional probing to obtain sufficient information from respondents who are assumed to have knowledge and experience in the subject area.

Focus Group Discussions were used in addition to interviews. They were used to gather information about the conflict. Five Focus Group Discussions were held with landowners, farmers (male and female), local youth group members, small scale miners, and illegal miners (galamsey operators).

Table 2: Focus Group Distribution Table

Participants	Number of participants	Location
Landowners	9	Gbane Community level
Farmers (male and female)	9	Gbane community level
Small Scale Miners	9	Gbane community (mining site)
Local Youth Group Members	9	Gbane community level
Illegal miners (galamsey operators)	9	Gbane community (mining site)
Total	45	

Source; Field Survey (2021)

A total of 75 participants were involved in the research study, comprising: 30 in-depth interviews, and 5 Focus Group Discussions, each group consisting of 9 participants, totaling 45 participants. This brings the

overall number of participants to 75, providing a robust sample size for the research study.

Data Collection Instruments

Two separate guides were designed and administered to the respondents, an interview guide and a focus group discussion guide. The first was the interview guide (see Appendix A) which was administered to the traditional leaders, leaders of small-scale miners, officers from the Mineral Commission, District Assembly, Environmental Protection Agency, mining company, Police, CSO, teacher of primary school, investigative journalist and youth leaders. The interview guide was divided into four sections. The first section is on the linkage of mining and intra-community conflicts, the second section is on trends of intracommunity conflicts, the third section is on the drivers of conflicts, then the fourth section is on the effects of mining conflicts on peace and development of the community. The focus group discussions guide (see Appendix B) was used for focus group discussions with land owners, farmers (male & female), local youth group members, small scale miners, and illegal miners (galamsey operators).

Fieldwork

The participants were divided into two parts for effective data collection. The first part was at the community level where the indigenes (natives) and the traditional leaders, land owners, farmers, local youth groups, small scale miners, and mining companies reside. The second was participants of government institutions, the private sector, and individuals which comprise of the Mineral Commission, Environmental Protection Agency, District Assembly, the Police, Journalist, NGOs, and teacher who are all stakeholders

at their various offices and locations. Data was collected from these two categories of participants for the study from 10th January 2021 to 30th March 2021.

Data Analysis

Qualitative techniques were employed in analysing the data. Data collected were edited and transcribed for understanding of expressions, especially responses from audio recordings in the local language were transcribed into English manually. –the transcribed data was again edited for consistency of the set of interview guides as well as set of focus group discussions guides. The result were grouped under general themes or topics for the analysis.

The study used Nvivo to analyse the qualitative data. First, the data was imported into the Nvivo software, and then explored the data of the interviews using certain words of similar themes that are relevant to the study. The Nvivo software was used to organize, structure, and interpret the collected data. The goal was to investigate the relationship between data categories and themes to better understand mining issues and intra-community conflicts. Because qualitative data is text-based, the Nvivo software used codes and labels. This was done to give the data meaning units. To search for related words in the data, coding in the form of words and phrases was employed. This aided in the identification of themes and the deriving of conclusions.

The data was read several times, and emerging themes and patterns relating to the research objectives and questions were identified and developed into related themes. Under each of the main themes and sub-themes, narratives or quotations supporting the themes were identified and used. The Spitzerow

conflict analysis and conflict tree analysis tools were then used in the study's data analysis.

I used the Spitzerow framework to try to figure out the conflicts' origins or source, the parties that are involved in the conflicts, what issues are in the conflicts overt and hidden ones, what tactics have been used against each other, and whether there have been changes since the conflict first started. Additionally, I was interested in learning how and to what extent conflicts enlarged, as well as what roles parties to the conflict played as allies or intermediaries and how this affected the course of conflicts. It is important to determine the resulting outcome, has any of the parties emerged a winner or loser and in what way, as well as whether it makes sense and what the advantages are.

The conflict tree analysis tool was employed to complement the SPITCEROW framework, which examines the various facets of a conflict, including its sources, parties involved, issues at stake, tactics employed, change and its impact, enlargement of the conflict, role of other parties, outcome, and winners. In conjunction with the SPITCEROW framework, the conflict tree analysis tool provided a comprehensive understanding of the conflict by examining the core problems, represented by the tree trunk, the causes of the conflict, symbolized by the roots, and the effects of the conflict, depicted by the branches and leaves.

This integrated approach enable researcher to visualise how structural and dynamic factors interacted leading to conflict, as supported by research (Mason & Rychard, 2005). By employing the conflict tree analysis tool in tandem with the SPITCEROW framework, a thorough analysis of the conflict

was achieved, provided valuable insight into its underlying dynamics and consequences.

Ethical Considerations

The consent of traditional leaders, small-scale miners, mining companies, and respondents were obtained before beginning this study. All of these respondents were assured of anonymity and voluntary participation. Respondents in the study were assured of confidentiality and privacy. The interviews and Focus Group Discussions were conducted in such a way that the respondents' lives were not put at risk. In fact, the emphasis was on the respondents' safety. The study community is a mining community tensed with multiple conflicts, so the participants' safety was assured

Every effort was made to confirm as much as possible the accuracy of secondary data. This was done by searching for more data sources. The information gotten came directly from the source in its original form. Anonymous quotations were assigned to the data collected from the interviews, which was done under strict confidentiality guidelines. Before the interviews, respondents were told that the study's data would only be used for research to achieve its objectives. The interviewees granted permission for audio recordings to be made, as well as for bias-free data transcription and analysis.

Chapter Summary

In summary, this study used qualitative approaches. This chapter outlined the research paradigm, research methodologies, strategies and design used in the study, including procedures, participants, data collection tools, data collection and analysis methods, and data credibility issues. The research

design for this study was a descriptive and interpretive, that was analysed largely through qualitative methods mainly using descriptions. Further it also briefly described the several stages involved in the design and development processes of the research in this study.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Introduction

This study aimed at examining the interaction between mining and intra-community conflicts using qualitative approaches. This chapter presents the findings of the study according to the specific research objectives. Using interview transcripts from a sample size of 75 and reports and publications from secondary sources, the analysis and key issues of mining and intra-community conflicts have been presented and discussed.

Emerging Trends (dynamics) of Intra-Community Conflicts in Gbane.

The first objective of this study was to examine the emerging trends in intra-community conflicts in Gbane. The discovery of Gold in Gbane affected the peace of the community through the escalation of violence among different actors that involved indigenes, small scale mining companies and others individuals who had migrated to the community. During a visit to one of the palaces in the area, a prominent respondent, the chief of the community, explained that people have their own reasons and interests for various actions, and where there is interest, there will be conflict. Below was the statement;

The conflict in this community is primarily due to gold mining. Some individuals have their self-serving intentions, and mining has become the major cause of numerous conflicts here. As I mentioned earlier, it is the gold that people want to claim their share of. Both youth and elders oppose me. Since the discovery of gold in 1995, there has been ongoing confusion. However, there was no existing conflict in Gbane (January 2021).

Moreover, a respondent who is a land owner and a farmer during a focus group discussion stated that the disagreements and violence here are against people who want to have and benefit more from the gold, it is greed. In 2012 up till date, problems started when Shaanxi arrived. There was no conflict in the community or with any small scale miner. It is greed taking over our lands, farmlands, and small scale miners' concessions by a few powerful individuals for themselves alone (February, 2021).

These violent conflicts have manifested in various ways, including community protests against large-scale miners usurping their lands, disputes between small-scale miners over mining concessions, and clashes among illegal miners, small-scale mining firms, and community members. The different conflicts related to the discovery of minerals in Gbane are discussed in detail below.

Community Protest against Chief and Shaanxi Mining Company

In many areas of Ghana, chiefs wield enormous power over land transactions and this has been a key issue in mining conflicts. This tends to be problematic for communities that have discovered mineral deposits. In Gbane, the arrival of the Shaanxi Mining Company resulted in a series of violent conflicts. The entry of Shaanxi Mining Company was facilitated by Yenyeya Mining Group in Gbane after a state-sponsored visit to China in 2008. After the visit to China by the Yenyaya mining group, Shaanxi Mining Company contacted the Minerals Commission and both the paramount chief and the local chief, following which an application for a license to operate as a mine service support provider was submitted to the Mineral Commission. The application was approved by the Mineral Commission, resulting in the arrival

of Shaanxi Mining Company in Gbane (Crawford, Agyeyomah, Botchwey & Mba, 2015).

Upon arrival in Gbane, Shaanxi Mining Company sought to acquire a 25-acre site belonging to Yenyeya, in addition to Purbotabaa Mining Group concession of 25-acres, thus giving them 50-acres. After the acquisition of the 50-acre land, Shaanxi Mining Company has constructed an underground mine which hitherto was the site for two local Artisanal and Small Scale Mining concession holders. The underground mine has tunnels that are estimated to run for almost 700 meters and 900 metres in different directions respectively. A large, modern processing plant has been built on the company's administrative and processing site (Crawford et. al., 2015).

According to a respondent in a focus group discussion with the youth group, he indicated that the entry of Shaanxi Mining Company in Gbane resulted in public protest by the locals against the Gbane chief. Two issues drive these protests. The first issue was the release of land for mining and agreements signed by the chief of Gbane without consultation with the Tindana and other community elders. The second issue was disagreement among community leaders over the amount of compensation to be paid to the chief by the Shaanxi Mining Company. According to the youth, the actual amount was concealed from the community by the Gbane chief (FGD, February, 2021).

On the first issue, the Gbane chief signed an agreement with the Shaanxi Company through the Yenyeya Mining Company which sought to lease 71.16 acres of land without consulting the key elders of the community. This created a major conflict between the Gbane chief and the members of the

community. The youth of Gbane eventually held a number of public protests against their chief and the Shaanxi Mining Company. The position of the youth during the protest was for the chief to return the lands to the community for farming and further resign his position as the chief (March, 2021). Similarly, a farmer and a community member during a focus group discussion alluded that;

the chief does not and cannot own the people and the land of this community as if we are the gold. When gold was not discovered, we were living our lives in peace, we are farmers and still farming, and the people and land are not gold for the chief to manipulate and control (Marchy, 2021).

The narrative from the respondents suggests the lack of consultation on the part of the chief. The community members considered the opaqueness of the transaction as an attempt to exclude the leadership of the community from the transaction. The dispute eventually became a harbinger of new conflicts as community leaders who had problems with the Gbane chief drew on the new problem to challenge the authority of the chief. In an interview with a key stakeholder who happens to be the chief himself, he mentioned the critical role of detractors in this particular issue. As captured in his narrative,

All these troubles are being caused by people who have issues with me. How come in one community, some people have no issues with the entry of the Chinese mining company, yet others do not believe whatever they have been told they are using this to cause problems in the community. (March, 2021).

Secondly, the compensation disagreements were the cause for contestation between the members of the community and the Gbane chief. While the feud over the lease was raging between the Gbane chief and some community elders who were opposed to the lease, the Gbane chief and the Chinese Company signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) agreement for the land. The Shaanxi Mining Company is said to have agreed to pay Ghc2,845,000.00 as the assessed value of the land leased to them by the Gbane Chief.

The signing of the MOU further aggravated the issue as the community members now enrolled the Chinese firm directly into the conflict. The company confirmed the signing of the agreement for the lease of the land. The company was also supposed to provide the community with a dam, five KIVP toilet units, and Chinese language instruction in the schools (Upper East Region Regional Coordinating Council (UERCC) investigation report, February 2018). The Shaanxi Mining Company denied any knowledge of the agreement to pay a sum of Ghc2,845,000.00 as a lease for the land to the community (UERCC investigation Report, 2nd February 2018). Instead, the Shaanxi Company paid only GHC 100,000.00 to compensate 43 farmers for their farmland taken over by the Shaanxi Mining Company. This issue led to disagreements, with the community and Shaanxi Mining Company exchanging allegations and counter-allegations.

The release of land for mining activities by the chief of Gbane therefore resulted in violent conflicts in the mining community of Gbane (Crawford & Botchey, 2015; Hilson et.al., 2004). The clash between the Gbane chief and the tindana clearly affirms this particular position. These

contestations between tindanas and chiefs over land access and control is a problem that is recurrent in Northern Ghana and has affected many areas. Customary land tenure systems in Ghana have their own unique ways of managing their lands and this has implications for land acquisition. This is because, according to Pottier (2005), land under customary tenure is viewed as a resource that all community members should have access to sustain their livelihoods.

In addition, competition over valuable resources among community elites, between mining companies, and also between small miners, both licensed and unlicensed and foreigners who are in pursuit of mining concessions lead to violent clashes which is common in Ghana (Tenkorang et. al., 2013). These disagreements within the community over access to land arising from Shaanxi mining company operations reinforce the notion that mining leads to localised violence (Crawford & Botchwey, 2015; McQuilken & Hilson, 2016; Hilson & Yakovleva, 2007; Okoh, 2014).

Mining Conflicts among Different Stakeholders

In other instances, there were violent clashes of varying degrees among the different parties engaged in mining activities in Gbane. The study uncovered competition and violent conflicts among large mining firms, as well as between legal and illegal small-scale miners.

Small-Scale Miners Against Shaanxi Mining Company Conflict

Access to land for mining remains a major source of contention in mining communities. The main point of contention is the right to access and control over mining lands. Small-scale miners and the Shaanxi Mining

Company have been locked in recurring conflicts in Gbane for more than eight years, since the company's arrival.

One leader of the small scale miners in an interview argued that Shannxi Mining Company's method of entering the community was deceitful, the company came as a support service company to assist all small scale miners, but with hidden intentions to expand to large scale mining shortly, and that is what we have today “that is what is happening now, and we are losing our mining concessions to Shannxi mining Company (February, 2021)

Thus, various strategies were adopted by Shaanxi Mining Company to dispossess the small scale miners of their lands and mining settlement. Tactics employed to forcefully evict the small scale miners included the discharge of uncontrolled waste into the mining settlements without any effort to control the waste discharged. Another approach is the uncontrolled smoke from the mine blasting that caused air pollution and affected a lot of people in the community.

Again, in a focus group discussion with a group of small scale miners, a respondent claimed that respiratory diseases and tuberculosis are very common among residents in the mining settlement. This was because the company considered the residents in the mining area as illegally residing in the place and asked them to leave the area, but was met with strong resistance as small scale miners were ready to fight against forced eviction (FGDs, February, 2021).

In another interview with a small miner who owns mining concessions with all the necessary legal documents for mining, he indicated that Shaanxi Mining Company resorted to the use of various strategies aimed at evicting the

small scale miners from their mining concessions including the mining residential area. According to the respondent, the mining company trespassed and illegally undertook underground mining into the concessions of small-scale miners and depleted gold ore which is beyond the fifty-acre concession allocated to them as a small scale mining company (February 2021)

The complexity of this matter is that small scale miners have legal mining documents such as licenses, permits, and legal mining concessions to operate in the location, hence their refusal to quit the area. They are ready to stand up to Shaanxi company against their eviction tactics. The tension stems from the Shaanxi company's claim that small-scale miners are not legal and thus cannot use their concession for mining activities. Small scale miners, on the other hand, accused Shaanxi company of breaking the law by using a small scale mining license to conduct large scale mining, which is against the mining laws, and demanded that the company be punished for violating the mining laws. Because the Shaanxi company is regarded as an intruder who has trespassed into their mining sites (*February, 2021*).

According to Poncian and Kigod (2015), resource conflicts arise from struggles for the acquisition, control, access, and ownership of space for mining and other livelihood activities. Natural resource conflicts are caused by the deprivation of people and societies of access to and ownership of natural resources on which they rely for a living, according to Mildner, Lauster, and Wodni (2011). Small-scale miners' primary source of income, according to this argument, is mining, and they would resist eviction and prevent mining in the area where they now live.

Another twist to this mining conflict is the acquisition of a new mining concession with an area of sixteen square kilometers ((16km²) by Shannxi Company to undertake large scale mining. On June 14, 219, the Mineral Commission and Lands and Natural Resource Ministry granted Shannxi Mining Company a new concession, but the conflict with small-scale miners remained unresolved, causing confusion, protest violence, and dissatisfaction. This new mining concession captured the mining concessions of many licensed small scale miners who previously protested the trespassing of their mining sites by the Shaanxi Mining Company. This protest turned violent, prompting the formation of a committee in the Upper East Regional Coordinating Council to investigate the Gbane disturbances. The Committee recommended that the new large scale mining company should negotiate with these small scale miners for their concessions and either absorb them or pay them off with adequate compensation. However, Shaanxi mining Company declined to negotiate with these small scale miners for their concessions leading to further violent disturbances in the area.

The eviction of the small scale miners from their site has a cascading effect on different individuals whose livelihood depended on the small scale mining activities. Such individuals joined the protest against the company;

‘There will be blood bath in this place. We know Shaanxi Mining company cannot adequately compensate us for the investment we put into the concessions. we have put up structures where we live at the mining site settlement and go to work every day. They want to use force to sack us but we are not going anywhere. it is either Shaanxi mining company will have to leave this place. We are

prepared and very ready to face them for entering into other people's concession (February, 2021).

Violent protests erupted in response to the eviction of small-scale miners from their mining area, and the findings of Taabazuing et. al., (2012) confirmed that the displaced locals' lands have become contested economic spaces. The protest of small scale miners and workers is about space for economic activity and source of livelihood which they depend on for a living.

The above discussions suggest a collusion between Shannxi Company and the Mineral Commission to favour Shannxi mining company to take over the mining concessions of small scale miners. The Mineral Commission cannot be ignorant of the company's receipt of large-scale mining leases, as well as licenses and legal concessions for small-scale miners.

The dynamics of the conflict also reveal issues of power and control of the mining company to appropriate and evict weaker small scale miners, depriving them of their mining concessions, which led to small scale miners' grievances (Crawford et. al., 2015; Okoh, 2014). This confirms Hilson's (2002) study on land use conflicts in mining communities, which discovered that it has become increasingly difficult for mining companies, which require a significant amount of land area to carry out their operations, to coexist peacefully with mining communities, who rely on the land for a living, and attributed the primary causes of land conflicts to poor communication among mining sector stakeholders. The section below discusses the contestation between two large-scale mining companies, Cassius Limited and Shannxi Mining Company.

Conflict between Shanxi Mining Company, and Cassius Limited

Mineral deposits in the study community attracted the attention of multinational companies (MNCs) into direct mining. This created a high demand for mining concession amongst international mining companies around the Gbane community which grew so fast (RCC/ UER, White Paper Report, February, 2018). The convergence of the international mining companies led to strong incompatible competition amongst the international mining companies. The conduct of the companies brought them into direct confrontation, and also with already existing small scale mining companies who had earlier acquired concessions in the mining area.

This conduct of the mining company is supported by Coser's (1956) definition of conflict as a clash of values and interests, the tension between what is and what some groups believe ought to be. Coser's assertion explains how clashes of incompatible interests and goals result in tensions and conflict between these two mining companies who tried to undo each other in competing for scarce resources, resulting in conflict between the two multinational mining companies.

As indicated in Figure 3, three multinational mining companies had concessions located adjacent to each other. These mining companies are the Shaanxi Mining Company, Cassius Limited, and Cardinal Nabdini Resource Limited projects in Gbane. The area was previously restricted to only licensed small-scale miners. However, this space has been captured by these large mining companies with conflicting presence of small scale miners at the periphery.

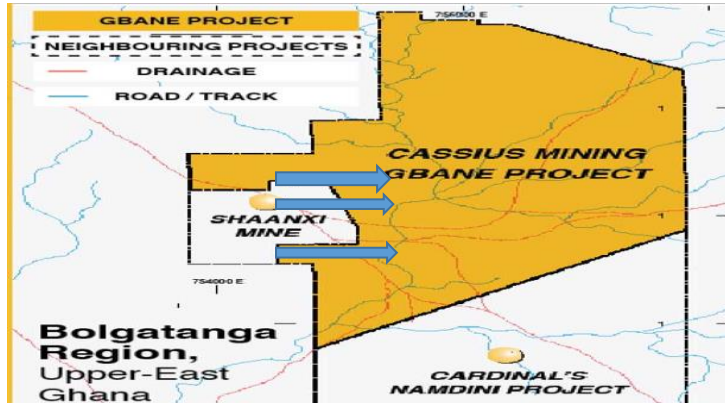


Figure 3: Map showing trespassing of concession in blue arrows.

Source Cardinal Resource website, 25th March, 2021

The dispute started when an Australian company, Cassius Limited accused Shaanxi Company of trespassing into their concession area; the company claimed the move would have depleted its gold ore worth one hundred million dollars (\$100million) for its continuous mining in the area over 10 years, and secondly operating without the appropriate license to venture into their concession area, citing a report from SRK International to back their claims (RCC/ UER, investigation report on mining disturbances in Gbane , February, 2018). The findings of the investigation confirmed there is trespassing, but Shaanxi mining company denied the claims, and said it never trespassed into the concession of Cassius Limited.

Subsequently, Cassius Limited, dissatisfied with the findings and recommendations of the committee formed to investigate the mining disturbances at Gbane took legal action against Shaanxi Company to resolve the case at the court. Cassius Limited further sued Shaanxi Company at the

International Court of Arbitration (RCC/ UER, white paper report of Gbane, February, 2018).

Interestingly, small-scale miners are connected to the dispute, and in order to pursue their interests, they have joined forces with Cassius Limited to fight a common cause against Shaanxi Company for illegally trespassing into their concession without an appropriate license. Small-scale miners are willing to negotiate with Cassius Limited for agreements based on a percentage share or complete takeover of their concession in exchange for fair compensation. When Shanxi Mining Company attempted to prevent small-scale miners from negotiating and handing over their concessions to Cassius Limited, violence erupted (*February, 2021*).

Contestation Among Five Mining Companies Over Concessions

The mining companies are competing for the mining concessions. With the spread of news of Gbane's gold discovery, mining companies entered the area to acquire mining concessions. In all, five mining companies have acquired mining concessions and with time this resulted in clashes over mining lands. The mining companies had incompatible goals and interests which worsened the conflict situation in the community. The companies are Savanna Resources Limited, Cassius Limited, Cardinal Nabdini Resources Limited, and Tindongo Resources Limited. This list does not include Shannxi Mining Company, which is an established company in the community; on the other hand, Nordgold Limited, Shandong Gold Limited and Engineers and Planners are recent additions to the community looking for partners with which to work (*February, 2021*).

According to a mining committee member of the District Assembly in an interview indicated that, an instance of incompatible competition occurred when Cardinal Nabdini Resource Limited, an Australian multinational company, decided to sell off a mining concession in exchange for a takeover of the concession. The offer sparked the interest of several multinational mining corporations, which began bidding for the concession, resulting in disagreements among them. These companies included Shandong Gold Limited, a Chinese company, Nordgold (LON, NORD), a Russian company, and Engineers and Planners (E&P), a Ghanaian company, all of which competed for the Cardinal Resource mining concession (*February, 2021*)

In an interview with the researcher, a respondent who works as an investigative journalist revealed that the large-scale mining concession in the Gbane area, which spans 19.54 km², holds a 100% interest stake in the large-scale mining license. The license is valid for 15 years and can be renewed for an additional 30 years. Three other multinational mining companies competed for the mining concession because Nadini Resource Limited's project was so attractive (*February, 2021*).

An interview with a leader of the small-scale miners revealed that the struggle for the concession began as a long-running battle between Russia's Nordgold (LON: NORD) Limited and China's Shandong Gold Limited. However, the bidding process was thrown off when Engineers & Planners, a Ghanaian company, formally made an unsolicited, all-cash offer for the Cardinal Resource concession. As a result, Cardinal Resource Limited and the companies disagreed and all bids were cancelled (*February, 2021*).

Anticipating that they were unlikely to win the bids, some of these multinational companies began creating alliances with small scale mining companies with valid licenses and concessions within the mining area to form partnership companies, and may expand beyond their concession area, which could lead to conflict. This was the same strategy used by Shaanxi mining company, which resulted in numerous conflicts in the study area.

In addition, multinational mining companies started to entice communities with promises to establish mining vocational training schools, pay compensations, re-settle displaced residents, and implement corporate social responsibility. These promises were made to win the support of the communities around the mining area. Conflict could be emerged from partnership arrangements because the entire area has been designated for large scale mining. Already existing small scale miner's concessions fall within such a large scale mining concession which resulted in conflicts (*March, 2021*)

Settler (Migrants) And Indigenes Land Ownership Disagreements

The last of the mining related conflict recorded is the settler and indigenes disputes over land. Land has become a scarce commodity, particularly in the mining community where land is highly sought for mining over agriculture production and other economic activities. One key informant who is a sub-chief at his palace when he was visited said in an interview that, mining companies resorted to the use of local people, particularly indigenes who own land or are in a position of authority, to influence the purchase or forcefully takeover of lands from land owners in these communities. This

resulted in land grabbing which has become common in communities and always met with resistance (*interview February, 2021*).

Settler and indigene land ownership disagreements was one of the issues discovered by the study in Gbane community. A community elder and a farmer in a focus group discussion stated that mining exploration teams invaded their farmlands without their knowledge; when confronted, the exploration team indicated that they had permission from the chief of the community. The chief's conduct set up a precedent which resulted into land ownership disagreements between indigenes and settlers. The settlers (migrants) are community members whose forefathers migrated from somewhere, settled permanently and lived all their lives in the community for generations peacefully without any problem.

However, the settlers have evolved and grown into numerous clans that occupy specific locations within the community and have identified themselves as community members. However, they are recently no longer recognised as indigenes of the community, but rather as settlers with no claim to the lands on which they live. According to respondents in the farmers' focus group discussions, extensive lands of settler people were taken without their knowledge for exploration purposes. The bottom line is that identifying community members based on their identity as indigene who own land and settlers (migrant) who do not own land created discrimination in one community, causing a deep divide. As a result, settlers' dissatisfaction with these events is the root cause of the community's settler and land ownership disagreements. Below is a statement by one of the respondents;

'There is so much craving for gold in the community that cultural ties and relationships and cultural protocols are no longer valued, respected, not followed again, but pushed to the background, regardless of your leadership position and function in the community, says one female respondent participant. (February, 2021).

Additionally, people's connection to the land acts as a point of reference for identity; it demonstrates one's origins and affiliation with a specific community, where beliefs and worldviews are represented through events like festivals that are specific to a given set of people in that community. Land is important because it is a resource from which livelihoods are obtained for subsistence and because it can be used to identify a person as an indigenous person or as a migrant, which determines their status wherever they may be. For example, land is a source of identity and the reason behind many conflicts, rather than a resource in and of itself.

Therefore, the identity and values of a group of people seem to disappear when land is lost. People in the community are thus opposing acts of forcible land acquisition, especially settlers (migrants) who have been on the land for many generations and have strong ties to it on an economic, social, and cultural level. These are some of the reasons for the disagreements among settler (migrant) groups in the community over the assertion that they are settlers deservin no communal indigenous benefits from the community, including land.

Thus, being referred to as a settler (migrant) in a community gives you an 'identity' that denies you of certain basic communal privileges, needs, and

resources due to your 'identity label,' which prevents you from receiving communal benefits based on your past histories. As a result of this way of thinking and actions, some conflicts emerged as land ownership disputes between settlers (migrants) and indigenes.

The Summary of the Nature of Intra-Community Conflicts

This is a sub-heading under objective 1 and summarises the nature and characteristics of intra-community conflicts in objective 1. The study found that intra-community conflicts have evolved and become more complex and interconnected, linking to one another like a spider web and creating a chaotic situation in the study community. The conflicts arose as a result of numerous mining-related activities involving multiple actors. Gbane's conflict situation can be described as "conflicts" within "a conflict." It's like a "conflict pot" with many conflicts of varying scope and strength.

The Intra-community conflicts took various forms and occurred at various levels, in various ways, and with multiple players. conflict occurs at the community level, and expands to the district, regional, and national levels due to the character of the conflicts and actors involved.

In an interview with a small scale miner, he described the nature or types of intra-community conflicts and the changing nature of their community. he indicated there are many conflicts, the community people are fighting for their land, and small scale miners are fighting for their concessions; parents of sixteen dead miners are fighting the Chinese mining company; and the paramount chief sued some individuals in court for disgracing him. Tindana (earth priest) and the Chief are fighting and dividing the people of the community. Mining companies are in dispute over mining

concessions, community members are fighting each other, and Shaanxi mining company continues to mine and loot all of the gold. It is a combination of many disputes with multiple actors cutting across the number conflicts (February 2021).

According to Humphreys (2005), Collier and Hoeffler (2000) conflicts can be viewed as manifestations of greed and grievances rooted in political marginalisation. Natural resources have played a significant role in shaping much of Africa's public sphere, particularly in terms of power politics, resource distribution, and the establishment of new electoral regimes in much of the continent's administration realm (Mwanika, 2010, OSAA, 2010, cited in Poncian and Kigod, 2015). All of this is attributed to greed and poverty motivations (Collier & Hoeffler, 2004, Mildner, Lauster & Wodni, 2011).

Conflicts took on different shapes based on the factors that led to them and the actors involved. Each kind of conflict has distinct characteristics. Structural and contextual factors influence the emergence of conflict drivers, which in turn determine the behaviour of the actors at the community interface and the emergence of conflicts there. These changes depends on the conflict's source, the actors involved, the issues at stake, the tactics employed in the conflicts, and the ways and means of expressing grievances.

The scope of the conflicts differs, depending on the extent to which they have progressed. Some conflicts are limited within the Gbane community and has not spread beyond its borders, some conflicts occur in a specific geographic area and affect a specific group of people. Other conflicts have a broader scope and involve more actors_and giving them a broader character and scope to the district, regional, national, and international level in nature.

The methods used to resolve the conflict such as court cases also determines the scope of the conflicts, which are at regional, national, and international courts of arbitration. Some actors resorted to resolve their disagreements outside at the regional national and international level rather than the community level.

The conflicts are classified into three levels based on their apparent level of strength: violent, less violent, and non-violent. Violent conflicts are those with violent and destructive and erupt with the least trigger. For instance, small-scale miners versus Shaaanxi Mining Company over mining concessions, community versus Shaaanxi Mining Company over land agreements, and the death of sixteen small-scale miners are examples. The less violent conflicts are those that seek to resolve disputes through the law courts. Examples of these conflicts include Shannxi Mining Company versus Cassius Mining Company Limited conflict over trespassing into mining concession, which are all in the law court redress and are less violent.

However, the conflicts that appear to be non-violent at the moment are those in their early stages, such as the emerging competition among several large mining companies running across the community seeking mining concessions. Land ownership disputes between Settlers and Indigenes(natives). Even though conflicts can be classified into these three levels, the dynamics of the conflict situation change over time, and these conflicts can evolve into other levels because conflict situations are not static, once community interactions with mining processes are ongoing, changes in these conflicts can be expected over a short or long period (*March 2021*).

Conflict is unavoidable when groups of people openly compete for natural resources in communities or regions, according to López-Laborda, Rodrigo, and Sanz-Arcega (2019). This conflict situation confirms the resource curse theory conflict assumption that natural resources can, and often do, cause and sustain internal conflicts as different groups compete for control and use of newly discovered natural resources (NGRI, 2015).

Drivers of Intra-community Conflicts

The second objective of the study was to analyse the drivers of intra-community conflicts. Several conflict drivers exacerbate and trigger conflict in the Gbane community. Conflict drivers are conditions that exist and propel a specific or potential conflict situation; these conditions typically exist in the short to medium term. Among them are land appropriation, lack of consultation, compensation, access to land and resources, trespassing into other companies' mining concessions, non-regulation of mining laws, and many more. Each of these conflict drivers is discussed in detail in the following section.

Land appropriation and Eviction

Land appropriation and eviction were found to be a driver of conflict in the community. The contention over land appropriation, dispossession and capture has been a significant conflict driver mentioned. In an interview with the tindana (earth priest) a traditional leader at his residence, he revealed that;

their farmland and livelihood is no longer there, farmlands have been taken for mining. Before mining arrived in the community, farming was the main economic activity they depend on to live and their

farmland is taken from them for mining. Farming cannot be done again. There are pits all over place, no crop will do well on such a land, the lands are destroyed, not fertile to produce better crop yield, so they don't waste their time on the lands (February, 2021).

In congruence, in an interview with the widow of a female land owner she indicated that she owns the land, but does not own the land, her land is captured for mining, they the land owners don't get the gold from their lands or compensated. She exclaimed, See, many people have no livelihood to depend on, I am not strong enough to do mining jobs. So now, I have no source of livelihood to make any income for our survival (February, 2021).

An elderly landlord and a land owner during a focus group discussion with land owners revealed that farming and rearing now is no longer useful, fertile farmlands are used for mining by the companies, and because the land surface is destroyed by mining pits, especially the illegal mining (galamsey) the mine everywhere, and they also forcefully enter and take your land. If landowners refuse to release their lands the illegal miners forcefully dig in the night and you notice it the following morning. At times you are threaten if you resist them not to dig on the land and at times the pay you something small (money) to you the land owner (February, 2021).

According to respondents of small scale miners in a focus group discussions expressed their dissatisfaction that their acquired legal concessions and lands were taken and annexed with a large scale mining lease for Shaanxi mining company. They are indirectly sacking them to take over their concessions and lands for themselves. they have legal concessions and lands

and are not ready to leave the place for Shaanxi Mining Company (February, 2021)

Contention over land issues led to many conflicts occurring in Gbane. Many conflicts arose as a result of the discovery of gold resources, which led to a rush to lay claims over lands where ownership is established and demarcated using traditional land tenure methods. Another cause of these conflicts is that land increased in value as a result of the discovery of gold, which led to traditional leaders and self-dealing leaders engaging in land grabbing in the community regardless of legitimate ownership of lands within and outside the community. Local conflicts were sparked as a result of these actions. Many of the victims of land appropriation leading to land conflicts include the community, land owners, farmers, small scale miners, settlers (migrants), and nearby communities to the Gbane community.

When gold deposits were discovered in the study community, government institutions such as the Mineral Commission and District Assembly failed coordinate to supervise land acquisition procedures in accordance with community customary laws and norms, as a way of preparing to host mining projects. As a result, mining concessions were granted on lands belonging to the host community and landowners before they were informed.

However, in an interview with an official of the Mineral Commission, the view of the Mineral Commission was that it gives out mining concessions but not lands. It is not the responsibility of the mineral commission to give out land to mining companies. If anyone or a company wants to acquire the land their mining concession sits on, they will have to go to the Lands

Commission. This adds to the complexity surrounding the granting of concessions and leases in mining communities.

The understanding here is that concessions are granted before landowners are notified that their lands have been allocated as mining concessions to mining companies, which should have been the other way around. This is a disregard for the customary land tenure system which has the allodial title holder who is responsible for holding lands in the trust of the community and its people, this also can be attributed to the abuse land ownership rights of the community. Lands taken as mining concessions are a source of livelihood and would affect the food security of the community and individual families whose lands are taken. Despite this, the Mineral Commission and District Assembly frequently disregard land acquisition procedures and continue to grant mining concessions to prospective miners resulting in tension and conflict.

According to a community leader interviewed, an illegal land agreement signed by the community's chief with the Shaanxi Mining Company was a significant source of conflict in the community. The respondent highlighted that land appropriation and illegal land agreements constitute stealing because the lands belong not to chiefs, but to individuals, families, or clans within the community. Giving out lands without the knowledge of landowners is thus unacceptable, and this is the cause of the conflict. This is also a problem for small-scale miners, whose lands are being released for large-scale mining companies to mine without their knowledge. (February, 2021).

This confirms the findings of Andrew's (2003) study, which found that small-scale mining, which is mostly found in remote areas of developing countries, often generates land use conflicts with large-scale mining, which sometimes involves armed conflicts and has significant negative effects on both the environment and local communities. According to Andrew, most often, used mechanisms for resolving these conflicts by both government and large-scale mining have failed to fully reconcile the differences resulting in conflict.

Lack of Consultation

According to one community traditional leader in an interview revealed that, lack of consultation emerged as a conflict driver, and it is typically associated with land grabbing, either by community leaders or individuals collaborating with mining companies in shady deals for self-gain rather than community benefit. According to the interviews, prominent community leaders such as the Tindana (earth priest) is the custodian of land titled holders and are in charge of traditional land management and administration for the community lands. . However, the tindana was not consulted before the release of community lands to Shannxi mining company, including lands of settler (migrant) families who have lived in the community for generations and own farmlands, were released for mining projects without consultation. He stated;

No one knows what is going on except the chief of the community and his alleged elders. Everything that is going on is hidden. They do not share information or decisions taken about mining agreements, exploration on our lands, or concessions. The

mineral commission, Environmental Protection Agency and the District Assembly do not tell us anything. There is deception, cheating, and no trust, which is causing tension and conflict in the community, especially among the youth who believed they have been cheated by a respondent (February, 2021)

In his study on land use conflicts in mining communities, Hilson (2002) observed that it has become increasingly difficult for mining companies, which require a significant amount of land area to carry out their operations, to coexist peacefully with mining communities, which rely heavily on the land for their livelihoods, and attributed the primary causes of land conflicts to poor communication among mining sector stakeholders. Despite the author's contention that there is no de facto strategy for resolving such conflicts, they recommend that improved community consultations, better coordination of parties by local governments, and better collaboration between large and small scale miners could all help in reaching a resolution.

An interview with a community and traditional leader who was an active insider in mining transactions and who had previously been allied with the Chief and Shaanxi mining company disclosed that, "he thought they were genuine but not all." He said that the strategy employed by the Shaanxi company was to win over the opportunistic minority (few) of the community, the Chief, his followers, and partners to their cause against the silent and inactive majority. This allowed them to acquire concessions and lands.

If anyone complain to the chief about his lands being taken for mining, Shaanxi company gives Gh100,000.00) and all clan heads are called to chief palace, the Ghc100,000.00 is shared among all the clan heads. If you refuse to

take the money and go ahead to sue Shaanxi company and partners. The Chief will witness against you in court. And money speaks at the court. The few team of greedy ones with the chief, and some of the traditional leader makes things to happen (February, 2021).

Communities realised they have been deprived of their land resources and would no longer have any rights to these lands because they are not consulted about mining projects sitting on their lands. As a result, the community and affected individuals opposed to mining in their community by protesting resulting in violence.

Problem of compensation payment

The problem of compensation payment was identified as a source of contention. Disagreements over land compensation and concessions have resulted in conflict between the Shannxi company and the community, land owners, farmers and small-scale miners. The Shaanxi mining company did not follow through on a previously agreed-upon MOU to compensate for land acquired. Despite subsequent meetings with the company to fulfill its compensation obligations, the company refused to pay the compensations.

Shannxi company declined to go by the agreed compensation amount of Ghc 2,845,000.00 per the MOU. Consequently, the community then demanded that the leased lands be returned. But Shannxi mining company ignored the community's demands, resulting in protest and violence. Another source of contention was compensation, when Shannxi mining company refused to meet small-scale miners' demands for 3,000,000.00 in order for them to leave the mining area in exchange for a complete takeover of their legally acquired mining concessions. Small-scale miners, on the other hand,

were not prepared to leave the area unless they were compensated for their concessions and investments.

According to a community traditional leader in an interview disclosed that, *the relationship between the community and Shaanxi is strained due to breaches of agreements reached between the two. The traditional revealed that Shaanxi company failed to pay compensation for land leased to them in the amount of Ghc2,845,000.00 and other areas where the company flouted the agreement led to disagreements, with allegations and counter-allegations leading to more disagreements. (RCC/UER, February 2018 investigation report)*'

Taabazuig et. al., (2012) found a significant geographic alteration and livelihoods at various scales as a result of local people being displaced from lands that have become contested economic spaces. Farmers report that they are always on the losing end of any land and compensation contest when it comes to compensation for farmers who have lost their lands to mining companies. Furthermore, the community believes that there is little trickle-down of mining benefits to local communities in order to improve their lives. Compensation disputes persist, with allegations and counter-allegations that are yet to be resolved. A recent case of violence occurred due to small-scale miners not being compensated for mining concessions. The Shannxi mining company was granted a new mining lease in the Gbane community without giving any prior notice to small-scale miners. This led to the seizure of their mining concessions and the ensuing violence. Small-scale miners and the Shannxi mining company have been at conflict and hostile towards each other

for a long time because the company did not try to pay any sort of compensation (UERCC investigation report,2018)

Access to resources

Conflict between the community and mining companies, as well as conflict between two communities and settler (migrant) groups against Shannxi company, are all caused by access to resources. While some members of the community have gained access to land and mineral resources, others, including minority groups, do not, resulting in community-level grievances. The so-called "outsiders" or migrants have lost access which they previously had access to resources through customary institutions or other means, are now denied access because they are considered "outsiders" with recent discovery of gold.

A respondent in a focus group discussion with the local youth groups indicated that because of gold, they are preventing the youth and others from mining gold in our own land, banning and denying us from getting some of the gold God has blessed us with. We will not agree; we will fight so that the government will know we are serious. This is our own land; some community youth are denied not to be part of this resource blessing from God. We are denied, not to be part of an agreement, denied not to mine and this is controlled by the chief and mining company (FGD, February 2021).

In an interview with the chief, the traditional leader of the community in his palace, he disclosed that the protestors are demanding to be allowed to mine in areas already occupied by other miners, the Chinese company and Small scale miners. How can we allow you to have full access to every mining area? You don't have the machines and the money to do proper mining, you

will end up destroying the whole land, so it is better to jointly work with the big companies than digging with your bare hands, you cannot get enough gold on the surface (February, 2021)?

In a focus group discussion with the local youth groups, a leader of the youth group said all this conflict is about denying others, other people are deprived, denied and prevented to go to certain areas or lands where there is gold. The police are used to harass and stop us from mining in these areas. Some powerful people want to gain more than others, since 2012 up till date there has been confusion here. Everyone wants to gain more than others. It is 'chop alone' , some individuals want to take everything and deny the rest of us. But the lands are not for you, it is for the families, individuals and clans (FGD, February 2021)

The youth were excluded from a share of resources in the community, and their needs were pushed to the background because they are excluded in decision-making. Women are another group that lacks direct access to resources. Women's access to resources, particularly land, is dependent on their marriage, which is based on customary land titled holdings, as well as the son's inheritance of lands; otherwise, she can only rely on renting or outright purchase of land with cash, which is also impossible due to tradition and competition for land in the area. These resulted in grievances and subsequently protest. This explains the reason for multiple conflicts occurring in the community due to many conflict driving factors such as lack of access and many more, leading to frustrations, grievances and protest.

Trespassing into mining concessions

Illegal activities in the extractive sector, such as operating without a license, permit in prohibited zone, mining beyond the legally granted lease or mining concession area, including both surface and underground mining flout the mining laws, and often pose a challenge to mining regulator. Mining companies employ covert strategies that result in the systematic seizure of other concessions or mining projects that invades into mining concessions belonging to other mining companies. This kind of behavior fuel and sustain violence and conflict, it is used as a strategy to continue plundering available resources.

Trespassing into each other's concessions has repeatedly come up in field interviews as one of the most burning issue causing tension and conflict in the community; it is the most recent conflict subject between small-scale miners and Shaanxi Mining Company as well as Cassius Limited and Shaanxi Mining Company

A leader of the small scale miners in an interview disclosed that trespassing into our concession and capture are major issues that cause conflict in the community, especially between small-scale miners and the Shaanxi mining company. there will be no peace here until that problem is solved. We don't care; whenever we go down into the pit, and come out, it means we usually die and resurrect; inside the pit, it's "death and life," so nobody is afraid of what they'll do to us; we need to mine gold to survive. We will not be chased out of this place; it is criminal for Shannxi company to do that (February,2021).

According to a leader of small scale miners in an interview revealed that, they suspected trespassing into their concessions and subsequently filed a complaint with the Mineral Commission alleging that Shannxi mining company is engaging in illegal underground mining outside of their legal concession area. However, Small-scale miners were unable to provide any prove of evidence because the technology involved was too advanced and expensive for them to hire a consultant. As a result, small-scale miners' complaints were brushed aside and ignored (February, 2021).

In an interview with the mining committee member of the District Assembly, he revealed that another incident of trespassing into mining concessions is between Cassius Limited and Shannxi mining company. Cassius Limited, an Australian multinational mining company accused Shannxi mining company of trespassing into the mining concessions of Cassius Limited. The findings of an investigation confirmed trespassing, but Shannxi mining company disagreed with the investigation's findings, resulting in two court actions against Shannxi mining company. According to an investigative journalist in an interview, the legal court action in Bolgatanga, which failed to resolve the dispute, was followed up by another legal action at an international court of arbitration in The Hague, with a looming judgement debt against Ghana for supervising an illegality against Cassius Limited (February,2021).

The concession trespassing which is an illegal activity has fueled tension and led to clashes between largescale mining company and small scale miners.

Non-Regulation of Mineral and Mining laws

Non-regulation of mineral and mining laws has also been identified as a driver of conflict. The capacity of mining institutions to address mining disputes in communities, as well as the level of enforcement of existing laws and regulations, can help the government prevent mining conflicts from escalating. The community, on the other hand, has repeatedly accused the Minerals Commission, the mining regulator, of contributing to many of the conflicts by remaining silent and supervising illegalities committed by mining companies and individuals operating under the Minerals Commission's supervision. They claim that the regulator's ineffectiveness in enforcing mining laws contributed to a lot of issues that led to community disputes.

A leader of small scale miners in an interview commented that he heard that China is not practicing democracy, so their people are not used to this our democracy and laws, they don't respect our laws, they are aggressive, they compromise the system with bribes and corrupt government officials, and they bulldozed their way through to get what they want, People who do not obey our laws are brought into our country to obey our mineral and mining laws; to follow our laws is a problem for them. They will destroy the whole place and leave. Look, he indicated, if you are a rapist or armed robber or a cheat or a good person, you carry this same behavior to wherever you go, your character follows you to wherever you go, the Chinese simply don't obey our laws, they see our laws to be blocking them. So the mining laws don't favour them, so they pay money to corrupt officials. The laws are not working here and it is the fault of Mineral Commission and District Assembly, that is the problem for the conflicts (March, 2021).

Small-scale mining activities are carried out haphazardly wherever the mineral is found due to weak laws, regulatory regimes, and policy frameworks (Appiah, 1998). This is supported by **Ontoyin and Agyeman (2014)**, by stating that miners and regulatory authorities such as the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, the Mineral Commission, and traditional authorities play hide and seek with regards to adherence to national laws and regulations, with consequences for the environment and the socio-cultural well-being of the host mining communities.

According to general recommendations on page seventeen of a report on the investigation into mining disturbances at Gbane. The investigation committee took a strong exception to the lackadaisical manner in which the Mineral Commission carries out its core mandate and duties in the Talensi area in terms of licensing, monitoring, and supervision,' according to the UERCC investigation report (2018) on the mining disturbances in Ghana. The preceding narrative revealed the presence of ineffective mining law regulation in the mining community, allowing foreign mining companies to operate on their own terms and in ways that are below standards, even in the case of determining a boundary dispute between two multinational mining companies a foreign measurement standard was used.

In an interview, a leader of small-scale miners said that the absence of mining rules and regulations is one of the key problems impacting the entire mining value chain, from land acquisition to the start of mining projects. The inefficiency of mining legislation in controlling mining operations inside the community resulted in conflicts between mining companies and impacted communities, which in turn generated grievances (February.2021)

Lack of Transparency

A landowner who is also a community elder stated in an interview that one cause of conflict was that people weren't being transparent with one another. He explained that the extraction of the community's natural resources led to a number of problems since decisions were made in an opaque manner. This opaque behaviour has been present in the Gbane community since the beginning of mining operations, causing conflict and arguments. The various stages leading up to mining should have been an open interaction with key stakeholders such as the community. Mining companies with mineral commissions do not share relevant mining information with the community, such as agreements, leases, and concessions, creating suspicion in the mineral commission and mining companies' dealings with the community, fueling tension and protest (February, 2021)

In an interview, a leader of small-scale miners said that the lack of transparency on the part of the Mineral Commission and other government agencies was the reason behind the unrest, protest, and demonstration. Some small-scale miners had entered into a land agreement with a support service group, which the community feels should not have been done without the approval of stakeholders like the community. In this instance, a business by the name of Shaanxi informed us that they were not there to mine but rather to provide support services. They were mining instead, much to the dismay of the people. The community believed that the declaration that they should assist two small-scale miners had left them feeling shortchanged (February, 2021)

However, as it happens, the equipment they brought in is meant for large-scale mining, not for mining on a smaller scale. That's how the conflict-

causing falsehood started, and the community thought it was well below the belt. If company said that they are supporting two small scale miners with 50 acres of land and it turns out that they are working on several acres of land which are outside the 50 acres, what were they doing there? So that was the beef of the community and they had the right to protest. Alongside the protest the core government agencies were not ready to listen, they took sides, and that was it since 2012 (February 2021)

Another small-scale miner questioned why should Shaanxi Mining Company, which started out as a support services company rather than a mining company, be leading the charge in signing land agreements and getting involved in all mining projects without its primary small-scale mining partners if it wasn't deceit and lack of transparency? We had no idea they had a hidden agenda until now. The company sued small-scale miners and landowners in order to seize ownership of their lands and concessions. As a strategy to instill fear in them in order to seize their lands and concessions (February, 2021).

Suspicion and opposition are fueled by a lack of communication with affected communities and the involvement of some parties in secret negotiations (UNDP & World Bank, 2019). Not being transparent was intentional, it was an instrumental and rational choice, used as a strategy to achieve a goal. To seize lands and extract mineral resources without regard to the community's opposition.

In order to accomplish their goal, the Shannxi Mining Company worked with the traditional chief, who utilised his position of authority to get around established community structures, customary laws, and land acquisition procedures. According to a member of small scale miners, in an

interview said, the Chinese are aggressive, and they often force their way through by bribing corrupt government officials. Collier's (2002) assertion that strategy coalitions seeking a larger share of economic or political power is a device for limiting resources to a few individuals confirms this group's behavior. Thus, it was a means of restricting the large share of the resource to the mining company and a group of elites. Not being transparent and deception was a source of conflicts between the company and the community, as well as between small-scale miners.

Greed and self-centeredness.

In a focus group discussion, a local youth group member stated that self-centeredness and greed were mentioned as causes of conflict. It was one hidden source of conflict that was brought up. Apart from the greed and selfish individuals within the community, invisible influential persons from outside the community who were covertly engaged in mining and harboured a great deal of greed. These individuals involved are interfering in mining processes for their own benefit, resulting in conflicts. These invisible people could have aided in the resolution of conflicts in the area, but to the community's dismay, no attempt was made by such people in the community's mining conflict situations.

In an interview, a community basic school teacher stated that, the conflicts are all about greed to profit from the gold resource discovered here. Others want to keep everything for themselves while denying the rest of the miners. Individuals acting as third and fourth parties are to blame for the greedy situation. Third-party individuals do not contribute to a true picture of dialogue between affected communities and the mining company. It's insane;

everyone in this community, including the youth, leaders, small-scale miners, and foreigners, all go out for gold, and they occasionally get involved in disagreements, clashes, and conflict (March 2021).

Crawford et. al., (2015) found that the key concern that their study addressed is the conflict that arose over competition for valuable resources, particularly in the context of an influx of foreign miners into a sector 'reserved for Ghanaians,' and it was incidents of such local conflict that initially prompted the study. Competition for resources with greed motivations is the driving factor that leads to conflicts. Greed, or an unseen desire to get more than others, is driving conflict in the Gbane community. Many people with incompatible interests competing for the same scarce resources in the area are creating conflict.

In an interview, a small-scale miner claimed that the mining industry is rife with greed and that our so-called leaders always put their interests first. Nobody is concerned about anybody else. Owners of land are unjustly deprived of it without their knowledge; the priority is always oneself. Small-scale miners who collaborated with partners in China for support services obtained licenses and permits covertly without our knowledge. Their actions are motivated by greed. Women and youth, who are not recognised to be important, were excluded from all decision-making processes. The purpose is to get more concessions for themselves; this is just greedy, and they have the backing of a few influential people to carry out their actions (February, 2021).

There is so much desire for gold that it has become a battle between the powerful who control the resource and the weak ones who cannot get a share of the resource, especially the youth, minority groups, and women

resulting in disputes all over. This affirmed the position of Gur (1970) that it is the greed, the intention to grab more undeserved benefits, and the ensuing grievances, the anger arising over increasing injustices end in conflicts. Greed to have or benefit more from scarce resources results in conflict.

Out of greed motivations, all laid down customary institutions were evaded in consultation to undertake land and mining agreements. Greed was used in governance to unjustly dominate, control, and acquire land resources for self-gain at the expense of the community's less powerful members. As a result, grievances and conflicts arose, which were also used to pursue other specific interests, such as economic exclusion and inequity (Collier & Hoeffler, 2002). Whenever there is greed, there is elite competition for natural resource rents disguised as a motive of communal grievance, according to Collier (2004). Natural resource rents will continue to entice resource extraction and looting for as long as the opportunity exists.

Effects of Intra-Community Conflicts on the Peace and Development of Gbane

The third objective pursued in the research was to meticulously discuss the effect and implications stemming from intra-community conflicts on the overall state of peace and development within the region of Gbane

Relative peace in Gbane before Mining

In a focus group discussion with land owners, a land owner and community elder disclosed that the discovery of gold mineral and its extraction has significantly affected the peace Gbane community in several ways. He indicated that, before the discovery of gold reserves, the community and its inhabitants lived in relative peace under the authority of traditional

leaders, the Chief and Tindana (earth priest). The chief is responsible for governance whilst the earth priest is responsible for spiritual aspect and land administration, and ensures that issues that are likely to lead to disputes in the community are amicably settled. Communal living was an integral part of the values of the community and as a normal practice by everyone. Various groups and social networks co-existed peacefully in the community (*February, 2021*).

During an interview with traditional leaders, the chief of Gbane noted that before the discovery of gold, Gbane enjoyed peace, and their livelihoods were linked to the land in ways that did not result in disagreements or violent conflicts. He said, there was no conflict in Gbane between indigenes and settlers' over land disputes. We were all one, living peacefully and farming until gold mining arrived. Even with that, the community members were not fighting those who had come to mine. But with time, with the arrival of these mining companies, we began fighting each other. Gradually community members took sides and then the fighting begin to develop between us the community people. We are divided as a community because our love for gold has divided us. We were together as brothers but now it is not the same as first. We cannot go to each other houses freely like at first (*March, 2021*).

This narrative re-echoes Sulemana and Agyemang's (2015) findings that Gbane people live peacefully according to their cultural norms and practices. The community had a designated site known as "da-abaa" where no bush burning and hunting were allowed until the rains arrived. These rules and bylaws unite the people as a whole. The collective nature of the community, these rules and bylaws, and how they are enforced reveal the customary nature

of community governance. This allowed the community to function as a unit and live in harmony as a group of people, this illustrates the peaceful nature of the Gbane community in the past.

However, with the discovery of gold and the entry of both small-scale and multinational mining companies, the community has undergone significant changes. The emergence of mining has affected the peace of Gbane in several ways. First, it has disrupted the Gbane community's social fabric and livelihoods, access to communal resources, as well as adherence to community norms and practices.

In terms of social activities, the community held festivals and other communal activities that brought the Gbane people together and fostered unity and harmony among the community members. However, these community festivals and ceremonies are now organised with some tensions according to affiliations and on separate grounds due to the strains caused by mining. Even issues about birth and death that should bring the community together are not the same as it used to be. This finding reinforces existing notions that mining affects existing social relations of the host community (Tenkorang et. al., 2013; McQuilken, 2016; Garvin, 2009)

In an interview with the women traditional leader, she indicated that, before the advent of gold mining, the Gbane's environment especially the landscape was very beautiful. There were large trees that provided shade for community members during festivals and also served as windbreaks for the community's thatched roofed houses. They further served as the central points of for community meetings. There were herbal plants available for the treatment of various kinds of illnesses. Green and hilly pasture lands,

including a game reserve, were available for animal grazing. Unfortunately, all these have been destroyed by mining activities making the community degraded (March, 2021). This confirms the findings of Magidi and Hlungwani (2022) that many mining communities co-existed in peace and harmony with their natural surroundings prior to the introduction of mining.

In a focus group discussion with farmers, a farmer indicated that, before discovery of gold, farming and animal rearing were the main economic activities in Gbane. The vast majority of indigenous peoples were involved in crop production and livestock rearing. The residents of the community were among the largest producers of food crops in the district. The community was once a center for agriculture production of various types of food crops, and it was one of the district's largest producers of food crops. Aside from the farming on some of the land, the ecosystem was nearly natural, with few disturbances (FGD March, 2021). This confirms *Ontoyin and Agyemang's (2014)* findings that agriculture was the primary source of employment for the people of Gbane, with ninety percent (90%) of indigenes working in agriculture, crop production, and livestock rearing.

Different Manifestations of Conflicts in Gbane after Discovery of Gold

The discovery of Gold in Gbane affected the peace of the community through the escalation of violence among different actors that involved indigenes, small scale mining companies and others individuals who had migrated to the community. These violent conflicts manifested in several ways with the community protesting against the takeover of their lands.

According to a community elder and traditional leader, in an interview revealed that there is no truth in this community; instead, there is only

coexistence. However, you are not allowed to express your opinions, should you bring up the subject of mining or conflict, you risk being betrayed by someone else. If you say, "I won't agree to what's happening in the community," someone else will likely respond, "I won't agree with what you're also saying." As a result, it turns into a conflict where there is no harmony in the community and it becomes "I will not agree and I will not agree." There is silent anger over the state of land and mining concerns once there is no peace, no peace you can't even say it; we just live that way.

In an interview, a traditional leader and women's leader in the community revealed that "What do you mean we have peace?" There are now five court lawsuits involving community leaders, small-scale miners, the Shaanxi Mining Company, and people. A court case involving 16 small-scale miners who died as a result of underground blasting by Shaanxi Mining Company; court lawsuit against the community; court case against small-scale miners; court case against Shaanxi Mining Company. You are asking about peace when all these court cases for such a long time have produced no results. As a stranger, you may have noticed that the area is quiet and that there appears to be calm. The least disagreements and there will be protests and clashes (February, 2021).

In an interview, a small-scale miner leader acknowledged that there was a divide between the Chief and the Tindana, or Earth priest, two prominent community's leaders. The chief and Shaanxi mining company factions, as well as the Tindana (Earth priest) side, split up the community. Although it was there, the tension has since subsided as a result of continuous dialogues. However, the issue is not entirely resolved since, based on what is

happening and how the community members, especially the young people and small-scale miners, are acting, none of them believe what was said at the dialogue meetings to give the community some hope of peace.

It is merely said, not done as we had hoped, and nobody will speak up candidly about what is still happening. Let me tell you something: "You can never use water to wash out "interest and greed" in people's hearts." As a result, nothing has changed; people continue to act worse than they did before since they are still very interested in the gold.

The effects of mining conflicts are obvious, and they manifest in many ways. Recurring protest without peace leadership rivalries and divisions, the breakdown of cultural and traditional systems, displacements, livelihood, and environmental destruction, the marginalisation of youth and women, and widespread poverty in the face of abundant resources. When the conflict ends and life returns to normal, the effects linger. It affects the peace and development of any community. The following paragraphs discuss the effects of mining and conflict on community peace and development.

The peace situation in Gbane Community is affected by frequent incidents of protest and violence, which, when combined with structural issues, hurts the community's peace. Because of the impact of mining conflicts, the peace in the study community has deteriorated significantly. Members of the community are in disputes with one another leading to a breakdown of community bonds that existed between families and clans. The majority of the community members are either involved in one or two of the community's conflicts, creating a tense situation. (Interviews in the field, March 20, 2021).

As a result, the community experienced leadership rivalry and divisions, resulting in a leadership crisis. Leaders are contending for power and control over resources. Two leaders asserted their authority to approve transactions or lease land. As a result, there are power struggles and the formation of two rival camps. This leadership rivalry has been passed down to the followers, resulting in a split among the members of the community, which is the source of the community's division. These effects have also weakened traditional and cultural systems, resulting in permanent cultural change. Culture can be used to foster resilience, particularly in terms of communal self-help and reconciliation. The deterioration of cultural, and traditional norms, and values can be attributed to the deterioration of a group's identity (*March 2021*).

Mining displaced landowners, farmers, and small-scale miners, leading to several community conflicts. These people were evicted from their lands and mining concessions, resulting in disputes. These leased lands and concessions are no longer accessible to landowners, farmers and small-scale miners due to mining company claims in the area, which has a direct impact on their livelihoods. Poor waste management and disposal by miners is another effect that exacerbates the environmental effects of lands and forces people to relocate. During flooding, discarded waste containing hazardous metals and chemicals drains into and pollutes nearby water bodies, lands, and grazing pastures (*March, 2021*).

The combination of these factors resulted in a reduction of livelihoods due to decreased farmland availability, as a result of mining and conflict. Thus, the agricultural-based local economy has been disrupted. This type of

economic disruption is referred to as the Dutch Disease by Krugman (1987), and it occurs as a result of large inflows of mining revenue that negatively affect and hurt other sectors including the agriculture sector.

Another effect is the marginalisation and exclusion of young people and women. The situation has deteriorated, putting the area's security in danger, because most unemployed youth are idle and resort to other criminal activities and social vices to survive. Similarly, women face a variety of economic challenges as a result of a lack of access to, use of, and control over productive resources.

Women's access to and control over productive resources, particularly land, is hampered by traditional beliefs. Because of differences in access to economic resources, women have been affected differently and more severely than men by the direct and indirect effects of mining operations. These effects reveal horizontal inequalities within the culturally defined groups of the community, which are reflected in gender (Stewart, 2010). As a result, those who do not benefit from mining or have access to gold resources are forced to rely on farming for a living. As a result, impoverished members of the community face widespread social and economic inequalities as well as underdevelopment.

In an interview, the Assembly member and a community leader claimed that mining had harmed the development of the community and caused conflict in the community. We used to be able to provide for ourselves through farming from our lands, but mining has taken everything away from us. In addition, we are unable to access mining lands and do not benefit from the gold that is mined, which has left us unable to earn a living. Therefore,

there has been an increase in poverty and hunger, which is hardly a sign of development because both small- and large-scale miners profit from the mining (February, 2021).

We also have poor roads across the village, no health centre or clinic, and no portable water supply at the mining settlement I don't think this is the development of the area. Nothing notable has happened in terms of development. Thus, the mining caused strife and had negative effects on the community's growth. I believe the District Assembly has forgotten about us because they just come here to collect levies rather than bringing projects to us (February, 2021) .

In addition, community members believe that there is no better development in the community, and that mining and conflict have had a negative effect on the study community's development. According to interviews, the community's development has been hindered by the numerous land and mining conflicts." The availability of suitable land for farming and development projects is key to any local development, here is the case lands are sold for mining, whilst the remaining lands turnout to be unproductive because of many abandoned mining pits (*February,2021*).

According to an interview with an illegal miner and migrant worker, Gbane's development has been adversely impacted by both mining and conflict. Some families have lost their peaceful and harmonious coexistence since the arrival of mining. Individuals don't get together and have meetings to establish consensus for the development of the community. There is no trust between two sides that are at odds with one another and cannot discuss anything together. How then does development occur here? It is detrimental to

immigrants and outsiders like me; I am here for business and financial gain, not to engage in conflict (*February, 2021*)

In terms of Infrastructure development, the community claimed that there is no visible evidence of infrastructure development throughout the community. Although large sums of money are made from gold extracted from the community. They pointed out that poor roads, a lack of public health facilities, no sources of portable drinking water, and poor basic school infrastructure are visible. However, they believed that mining had resulted in the creation of small businesses and increased trading in terms of self-employment. On the other hand, the presence of gold resources has caused conflicts in the community, and except a few individuals who have benefited from the resource. The majority of community members are impoverished, with widespread social and economic inequalities and underdevelopment.

Recommendations for Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding.

The fourth objective of the study was to make recommendations for conflict resolution and peacebuilding. The Gbane community in an effort to resolve conflicts, adopted various methods of conflict resolution which included the law court for arbitration, traditional conflict resolution method, mediation and the setting up of committees to investigate mining disturbances in the community. The respondents were asked what could be done to bring about conflict resolution and peacebuilding. This is likely to inform the kind of recommended conflict resolution and peace-building actions moving forward.

A respondent proposed the withdrawal of cases at the law courts against the community chief and his elders for peace to prevail and as a

conflict resolution measure. In an interview, a youth leader from the local youth group said that the community had filed a joint lawsuit in the courts against the Shannxi mining company and the community chief for illegal land agreements and the expropriation of community lands. and after that a request that the chief be stripped of his authority as the community's chief. To resolve the conflict we think the case at the court against the chief and his elders should be dropped by the community for an appropriate solution to resolve the conflict. (February, 2021). A key respondent from the traditional leaders suggested for traditional conflict resolution approach and explained how things can be done in a different way going forward. He focuses on enhancing communal relations.

In another interview with a traditional leader and community elder, he indicated that the paramount chief advised the community to withdraw the court case against the Chief of Gbane and alleged elders so that they could resolve the matter among themselves at the community level, and he would assist in the withdrawal of the case. He explained that traditional resolution methods should commit them to their traditions, and all those involved will eventually seek forgiveness for an enhanced community relation. Unlike court cases create an unending generational conflict for future children (February, 2021).

A respondent's view for effective way of resolving and preventing future conflicts is a broader consultation and in a transparent manner during mining transaction. In an interview, the leader of a small-scale miners made it clear that broader and more transparent community consultations are necessary for mining deals that affect the community as a whole. Land deals

that are hidden from landowners should not happen. The community as a whole, not outsiders or a small group of wealthy people, should be the main focus of the traditional leaders' responsibility. The historical background of an individual should not be taken into account in land acquisition; identifying individuals along settler and indigenous lines creates division and a source of conflict within the community; considering certain individuals and clans who hold settler status here does not promote harmony and unity.

There appears to be broad support for conflict resolution, as evidenced by the narratives, and some recommendations have been made to get things started within the community. These include the community's initial endeavour to withdraw all cases from the law courts, start a traditional resolution of conflicts process, and engage in future community broad consultation on matters like lands, resource access, and agreements signed with mining companies. One more respondent expressed the opinion that it is important to address the concerns raised by the whole community, a conversation dialogue to unite

In an interview with a landowner he said, we believe that in order for the entire community to benefit from the mineral resources, the chief, elders, Tindana, and other relevant groups should have a conversation, a dialogue, come together, and work together. Mining companies should adhere to the procedures that must be completed before starting operations. For instance, Shaanxi must engage in dialogue with the local community, landowners, and small-scale miners in order to bring them to the negotiation table and resolve disagreements in a way that will satisfy both sides and allow peace to reign, which will allow them to operate effectively and safely (March, 2021)

A respondent was concerned about the enforcement of mining laws by the Mineral Commission the regulator of mining and is to be blamed for the violence and conflict, and the should be put under pressure to do the right thing. A leader of small scale miners indicated in an interview that , the authorities should be pressured to do the right thing. Mineral commissions should be forced to enforce the mineral and mining laws in the community, enforcement of the mining laws is weak so people and mining companies see loopholes to disobey the mining laws. You cannot mine on my land without consulting me the land owner, chief does not own lands in this part of the country, it is families, clans, and individuals that are land owners.

Again Mineral Commission and District Assembly should make public all mining concessions, permits, and leases granted for prospecting and mining available at community meetings for all community members to see which lands are these concessions given out to and which companies (March, 2021). On the other hand, a small scale miner held a different view, he demanded compensation for all his colleagues before resolving any conflict could happen.

A small-scale miner stated in an interview that they were demanding compensation for their concessions and investments, or that part of their concession be released for small scale mining. Failure to do so will result in perpetual tension, confusion, and confrontations between the Chinese Shaanxi Mining Corporation and the small-scale miners who are mining into their concession unlawfully and without any form of discussion or compensation (March,2021).

Respondents are urging the traditional leaders to put an end to their rivalry and collaborate to ensure the community's interests for unity to prevail. They also suggested that proper procedures be followed and that mining restrictions be strictly enforced to avoid conflicts. Fair resource distribution across the community and the compensation that those affected seek would reduce tensions and violence, opening the door for conflict resolution and the building of peace.

The recommendations have a positive view of conflicts to be resolved, however, they cannot see this happening until several suggestions they mentioned above are addressed. But more importantly, the community would have to initiate a resolution process within the community involving all contending parties. Respondents think that what caused disagreement and conflict should not be repeated. They are calling upon the mining regulator, Mineral Commission for strict and impartial enforcement of mineral and mining laws.

The right procedures to be followed in land acquisition and land agreements before granting out concessions, permits, and mining licenses for companies to start operations in the community. The community can be assisted with outside interventions such as conflict resolution and peace-building experts because conflict perceptions and differences will continue to exist in the minds of all contending parties especially the community people themselves. The barriers of division due to disagreements were already created in the mindset for a longtime and need outside intervention to diffuse those barriers for peace to prevail.

Chapter Summary

This chapter presented the results that emerged from the data collection process, which were related with mining and intra-community conflicts in Gbane community in the Talensi District. The presentation of results comprised of four sections, which are the emerging trend of intra-community conflicts, the drivers of intra-community conflicts, the effects of intra-community conflicts on the peace and development of the study community and recommendations for conflict resolution and peacebuilding. Most of the presentations were done in prose and where it became necessary, relevant literature was cited to buttress the discussion of the results.

Community conflicts arose as a result of the discovery of gold in the community. Conflicts did not exist before the discovery of gold in 1995, and the conflict started in 2012 when mining operations started. Conflicts erupted as mining operations began, and they have lasted ever since, involving a wide range of actors, individuals, mining companies, and communities. A relationship is established between the conflicts in the community and mining.

Multiple conflicts were discovered within the community, and the situation in Gbane can be compared to "conflicts" within "a conflict." It's similar to a "conflict pot," with many conflicts of varying sizes and magnitudes inside. These conflicts are intertwined. The community is in disarray, with both hidden and open conflicts manifesting as protests and demonstrations.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

This chapter provides a thorough summary of the key findings and valuable insights gained from the study. It includes an overview of the research and the conclusions drawn. Additionally, based on the analysis conducted, significant recommendations for further research are offered. The main focus of this study was on mining and intra-community conflicts in Gbane in the Talensi District of Ghana's Upper East Region. The background of the study explored the factors influencing mining and intra-community conflicts in the area. The problem statement emphasized the extent of these conflicts and their impact on the community's peace and development.

The study aimed to achieve four objectives: identifying emerging trends (dynamics) in intra-community conflicts, analysing the drivers of these conflicts, discussing the effects of mining conflicts on the community's peace and development, and providing recommendations for effective conflict resolution and peacebuilding. A qualitative research approach was employed, with interviews and focus group discussions serving as the primary data collection methods. The results were analysed and discussed using interpretive analysis, supported by three conflict theories and a conceptual framework.

Major Findings

In line with the research objectives established within this study, the synopsis of the principal findings is outlined below;

Emerging trend(dynamics) of Intra-community conflicts

1. The study revealed several conflicts within the community, including a longstanding dispute between the community and the Shaanxi mining company. Additionally, licensed small-scale miners were also in conflict with Shaanxi mining company. Furthermore, a dispute existed between two multinational mining companies, Cassius Limited and Shaanxi mining company. Lastly, there were disagreements between indigenes and settlers, highlighting the complex web of conflicts in the community
2. The study revealed that five multinational mining companies were engaged in a competitive struggle for mining concessions and land, leading to conflicts among themselves. These companies are: Shaanxi Mining Company, Cassius Limited, Savanna Resources, Tindongo Resources Limited and Cardinal Nabdini Resources Limited

The drivers of mining conflicts in Gbane

1. The study's findings identified key conflict drivers in the community, notably land misappropriation and eviction, as well as compensation issues. These factors were found to be significant contributors to conflict in the study area.
2. Lack of consultation is a significant driver of community conflicts, involving a broad spectrum of actors. It is a primary cause of numerous conflicts, particularly those involving mining actors, who are often embroiled in various disputes.
3. The study identified trespassing into concessions and illegal mining as a key driver of conflict. This led to conflicts between, Shaanxi Mining

Company and Cassius Limited, Shaanxi Mining Company and small-scale miners. These conflicts resulted in violence and legal actions, both in Ghana and in the international court of arbitration.

4. The study also discovered that resource access was a source of conflict. The youth are protesting because they do not have access to resource areas. As a result, disagreements and clashes occurred between the youth and mining companies.
5. The failure to enforce mineral and mining regulations is a significant contributor to the community's conflict situation, serving as the underlying root cause of many disputes.

The effects of intra-community conflicts on peace and development of Gbane

1. The study revealed that disputes between traditional leaders have led to a breakdown in community relationships, resulting in: A divided community, hindering collective decision-making and consensus on development initiatives. This has significant implications for community cohesion and progress.
2. The study found that mining conflicts have hindered the development of the Gbane community, resulting in: poor infrastructure development, increased poverty levels among community members. These outcomes underscore the need for addressing mining conflicts to promote community development.
3. The study found that: Conflict resolution interventions were employed to address conflicts. However, these interventions faced significant

difficulties. Unfortunately, none of the conflicts were successfully resolved.

4. The study reveals that recurring conflicts significantly threaten community, regional and national security in Ghana. Unmet expectations have led to feelings of abandonment among frustrated small-scale miners, making them susceptible to recruitment by terrorist groups. This vulnerability poses a serious risk to stability and security.

Conclusion

The study concludes that the interface between mining companies and host community sparked multiple intra-community conflicts. This interaction introduced various actors with competing interests, leading to conflict drivers at different levels. Consequently, complex conflicts arose, characterised by overlapping issues and incompatible behaviors among actors at the community, district, and national levels.

The study highlights a critical oversight in supporting companies to understand the traditional and cultural contexts, as well as the governing laws, in which they operate. These factors significantly influence stakeholder behavior and are essential for successful operations and management within these contexts.

The study identified several key factors driving intra-community conflicts, including: Land appropriation and eviction, lack of consultation, trespassing into concessions, compensation disagreements, unequal distribution of and access to resources. A primary contributor to these conflicts is the mining company's failure to establish constructive relationships with the local community, exacerbating tensions and disputes.

The study revealed that intra-community conflicts have devastating effects on peace and development. These conflicts lead to a breakdown in relationships among families, clans, and community leaders, resulting in a significant reduction in social capital. This, in turn, hinders both community and individual development, ultimately undermining community peace.

The study concludes that intra-community conflict issues have created a complex web of problems, leading to various sources of conflict and opportunities for peace-building across different levels, including individual, group, and communal. This intricate complexity often interact, creating an environment marked by "negative peace," characterised by the absence of violence but presence of underlying tensions.

The study concludes that intra-community conflicts have significantly hindered development, causing efforts to stall or be put on hold. Furthermore, court cases have failed to effectively resolve land and concessions interest disputes, leading to escalating tensions among conflicting parties, thereby exacerbating the issues.

Finally, the study concludes that court cases have significantly hindered conflict resolution. Ongoing and pending lawsuits have not only failed to reconcile parties but have also created obstacles, making alternative resolution interventions methods not accepted. Furthermore, the presence of court cases has discouraged the possibility of withdrawing future lawsuits once alternative resolution methods are not accepted, thereby perpetuating the conflict.

Recommendation

The study advocates for the rigorous and impartial enforcement of mining laws by the Mineral Commission and District Assembly. This is crucial in Gbane, where violations of mineral and mining laws have fueled numerous conflicts. Key measures include: enforcing strict adherence to laws governing foreign firms' participation in mining and ensuring the Mineral Commission upholds its regulatory role effectively.

The study recommends that the Mineral Commission should ensure mandatory identification of true landowners for consultation and ensure proper procedures are followed before granting mining concessions and permits on community lands. Secondly Mineral Commissions should be decentralised at the regional level to enhance their effectiveness in carrying out their responsibilities.

Open broader consultations and dialogues should be conducted prior to land acquisitions, signing of land agreements, and all mining transactions. This inclusive approach ensures that all affected landowners are involved, leading to agreement among all parties, preventing potential conflicts arising from lack of consultation and inclusive decision-making process.

The study recommends compensating affected parties for losses due to mining operations, including: landowners for loss of land, farmers for loss of farms, small-scale miners for loss of legal mining concessions. Additionally, the study suggests a critical examination of the role of Chiefs and Tindanas in leasing land to miners by Lands Commission, Minerals Commission, House of Chiefs and other statutory institutions. This examination aims to reduce conflicts related to land acquisition for mining.

Suggestions for Further Research

To enhance policy implementation in mining communities, further research is recommended to investigate the harmonization and coordination of efforts among key government institutions, including: Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, the Mineral Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Land Commission. This research aims to address the current lack of coordination, which results in independent work, duplication of efforts, inefficient use of resources. By exploring ways to improve collaboration and coordination, future studies can contribute to more effective policy implementation and better outcomes for mining communities.

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APPENDIX A**Interview Guide (I) For Interviews**

**Traditional leaders, leaders of small scale miners, government institutions
and other stakeholders in mining.**

**Section(1a): Explore the linkages between mining and intra-community
conflict in Gbane.**

- 1.What do you know about the protest, violence and conflict in Gbane community?
- 2.What do you think, is there any link between gold mining and the internal conflicts? please explain
- 3.Was there any existing conflict, before gold mining started in the community of Gbane?

Section (I). Identify new trends in intra-community conflicts in Gbane.

- 4.What are the types or kinds of conflicts going on in Gbane today, please can you mention them?
- 5.Can you briefly explain, reasons why you think many different conflicts is taking place in Gbane?
- 7.And who are these actors involved in the fighting, are they Individuals, the community, groups, who are they? Why are these actors involved?

Section (2) Examine the drivers of mining conflicts in Gbane.

- 8.In your opinion what are the drivers of conflict or things that lead to conflict in this community?
- 9.Please, can you mention some of these things or drivers of conflict caused by mining in Gbane?
10. What are the effects of mining on your land and economic activities?
- 11.And what effects does it have on the lives of people in the community?

Section (3) Explore the effects of the mining conflicts on the peace and development of Gbane

12. How is mining conflict affecting the peace of Gbane, and in what ways? please explain/In your opinion is the community divided? and on what lines, who is against who,? Explain briefly
13. What are the measures/steps taken to resolve the conflict in Gbane, and by who? Explain
14. What do you think can bring peace and development in Gbane? Explain and give suggestions.
15. Has gold mining being a blessing or a curse to Gbane community? Explain.

APPENDIX B

Focus Group Discussions Guide(II)

Land Owners and farmers, Youth groups, and illegal miners (galamsey)

Section (1a): Explore The Linkages Between Mining and Intra-Community Conflict in Gbane.

- 1.What do you know about the frequent protest, violence and conflict happening in Gbane community?
- 2.What do you think is the cause of these conflicts please
- 3.Who are the people /actors involved in this conflict?
- 4.Is there any existing conflict, before gold mining started in the community of Gbane?

Section (I). Identify new trends in intra-community conflicts in Gbane.

- 5.Do you know any types or kinds of conflicts going on in Gbane today, please can you mention them and explain?

Section (2) Examine The Drivers of Conflicts in Gbane.

- 6.What do you think are the things that lead to or causes conflict in this community?
- 7.Can you mention some of these things or drivers of conflict in Gbane?
- 8.In what ways has mining effects have on your economic activities?
- 9.In your opinion, has acquiring land by miners and individuals in the community contributed conflict? Briefly explain.?

Section (3) Explore the effects of the mining conflicts on the peace and development of Gbane

10. How is mining and conflict affecting the peace of Gbane, and in what ways? It's the community divided and on what lines? Explain briefly

11. In what way has conflict affected the peace of Gbane, Negatively or positively? Explain

12. What do you think, has conflict affected the development of Gbane? Negatively or positively? Please explain.

13. What are the measures/steps taken to resolve the conflict in Gbane, and by who? Explain

APPENDIX C
Ethical Clearance

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST
INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD SECRETARIAT
TEL: 0558093143 / 0508878309
E-MAIL: irb@ucc.edu.gh
OUR REF: UCC/IRB/A/2016/1649
YOUR REF:
OMB NO: 0990-0279
IORG #: IORG0011497
7TH DECEMBER, 2022
Mr. Martin Abeleyine Azabura
Department of Peace Studies
University of Cape Coast

Dear Mr. Azabura,

ETHICAL CLEARANCE – ID (UCCIRB/CHLS/2022/57)


The University of Cape Coast Institutional Review Board (UCCIRB) has granted Provisional Approval for the implementation of your research on **Mining and Intra-Community Conflicts in Gbana in the Talensi Traditional Area of the Upper East Region of Ghana**. This approval is valid from 7th December, 2022 to 6th December, 2023. You may apply for a renewal subject to the submission of all the required documents that will be prescribed by the UCCIRB.

Please note that any modification to the project must be submitted to the UCCIRB for review and approval before its implementation. You are required to submit periodic review of the protocol to the Board and a final full review to the UCCIRB on completion of the research. The UCCIRB may observe or cause to be observed procedures and records of the research during and after implementation.

You are also required to report all serious adverse events related to this study to the UCCIRB within seven days verbally and fourteen days in writing.

Always quote the protocol identification number in all future correspondence with us in relation to this protocol.

Yours faithfully,


Kefi F. Amuquandoh

Ag. UCCIRB Administrator

ADMINISTRATOR
INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST

APPENDIX D

Map of the new mining lease granted to Shannxi Mining Company
(Earl International).

