CONFLICT BETWEEN MINERS AND HOST COMMUNITIES IN IJESALAND, NIGERIA

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CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this thesis was written by ALADE, AdebolaAfolake, (Matriculation Number 147896) under my supervision in Peace and Conflict Program, Institute for Peace and Strategic Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

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DEDICATION

To the Almighty God who remains my endless, and my heartbeats Olayinka, Tobamise, Iremide and Oluwadewasolami ALADE.

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ABSTRACT

Conflict observed in mining industries is a global phenomenon. Miners and host community-related problems occur due to many factors in places where natural resources are found. There is an avalanche of literature on mining-related conflict in Nigeria, however, little attention seems to be paid to conflict associated with mining in Ijesaland, Nigeria, which is one of the major locations of solid mineral mining in Nigeria. This study, therefore, examined the conflict between miners and host communities in Ijesaland. Specifically, the study focused on the causes, nature and pattern of the conflict, the effect of the conflict in the communities and the methods employed in managing or/and resolving the conflict.

Human Right-Based Approach Theory by Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Stakeholder Theory and Non-Violence Theory, provided the framework. While exploratory research design was adopted. Ijana-Wasare, Iyemogun and Iyere communities were purposively selected for the study. Data were collected through Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), In-Depth Interviews (IDI) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). Three KIIs were conducted with selected individuals who were conversant with the subject matter. Seventeen IDIs with five persons from each community of study and two from neighbouring communities were conducted. Nine FGD sessions were also conducted (three per community) with the indigenous miners/agents, who were mostly youths of the communities, the foreign miners and the elderly members of the communities. Secondary data were sourced from periodicals and archives. Data were content analysed.

Land degradation, water pollution and air pollution were the major causes of conflicts between the two parties. Other causes identified were compensation issues, land encroachment, multiple extortion, health and socio-economic impacts. All these have affected every other facets of the members of the communities' lives such as personal, social and communal, among others. Although mining activities in the communities have boosted their economy through land leasers getting more money and traders making more sales, it has however caused inflation in the communities. It has also caused fresh conflict because of degradation of the communities' environment, desecration of their customs and traditions and loss of family/communal values, such as trust, unity and integrity, which were paramount to them before the commencement of the mining activities. The nature and pattern of the conflicts were non-violent (low intensity conflict). Mechanisms like traditional rulers' intervention, community vigilante intervention and confrontation avoidance with the miners were used to manage the conflict.

In order to minimise mining conflict, there is need to create awareness concerning environmental damages associated with mining activities in Ijesaland. Proper compensation plans and government interventions in form of reviewing the laws guiding artisanal and small-scale mining and institutional strengthening of solid mineral mining authorities will go a long way in minimising conflict. Collaboration among all stakeholders is also essential in the prevention and management of conflict in the host communities.

Keywords: Mining conflict, Host communities, Ijesaland **Word count:** 461

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Stones and metals have always been mined in the history of human race. Stones, ceramics and metals have been in use since the beginning of civilisation for weapons and tools. Flint was sought for these weapons and tools by the early miners. Flint tools were created from good quality flint that was discovered in southern England and northern France for example (Hartman & Howard, 1992). The major tools that were being used for excavation were picks and wedges created from deer antlers and shovels made from the shoulder blades of oxen. In archaeological record, "Lion Cave" in Swaziland, is recorded as the oldest recognised mine, which the radiocarbon dating indicates to be about forty three thousand (43,000) years old (Swaziland Natural Trust Commission, 2007). Moreover, flint for tools and weapons were mined by Neanderthals in Hungary where the mines are believed to be as old as "Lion Cave" in Swaziland (Morton, 1996).

It is important to learn that the cultures of metal-using were first found in the valleys of the Euphrates, Nile and Tigris. The first kinds of metals that were first collected in any quantity were gold and copper, especially copper because it was highly essential for manufacturing of tools and weapons. A civilisation that was making use of considerable quantities of copper was established in Mesopotamia around three thousand and five hundred (3500) BC and in Egypt around three thousand (3000) BC. Weapons and tools were made majorly from copper. The skills and understanding of metals cut across Europe from Mesopotamia and Egypt in terms of knowledge acquisition. By around one thousand and five hundred (1500) BC, bronze-using cultures became prominent, and the cultures of copper-based were gradually replaced in the world. The quality of tools and weapons improved significantly with this development (ibid).

As the world powers at that time, the Romans went after the footsteps of the Greek. There was the exploration by Rome all around the Mediterranean to source for wealth in minerals to provide its rising empire with needed resources. Between 12th to 16thcenturies, mining activities improved drastically in Central Europe because of the economic stability, the Avars, Czechs, and the Saxons, were mining gold in Carpathians, Transylvania and Bohemia. Majorly, the mining activities were revived by the Saxons and other Germanic peoples. The dependency on iron in the middle age was majorly for military purposes. Mineral extraction gradually spread from Central Europe to England. Silver was later discovered in Saxony, and by 1516, the silver mines in Bohemia, were described to be one of the greatest of all time (ibid).

America, in its colonial history, expropriated silver and gold mainly from mines in South and Central America and returned them in fleets of galleons to Spain. The prevalence of mining in the United States of America became prominent in the 19th century, and in the pact to encourage mining of federal lands, the General Mining Act of 1872 was passed (McClure & Schneider, 2001). Philippine also has a prolonged history of mining as far back as one thousand (1000) BC, with mining of gold, silver, copper and iron. According to Laszlo (1988), Philippine has its origin of gold jewellery from Ancient Egypt. Australia had its gold rush around 1850s and established large mines, and was producing forty percent (40%) of the world's gold, which later declined and bounced back in the 1960s, which has made Australia to remain a major world mineral producer even in the contemporary times (Commonwealth of Australia, 2015).

At the advent of the 21st century, a globalised mining sector of prominenttransnational organisations has been actualised and this also has given birth to environmental and mineral impacts, with high demands of rare earth minerals.

Africa's mining history is dated back to pre-colonial days, when minerals were extracted in primitive ways. History has it that the ancient Egyptians mined gold as far back as four thousand (4,000) years ago, and were made into magnificent artefacts, also other semi-precious stones were made into huge statues and vessels. There is a school of thought that says that the Romans, Greeks and Persians learned their mining skills and techniques from the Egyptians (Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum, 2011). In the 5th century, when the Roman Empire experienced its fall, there was a considerable decrease in mining activities due to the instability in Western

Europe. The general economic instability and lack of social order continued until the 11th century (ibid).

Mining naturally causes environmental and social damages, both on small and large scales, which have made countries all around the globe, particularly developing countries to have high possibility for environmental and social conflicts over the mining processes, and especially when the processes are illegal. Many of the communities where mining take place are oftentimes not informed by their governments about the license given to mining organisations to be mining on their soil, thus breaching the indigenous rights to land and territory established by law (Larmer, 2009). There are many environmental, social and health issues that arise from mining, both during the activities of mining and even after the mining might have been closed, like air pollution, loss of biodiversity, formation of sinkholes and soil, erosion, ground water and surface water contamination by chemicals from mining processes. There is also the high tendency of contamination from leakages of chemicals that can have effect on the health of the indigenous people, if not controlled appropriately (ibid). Many mining organisations are enforced to maintain good environmental and rehabilitation procedures in order to minimise environmental and health hazards on human beings, but more often than not (especially in developing countries), they are not well enforced.

Some countries like Peru, Australia, Russia, South Africa, among othershave the base of their economic growth in the mining industry, but most of these countries economic successes are being menaced by the growing persistent violence of social and environmental conflicts associated with mining.

There are two types of mining, surfacing mining and sub-surface mining (underground mining). Surface mining is described as diverse forms of raw material extraction from near surface deposits. It involves the complete removal of non-bearing strata (overburden) in order to gain access to the resources. Various surface mining techniques are applied depending on the physical characteristics of the raw materials and on the site specific situation (Dukiya, 2013). Virtually all surface mining activities have one or several forms of environmental implications that differ in magnitude of

severity in the short or long run. Sub-surface mining is the digging of tunnels or shafts into the earth to reach buried ore deposits. It can be classified by the kind of access shafts used, the extraction approach or the technique employed to reach the mineral deposits (ibid).

Mining could come with social and economic benefits to the local indigenous communities, through provision of social amenities, resource revenue, job creation and also a source of internally generated revenue for the nation where the mining communities are. In fact mining industries have transformed some countries around the globe, for instance, countries like Canada, United States of America, Sweden and Australia have depended on the extraction and exploration of minerals for the development of their economy (McMahon and Remy, 2001). However, it can also bring about differences that can result in conflicts and these conflicts have generated social and economic instability and civil unrest, which in turn has resulted into regional and national disturbances. Over the years, mining has been causing conflicts on control of resources or resource areas, on non-inclusion of the mining communities in sharing of benefits from mining and decision making, on environmental and social implications, also on methods adopted to acquire personnel and mining assets (ibid). Moreover, in some countries of the world, proceeds from mining are being used to finance conflicts.

Different indigenous communities have diverse cultures, histories and relationships with mining industries. Nevertheless, there are common issues that make their stories alike and one of such common issue is the negative impacts of activities of mining on the indigenes and their environment that often affect their sources of livelihood, health, among others. For instance, a United Nations report from Guatemala stated that social conflict has been generated from activities associated with mining that has seriously affected the rights of the local population and has also threatened the development (economically) and governance of the nation (United Nations report on extractive projects in Guatemala, 2011). Another report also criticised Guatemala for their response to anti-mining resistance, how members of the community that stood against the operations of mining were threatened, raped, assassinated, or shot at point blank range (Angela & Carlos, 2013).

The dealings of exploring and exploiting mineral resources are supposed to be brokered between the government and the mining organisations, but weak public institutions in many developing countries don't usually work out a fair deal, and thus devoid of pellucidity which breeds corruption. However, many mining organisations, once given license to explore and exploit in a particular area (especially remote areas), the community is left with little or no right to negotiate their interests and sustain their livelihoods. And for this reason, many indigenous host communities may resolve to violent displays in expressing their grievances.

Nigeria is a country endowed with so much of natural resources like industrial minerals, stones and precious metals. Historically, extraction of tin is dated back to five hundred (500) BC, when ideas of smelting of iron were known by the Nok culture of the Benue/Northern Zaria areas of Nigeria, and the Igbo Ukwu bronze civilisation in seven hundred and five (705) AD. Popularly in Ile-Ife, around one thousand and four hundred (1400) AD, during the reign of Oba Ogunta, the sixth king of Benin 1, there was the rise of the Benin Bronze. With time, the early European explorers found and were mining tin informally, also gold, galena and some other minerals that were marketable globally. However, there are records that indicate that proper structured mining activities started in Nigeria in 1903 and 1904, when the British colonial government created the Mineral Survey of the Northern Protectorates followed by the establishment of the Mineral Survey of the Southern Protectorates a year later. The Geological Survey of Nigeria was created as a section of the government in 1919 to take over the responsibilities of the survey teams that was established in 1903. Parts of the main minerals found by the survey teams were extensive lead, zinc ore deposits and lignite at Asaba (Nigeria Embassy USA, 2015).

Tin in Jos happened to be the major mineral exploitation and exploration boom in Nigeria and since then, there have been mining of tin ore in many locations in the nation. Kano, Bauchi, Zaria,Ilesa, and Plateau provinces included, with more than eighty percent (80%) of the production coming from Jos, Plateau (Ajaegbu et al, 1992).

Sometime in the early 1940s, Nigeria was a mainmanufacturer of tin, coal, and columbite, which gave the country lots of revenue from the exportation processes.

However, the discovery of crude oil in 1956 brought a gradual end to mining activities as a means of revenue generation for the country, as government began to channel its focus on the new resource (NEITI – Mining Scoping Report, 2015). According to an article from News of Nigeria, there are over forty (40) diversemineral depositscirculated all around Nigeria, but not all of them are obtainable in commercial capacities. These minerals include gemstones, talc, bitumen, lead/zinc, gold, granite, barite, marble, tantalite/columbite, bentonite, iron ore, limestone, gypsum, silver, coal, lithium, etc.

In Nigeria, individuals, cooperatives and companies are granted mining licenses and titles, and also exploration licenses and mining leases can be given to an individual through request or through competitive bidding. The government consolidates mineral locations into blocks through competitive bidding and those blocks are put up for sale to both indigenous and foreign investors who are financially and technically qualified. The Ministry of Mines and Steel Development oversees the administrative aspect of mining in Nigeria, while the Nigerian Mineral and mining Act which was constituted in 2007 oversees the mining sector by assigning the regulation and control of ownership of Nigeria's mineral resources in the state and outlawsunlawful exploration or exploitation of mineral deposits. The Act further stated that every parcels of land in which mineral resources have been discovered in large (commercial) quantities shall be taken over by the federal government in consonance with the Land Use Act (ibid).

It was noted that mining organisations would go to the Nigerian government first to present their proposals, and thereafter, seek out some local powerful elders or chiefs to discuss their intentions with. They usually believe it is all they need to enter the communities and start mining, but only to realise that they have just stirred up conflict in such communities. (Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, 2015).

Developing countries have an estimate of eighty percent (80%) to ninety percent (90%) of small-scale mining activities that are informal, artisanal and unlawful (Adekeye, 2004). In Nigeria, a well-developedlarge-scale mining sector is not prominent, thus gold mining in Nigeria is majorly carried out by artisanal and small scale miners because the country is not well advanced in large scale mining. Over eighty

percent(80%) of solid mineral extraction in Nigeria by artisanal miners are done through means considered to be illegal and this constantly generates conflicts between most of the host communities and the government, especially with agencies that are responsible for all mining rights in the country. Since the government does not have a sound regulatory regime to coordinate both artisanal and large scale mining, mining challenges have disrupted peaceful livelihoods in many of these host communities.

Illegal artisanal mining is quite prominent in Osun state (south-western part of Nigeria), especially in Ijesaland owing to pronounced need for survival and unemployment, illiteracy, lack of technical assistance, improper regulations guiding the operations of the miners and so on. Dr KayodeFayemi, former governor of Ekiti state who later became minister of solid minerals was called upon to tackle the problem of illegal miners in Osun state and other places in Nigeria (Omofoye, 2015). Even though, the indiscriminate digging of pits into the lands in these areas, which they (the miners) get gold from time to time is highly a risky venture, which causes injuries and sometimes leads to the death of many of them when such pits collapse. Many of such pits are found in areas of the state where gold is believed to be hiding beneath the ground. Somewhere like Igun-Ijesha, more than two thousand pits have been dug by miners with their crude methods all in the name of searching for gold. Scientifically, the quantity of the precious stones beneath the ground has not been accurately determined, but the artisanal miners, who don't have the required skills that is needed for standard gold mining activities as it is in the developed world, have been making incomes by selling the quantities they can extract at rates much lower than the standard global prices. Many of these miners are not even aware of the existence of the Nigerian Mineral and Mining Act of 2007, section 94, which states that "the acquisition of mineral deposits without a legitimately issued authorisation is outlawed". The miners are largely illegal in these areas since they are not licensed and are mining on federal government lands according to the Mineral and Mining Act of 2007 and the Land Use Act of 1978 and 1990 that have been mentioned earlier. The middlemen (they go in between the miners and the landowners) who are also referred to as dealers or agents in the area are also accomplices in the illegal mining activities and they are not bothered majorly because the illegal activities have been going on for years unchallenged according to them (ibid).

The story is also similar in other communities where these minerals are found in Ijeshaland, like Owu-Epe, Itagunmodi, Ijana-Wasare, iwaraja, ifewara, Iyere, Iyemogun, etc where illegal miners are extracting precious stones from their soil. These illegal mining activities have caused high level of degradation to the environment. Landowners usually collaborate with the illegal miners and their dealers or agents (middlemen) once they are 'settled' but sometimes when there are disagreements between them, the landowners will go and disrupt the mining activities by collapsing the land on labourers digging the mines and this leads to lots of injuries or even deaths in some instances. Thus, stopping all mining activities for that particular period until the conflict is resolved between the parties (Online Punch, Feb. 7, 2015).

The dealers or the agents sometimes are indigenes of the host communities, likewise the diggers who work directly under the authority of the dealers or agents, but majority of them (the diggers) are outsiders from different parts of Nigeria, especially from the Northern part of Nigeria, and even neighbouring countries to Nigeria like Niger Republic, Senegal, Cotonou, Cameroun, among others. The diggers are the ones who do the digging in search of gold and once they find it, they sell to the dealers or agents at an agreed rate (usually at the rate they are all familiar with). The dealers or agents also deal with higher level of authorities and they are called the middlemen, who also buy from them (i.e. the dealers or agents) in large quantities. Some landowners do not accept any offers from the illegal miners to prospect their lands, thus the illegal miners with the aid of agents (who might be members of the indigenous communities), move at night to still go and dig up the lands. When the landowners report to the law enforcement agencies, the illegal miners might be arrested, but only to be seen around the communities a few days after. This has even brought about insecurity on the part of the members of these communities, and has also forced most of them to give in to the offers of the illegal miners.

As it has been mentioned above, that mining could bring economic and social benefits to the local indigenous communities in spite of all its disadvantages, like security issues, lack of respect for their cultural norms and values, etc. It has to some extent brought economic growth and social boost to most of these communities in Ijesaland, through the inflow of miners from various regions of the country who live, trade and socialise in these communities.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Mining activities all around the globe have impacted both positively and adversely on the social and economic facets of human lives. The positive impacts are experienced in forms of increased income, increased employment, job creation, population growth, intense migration in areas that would have been lowly populated normally, and provision of social amenities. On the other hand, the adverse impacts are categorised to include land degradation, health hazards, increased crime rates, loss of farmland, loss of cultural legacy and inflation. The negative impacts oftentimes lead to conflict, especially between the miners/agents and the members of the indigenous host communities, and sometimes within fractions of the miners/agents or between host communities and the government. Scholars have identified some of the causes of conflict to be issues of degradation of the host communities' lands and environment without any sustainable compensation for them, non-inclusion of the members of the communities in the sharing of benefits got from the mines, lack of proper information about mining impacts, among others. These causes are general all over the globe, but proper implementation of good environmental and rehabilitation procedures in order to minimise mining hazards have made the whole process more rewarding and less conflictual in developed countries. There is also the issue of illegality of the miners in these communities, which is complicated, complex and part of the sources of the problems the communities are facing. The right to mine any mineral resources in any part of Nigeria belongs to the federal government of Nigeria according to mining laws of the country thus, making the mining activities going on in this region illegal. However, this study is not focussing on that.

The potentials for conflict concerning mining activities are significant especially in Africa. In countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Angola, where revenues made from mining are even being used to fuel armed conflicts, with diverse facets of conflicts, such as intra-communal conflict (conflicts between indigenous mining communities), conflicts between different fractions of the miners,

conflicts between the miners and their agents, conflicts between the miners and the host communities, and also conflicts between the host communities and the government (be it federal, state or local governments).

There exists an array of academic studies on prospects of mining in Ijesaland communities, with emphasis on its rich mineral resources beneath the ground and some aspects of environmental degradation and health implications of the mining activities, likeAjeigbe (2014) *Mineral Prospecting Potentials Of Osun State;* Omofoye (2015) *Osun Gold Fields: Suffering in The Midst of Abundant Precious Deposits;* Nathaniel (2015) *Land degradation in gold mining communities of Ijesaland, Osun state, Nigeria.* However, the issue of conflicts between miners and landowners in Ijesaland communities is worth pursuing because it has received little attention at local, state and federal levels in Nigeria.

Olori (2004) wrote about illegal gold mining ruining rural Nigeria, which is conflictual mainly because of the dangers the activities pose to these communities and the members of the communities reacting towards the miners and the government. He mentioned the fact that the miners do show them (members of the host communities) some papers which have given them mining rights from the government, (even though it was denied by government officials the writer interviewed). In addition, the issue of miners bribing some of these landowners to allow them prospect for gems on their lands was mentioned and also reports of physical assaults on whoever that tries to hinder the activities of the illegal miners were also made in his write up.

Natsa (2015), in an article he wrote about illegal mining overwhelming communities in Osun state, mentioned how host communities in Ijesaland are being neglected despite the huge resources daily taken out by miners who access the mining sites with full knowledge of the state government. He discovered that the tickets the miners purchase on daily basis in some of the communities in order to have access to mining sites were issued by the Osun state government through the office of Natural and Mineral Resources and Private Mining Title Owners' Association. He was of the opinion that future-armed conflict is inevitable in these communities if things continue the way they were at the time his report was written.

An example of conflict associated with mining happened in Igun-Ijesa some years back when the mining company operating in their community was said to have embezzled the revenue allocated by the federal government to develop the host community. When the company left and went back to carry their equipment from the mining site, the host community prevented them from taking their equipment as show of grievances they displayed for not fulfilling the promises made to them initially (Omofoye, 2015). Furthermore, the members of the host communities complained that these miners do not have any regard for their traditions and customs as communities, even the private prospectors who have employed the members of the host communities as part of their staff in the past, disrespected them by not treating them well, cheated them of their wages, or owed wages for a lengthy period of time. In addition, the host communities feel cheated that some strangers are carting away their resources without consideration for their environment and well-being.

Studies have been done in the areas of mining and conflict at different levels, and different communities in Ijesaland, particularly conflicts between the host communities and the government, but this study is focused on the conflict between miners (usually they are illegal artisanal miners/agents) and members of the indigenous host communities in Ijesaland of Osun state. It became apparent to undertake this study by filling the gap in literature about this type of conflict (i.e conflicts between miners/agents and the members of the local communities) in Ijesaland, which has received very little attention, and also at a time like this when the federal government of Nigeria is diversifying the economy and the mining industry is one of the areas the government is looking at. It was necessary to study the causes of these conflict and recommend possible solutions that can nip them in the bud before they become full blown armed conflicts in the indigenous communities, which will have eventual effects on the whole country, because as it seems currently, the members of the host communities appear to be helpless, since nobody seems to have interest in curtailing the illegal mining activities happening on their lands. This study examined the nature and the pattern of the conflict in these communities, how mining has brought and influenced conflict in the communities, the root causes of conflict between miners/agents and their host communities (landowners) in Ijesaland of Osun state, how the various conflicts were being managed or resolved over the times, and proffered possible solutions to the problems.

1.3 Research Question

- 1. What is the nature and pattern of the conflicts between the miners and themembers of the indigenous host communities?
- 2. How has mining brought and influenced conflicts in these indigenous host communities?
- 3. What are the root causes of conflicts between miners/agents and host communities (landowners) in Ijesaland of Osun state?
- 4. What are the mechanisms that are in place in managing these conflicts between the miners/agents and the indigenous host communities thus far?

1.4 Aim and Objectives of the Study

The study generally investigated the issue of conflicts between miners/agents and the indigenous host community (landowners) in Ijesaland communities of Osun state as it aim. However, the study was able to specifically;

- 1. Examine the nature and pattern of the conflicts between the miners and the members of the host communities in Ijesaland
- 2. Explore the ways mining has brought and influenced conflicts in these indigenous host communities.
- 3. Examine the root causes of conflicts between miners/agents and host communities (landowners) in Ijesaland of Osun state.
- 4. Examine the mechanisms that have been in place in managing these conflicts between the miners and the host communities.
- 5. Proffer plausible solutions and recommendations to tackle the problems in order to have sustainable mining communities and mining activities, and also prevent the aggravation of the conflict.

1.5 Justification of the Study

The current situation concerning mining activities in Ijesaland of Osun state justifies the study, whereby illegal artisanal miners keep trooping into these communities for greener pastures and the level of environmental degradation, as well as health hazards on the members of the communities and even on the miners. Conflicts between these two parties will continue to escalate if nothing is done to curb the situation. This is because many of the members of these communities are farmers and the lands which they use for that purpose are the same lands the miners prospect, thus making agriculture fade into extinction gradually in these communities. With the state of helplessness that seems to be facing these indigenous host communities, since their calls to the government are yet to be answered, even though reports of the conflicts get to law enforcement agencies from time to time, thus the need for the study because these conflicts could degenerate into armed conflicts, which could be detrimental to the state and even to the nation at large.

Certain degree of concentration has been given to conflicts caused by mining activities at different levels (between different stakeholders in the mining sector), and at different places all around the globe, such as Joris van de Sandt (2009) Mining Conflicts and Indigenous Peoples in Guatemala; Mizanur (2013) Environmental Conflicts, Artisanal Gold Mining, and Communal Forests in Filipino Indigenous Communities: A case from Sagada. However, studies on the conflicts between miners of solid minerals and host communities (indigenous peoples or landowners) in Nigeria have not been given so much attention, especially conflicts between miners (which are majorly illegal artisanal miners)/agents and indigenous host communities (landowners) in Ijesaland. This is largely due to the illegality of the trade, which has made the parties involved to submerge the conflict as much as possible since some key members of the communities are also involved in the business. This study is filling the gap by documenting the nature and pattern of the conflicts in the host communities, how mining has brought and influenced conflict in the communities, theroot causes of these conflicts, the ways these conflicts were/are being managed, and also the possible solutions to end the menace. Furthermore, the ownership and land use has continue to be problem and serve as a reason for communal clashes in Nigeria because of lack of concrete legal framework, the study is supplying additional dimension to the problem from Ijesalandwith

reference to mining in order to update information into government policy on conflict resolution across the nation.

Addressing poverty through land resource interaction of farming and mining must be understood in order to harness the potentials at both levels without necessarily sacrificing one for another.

Return of democracy should have added value to the lives of the people from the interests and gains accrued from their communities. This seems not to be the case, this study therefore would be revealing why dividends of democracy have not been felt in Ijesa communities in spite of efforts to bring investors by the elected government since 1999. In addition, the study will be exposing the disadvantage of federal/central structure of Nigeria that does not give room for the government at the grassroots to be independent in order to be able to manage the resources within their jurisdiction for the benefits of their people and at the same time has neglected the resource areasfor the illegal artisanal miners which has contributed to the conflicts in these host communities. The study will also be adding to the knowledge of the researcher on mining and conflicts surrounding it, and also on what should be done to intervene in the whole phenomenon.

With the level of mining activities going on in these communities, Osun state has no reason to be in recession if proper steps are taken to harness these resources and prevent or minimise any form of conflict within the region of the state. The study is interested in curtailing the conflict in these communities by the government so as to take over the resources for the expansion and growth of the state.

Finally, this study is immensely contributing to scholarly researches in the area of conflicts between miners of solid minerals and host communities in rural communities in Nigeria.

1.6 Scope of the Study

The study was carried out in three (3) communities namely Ijana-Wasare, Iyemogun and Iyere in Ijesaland. These communities were chosen through purposive sampling on the basis that they are the ones with the highest level of agitations concerning the gold mining issues and were receptive to the research. Also, the environmental, social and health implications seemed to have been ignored or paid little attention to by the appropriate quarters, which happen to be part of the contributing factors to the problems in these communities. In addition, the communities are not benefiting from the extraction of these natural resources on their lands in terms of community development, and conflict between the two parties (the miners and the landowners) is tending towards degeneration into armed conflict if nothing is done about it on time.

The scope in terms of time is between the year 1999 – 2015, since Nigeria transited from military regime to democratic type of government in the year 1999, and mineral and mining decree No 34 of 1999 was made which launched out meaningful inducements for potential investors and existing ones in the mining industry, such as reduction of taxes, increments in capital allotments, and tax free for three (3) years for new mining operations (Osalor, 2011). All these should have encouraged legitimate investors, and reduce illegal artisanal and small-scale mining, but the situation has rather persisted and the mining industry has attracted more illegal artisanal and small-scale miners in the recent times, which automatically translates to higher potentials for conflict in the industry.

1.7 Limitations of Study

The study encountered a number of constraints and limitations as follows;

- Due to the clandestine nature of the issue of mining in these communities, there are no readily available data concerning the magnitude of the problem. Most of the mining related issues and conflicts that have happened in the communities were not reported or documented, thus the non-availability of documents in relation to how far the problems have lingered.
- Due to the same reason mentioned above, the miners and their agents were very cautious in giving information. Moreover, some of the leaders and members of the host communities who were supposed to be part of the solution to the problem on ground are actually involved in the mining activities, which means that they are controlling the affairs of the miners and that of the communities to their own advantage. This made information a bit difficult to get, especially from these dual faced characters. However, the researcher got much cooperation and collaboration particularly from the members of the communities of study, but there were conspicuous restraints for the research team, thus the fieldwork relied on accessible and available information and data.
- Another issue was that some of the respondents insisted on anonymity and refused to be recorded, or refused their photographs to being taken despite explanations and presentation of identification cards by the research team, however, some were convinced, but still refused photographs or voice recording, thus the researcher relied mostly on data obtained through notes and observations from such participants.
- Some of the government officials that were interviewed insisted on anonymity because they claimed they were not authorised to speak on the issue of study, thus the little information they gave was strictly confidential and could not be further scrutinised.
- The miners mainly work at night due to the weather that is usually cool at night and because of the illegality involved in the business. This could not allow for proper participant observation which would have given more details to the study.

1.8 Operational Definition of Terms

Mining

Mining is the practice of extracting mineral resources that are valuable or other geological resources from under the ground, from an ore body, seam, reef, vein or lode. It can also mean an act of getting minerals of commercial value from their natural habitat and taking them to places where they will be processed and used (solid minerals as it is in this study).

Miners

Miners are the people that extract mineral resources from the earth through mining. They are classified into two categories. Those who work at the rock surface like cutting, blasting or working and removing the rock, while the other category are those that work within a mine, not just working at the rock surface. The second category is broader and it is the working definition in this study.

Artisanal Mining

These are miners that extract and process minerals, and metals in a rudimentary or crude manner, and on a small scale. They are subsistence miners, not particularly employed by a mining organisation, but rather working autonomously, mining and slamming for mineral deposits expending their own resources. They may consist of only individuals or families, usually between five (5), ten (10) to fifty (50) people. They do not have the required safe mining techniques and knowledge or any standards or rules.

Small Scale Mining

Mining on a small scale is encompassing, it involves all legal and illegal miners, medium, small, informal, and those who use rudimentary procedures in extracting minerals from primary and secondary ores.

Indigenous People

These are native people with particular rights hinged on the history of their background tied to a specific territorial base; they have distinct historical and cultural claims that make them different from other peoples. Their ancestral territories, cultural and ethnic identities are part of the heritage that has been transferred from one generation to another, which are in line with their patterns culturally, legally and socially. These are unifying factors that make them exist as peoples that are unique and they are generally non-dominant in the society.

Host Community

Host community is a community of people with natural mineral resources beneath their soils and tolerate miners to come and extract these mineral resources from their lands. The host communities are usually affected by the activities of the mining on their lands, both positively and negatively, Indigenous and host communities are interchangeably used in this study.

Conflict

The word conflict originated from two components of Latin words, which are *con*-together + *fligere*-to strike, to strike together, the noun is via Latin *conflictual*-a contest, thus from the Latin root of this word, the underlying basis of conflict is instantly recognised as the notion of striking together, whether of two objects or two human opinions.

Conflict therefore can be seen as a struggle over values, differences in interests (incompatible interests or goals), active disagreement or argument between two or more parties with incompatible concerns. Furthermore, it is a kind of discord, differences, and disputes occurring within a group or between different groups, when the actions or views of an individual or more members of the group are offensive to one or more members of a different group. Conflict can come up between members of the same group, which is known as intra group conflict, or it can arise between members of two or more groups, which is known as inter group conflict and can be violent.

CHAPTER TWO

Literature Review

This chapter reviews the relevant studies on history of mining in Ijesaland, conflicts related to mining, illegal mining activities, conflicts in mining communities in relation to communities in Ijesaland as the indigenous host communities, the impact of conflicts on gold mining, on the economy and on the host communities. It also explores the issues of concepts such as conflict, artisanal and small scale mining. Furthermore, this chapter analyses the subject of research exploiting existing theories, which is highly essential in an academic study to enhance greater understanding of the subject being investigated.

2.1.1 History of mining in Ijesaland

Ijesaland is an ancient settlement in the league of various historic settlements in Yorubaland. It is located in south-western part of Nigeria precisely in Osun state. The territory of Ijesaland lies on the rainforest of north east of Yorubaland, a landscape with hills ranging from nine hundred (900) feet in the forest of Oni valley to around three hundred (300) feet above sea level in Imo hills and one thousand and eight hundred (1800) feet in Olumirin waterfalls and others around Erinmo, forming a boundary with Efon-Alaye and other allies in Ekiti and Igbomina land. Ijesaland is bestowed with steep inselbergs naturally, which is fertile for timber, grey igneous rocks that fall below the red laterite soil. Ijesaland is surrounded by rivers like Owena to the east bordering Ondo state, Osun and Oora.

There are different versions of how it came into existence, but they all pointed to the founder as OwaObokunAjibogun (Owa's ancestor) monarchical dynasty and that of the ancient and the modern Ijesa kingdom, who happened to be the last of the sixteen (16) sons of Oduduwa, AjibogunOrunajaAgoniyeyeEkunAdimulawas the progenitor of the Ijesa. His memorial statue can be found at Ilesa city centre. The title of the ruling monarch in the land is OwaObokunAdimula of Ijesaland and Ilesa is the royal capital city of Ijesaland. Other towns are Iperindo, Ibokun, IpetuJesa, Erin-Ijesa, Esa-Oke, Ijebu-Jesa, Ifewara, Ipole, Erinmo, Iwara, Iwaraja, Ikeji-Ile, Idominasi, Atagunmodi, Ilase, Igun-Ijesa among many. Local governments that make up IjesalandcomprisesIlesa West, Ilesa East, Oriade,Obokun,Atakunmosa West and Atakunmosa East (Towns in Osun State, 2015).

The Ijesa were predominantly farmers and traders. Omole (1991) described them as business icons among the Yoruba, commercially sound and the originators of 'Osomaalo' business in Nigeria. He further stated that the 'Osomaalo' appellation was initially interpreted to be a kind of abuse characterising the aggressiveness of Ijesa traders, but the actual meaning is linked with the procedures involved in collecting debts, it literally means 'I will squat till I collect my money' or 'I will not take a seattill I have collected my money' which displays the unrelenting determination to be successful at all cost.

Ijesaland is very rich in many natural mineral deposits, of which gold is one of the major one, and this has attracted gold mining activities in this region, which has been going on for sometimes.

There are different versions of how gold was discovered in these communities, but many of them agreed that it was by a foreigner in the eighteenth (18th) century, which brought about prospecting and mining of this raw deposit since the discovery (Jibril, 2013). Moreover, according to some of the elders in these communities, it was foreigners, that discovered gold on their lands, which has led to further discoveries as the years went by. There have been influxes of individuals and groups of individuals from variousregions of the country, and even outside the country who have been involved in mining activities in these communities, came various implications especially with the crude methods the miners have been using in their activities. These implications are usually concerned with livelihood security, resources accessibility, ownership, land use or degradation, environmental impacts, effects on communal cohesion and cultural beliefs, violation of human rights, risks and benefits distribution, and development of the communities (Hilson, 2002;Kemp, Owen, Gotzmann& Bond, 2010; Bebbington, Hinojosa, Bebbington, Burneo&Warnaars, 2008).

However, in the 1980s, according to the members of the communities, a major Chinese mining company came with various equipment to commence mega mining activities in these communities, which the company promised to develop and advance the standard of living of the indigenous people. They left after exploiting the resources for about three (3) years and when they returned to pack their equipment, the members of the communities did not allow them to carry them, thus abandoning the equipment till date. The exit of the mining company opened the door to many illegal and artisanal miners that have been operating in these communities ever since.

2.1.2 Conflicts related to solid mineral resources

Solid mineral resources like other natural resources are essential sources of livelihoods, income and influence for nations and communities all over the world. However, when these mineral resources are not well managed, inequitably distributed, or when implementations are made without due consideration for the host communities, they can ignite conflicts, or contribute to existing tensions that can exacerbate conflicts. Social impacts are generated through mining activities that can bring about tension and conflicts in mining communities. For instance, the period of exploration and mining phases, river diversion, land tenure and access, growth in population because of influx of people from outside the mining areas, road construction, resources depletion and environmental degradation are all contributing to competition over already scarce resources, and disruption of lifestyles of the indigenous mining communities. Thus, natural mineral resources have become major drivers of conflicts all around the globe. These problems are especially extreme in small scale mining societies where there is no proper definition of concession borders (boundaries), and inflow of persons from other communities who respond to profitable mineral finds (discoveries) oftentimes lead to tension (Akabzaa, 2009).

The high rise in conflicts that are associated with mining has awakeninterest from practitioners and scholars, who have assessed their reasons and implications on government policies (Bebbington, Hinojosa, Bebbington, Burneo&Warnaars, 2008; Arellano-Yanguas, 2008; Urkidi, 2010). The Canadian International Development Research Center (IDRC) and the World Bank in 2001 released a report on large mines

and community relations in Latin America, Canada and Spain (McMahon and Remy, 2001) and drew out a conclusion in the report that involvement, engagement, contributions and increased consultations of indigenous communities in managing the mineral resources in their communities were necessary so as to have and maintain good mining operations in these communities.

There are many instances of conflicts that are associated with mining all over the world and a recent example is the conflict that happened amid two (2) Arab clans, Rizeigat and Bani Hussein concerning the Jebel Amer gold mine near Kabkabiya in Sudan's North Darfur district, that got about eight hundred (800) people killed and left about one hundred and fifty thousand (150,000) more displaced since 2013 (Nicolas, Matthieu and Rohner, 2015). The Republic of Congo is another example with the government forces and rebel groups in a battle over gaining control of mines. Ghana is not left out on the issue of conflicts that are associated with mining, with illegal Chinese miners trooping into the country because of the availability of abundance of gold, which has led to conflicts between them and local illegal miners over the control of the mines.

General causes of conflicts associated with mining as identified by some scholars are insufficient consultation and lack of communal engagement, absence of accuratefacts on mining effects like health hazards to the immediate communities (hazards on communities that are into agriculture), and even to the miners, activities of artisanal and small-scale miners, which are done in clusters (i.e several mines operate in the same infrastructure and processing facilities). environmental degradation, diverseanticipations of communal and economic gains, economic compensation and differences concerning land use, and oftentimes illegal, heavy movement to regions where mining take place and differences in accepting large scale mining (The Fraser Institute, 2016). Conflicts in indigenous mining communities usually comprise three (3) major actors, and they are large scale mining organisations/artisanal and small-scale miners, indigenous host communities, and the government.

A number of the various adversarial social effects of mining acknowledged by United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (2011) are;

- Population displacement that leads to disruption of livelihoods;
- High level of poverty for instance, through degradation of the environment on which community subsistence may rely;
- High level of internal fiscaldiscriminations for example, between males and females, amidst persons that are employed at the mine and those that are not, and amidst communities collecting payments of royalty and added benefits and resource payments and those that are not; and
- Economic relianceby way ofindigenous economic activities are reorganised to accommodate the necessities of the mine, making the community susceptible to a conventional "boom and bust" economy, particularly at the time the mine shuts down or goes through decreased sustainability of profit due to declined prices of commodities.

High rise in poverty level and economic discriminations and dependencies can destabilise internal communal power of relations and obstruct ancient societal frameworks, leading to higher level of gender discrimination as a result uneven access to employments at the mine, lack of men's assistance for domestic activities and females exhausting their vigour searching for non-toxic water and food as a result of degradation of the environment. Taking it to nation-wide level, nations may become stuck in a discriminationploy, incapableof diversifying the economy in manners that will decrease discriminations (ibid).

Higher level of penury and economic disparities and reliance can further increase social concerns, like increase in alcoholism, drug abuse, gambling, prostitution, and losing cohesion culturally within the community. A huge inflow of foreigners or migrant miners, not assimilated into the indigenous community or liable to its social constrictions, worsens the situation. Those kinds of foreigners, for instance, have the potential of getting into conflicts with members of the indigenous communities due to differences in socio-cultural ideologies combined with competition on local resources that are inadequate.

The concept of 'resource curse' has triggered a connection between mining and conflict, and this concept as viewed by many scholars disclosed that mineral resources

such as diamonds, gold and many more minerals have been part of contributing factors to instability, war and degradation (Aurthur, 2012). The concept is further described by Sovacool (2010), Lawson and Bentil (2013), as nations endowed with abundant mineral deposits and natural resources, anticipated to experience enormous social and economic development and growth, but miserably, have merely witnessed economic distresses, instability socially and totalitarian and conflict centred matters. Two (2) major characteristics that define the mining industry were identified by Bebbington, Hinojosa, Bebbington, Burneo&Warnaars, (2008), and they are; ambiguity and contention. Ambiguous for the reason that the notion presumed by indigenous communities (and also development specialists) that mining can possibly achieve more. And contentious for the reason that mining has notableadversarial impacts on the environmental, social and economic aspects but provide inadequate gains for few. This kind of situation will yield conflict since there are different positions taken on mining and its effects on the environment. Thus, the issue of protest as stakeholders express their positions and want to be seen and heard.

Conflicts related to mining have the possibility of resulting in lost productivity, lost time, lost opportunity and negative implications on reputation, for mining organisations and the host communities. Their formal or informal institutions can further be undermined or damaged by these conflicts, also the structures of their decision making, wear away trust and damage relationships inside the communities, and causing some intense situations that can lead to physical harm of the community members, employees of organisations, or those providing security (International Council on Mining and Metals, 2015). Conflicts that are not violent can be necessary to progress socially and developmentally, and are often a characteristic of the relationship between miners and host communities, and host governments, however in some other situations, conflicts or related protests can escalate towards disputes that reduce strength or even destroy relationships between organisations and communities, and may also result in physical violence.

Mineral resources conflicts happen when stakeholders disagree on how to manage, distribute and protect the mineral resources, and these conflicts can degenerate into armed conflicts when the parties cannot dialogue and resolve the conflicts constructively.

According to Environmental Justice Organisations, Liabilities and Trade (EJOLT report7, 2012), there is an increasing desire for mining which has exacerbated existing conflicts and also set off new ones within mining industries, thus mobilising the general public campaign against the identification of threats in the mining industry. Bebbington, Hinojosa, Bebbington, Burneo and Warnaars (2008) agreed with this view pointing to the sudden increase in the activities of mining in numerousevolving countries through and after the 1990s, after adopting the economic reforms of neoliberal in these countries. The report analysed how mining organisations regularlymakegreatproceeds for the financiers, even though imputing so little to the dangers of mining activities like socioeconomic damages, which include cultural losses and adverse effects on health, the roots of the conflicts and also pointed out the sustainable development and environmental justice that these conflicts have attracted, thus seeing it from a positive angle.

Switzer (2001); Renner (2004); United States Agency for International Development (USAID, 2005) mentioned in their different works the relationship between mining and conflicts. They all agreed that conflicts could emerge due to social and environmental effects from the processes of mineral extraction to mineral production, or over who has the legitimacy to partake in making decision concerning managing the resources and dividing the benefits of the exploitation. Also, control of the resources and resource areas can be conflictual, the manners used to protect mining assets and workforces in the face of an unsteady social environment could also be an issue. They further identified how mining can threaten traditional livelihood, land use, property rights and the environment, how mining provides minerals that are used by arms manufacturers who will only benefit in the midst of conflicts, also how mineral resources extraction can be targets of conflicts whereby combatants target mining organisations in order to have access to political decision makers. They stressed that organisations in mineral extraction sector can benefit from conflicts so as to pay government for favours and can

also finance directly or indirectly the suppressive efforts of one group against another. From these, the importance of mining as a conflict generator is apparent.

There are different costs that are being incurred as a result of conflicts that arise between stakeholders in the mining industry, such as environmental impact, accidents, loss of lives, depletion of mineral stock, destroying valuables, expanding expenses of investment and indemnity, enormous legal charges as a result of legal processes,productivity that is low, private security costs, and losing business acquaintances like clients. Switzer (2001) explained that these prices are usually reflected by the signal that mining organisations have conservatively managed the danger of disagreements through 'end-of-pipe' solutions such as private security, insurance and danger pay, which does not do much to reduce the elements that set off conflicts in indigenous communities. He has an expectation of violent conflicts to extend from trivial conflicts in the coming years because of the issues of livelihood of the host communities, environmental impacts, poverty and underdevelopment of these local communities that are not being considered by the main actors.

Ross (2002) stated that from the time in the mid-1990s, there has been many research works on what causes civil wars, and the findings have been shocking. One of the major causes found is that natural resources, especially oil and hard rock minerals are main actors in setting off, prolonging and financing these conflicts. Although, natural resources are not the sole source of conflicts, but the availability of these mineral resources particularly in developing nations increases the risks of conflicts.

Bebbington, Hinojosa, Bebbington, Burneo&Warnaars(2008), explained that the debate over mining industry premised on regulation of self, communal social commitments and management of risk, is subtle and extending instability in indigenous mining communities which implies that significant figures of participants are not convinced by their communal social responsibilities in the community in which they function.

Hilson (2002) identified the immediate causes or triggers of conflicts between large scale mining organisations and indigenous peoples as being related to land use to a very large extent, and more of insufficient communication, incapacity of organisations to

accommodate its communal social responsibilities and unintentional but avoidable environmental implications rather than typical environmental concerns like degradation, erosion and sedimentation.

Jo Render (2005) discussed how mining needs the assistance of the host communities to be successful, in the present and in the future, in order to have uninterrupted access to lands and resources. And this should be in form of relationships between the miners and the members of the host communities which should be hinged on respect, meaningful engagement and mutual benefits, in order to prevent conflicts at any level. He further stressed that agreement should be reached between the miners and the members of the host communities so as to facilitate more meaningful industry engagement and improve management of the relationships.

Mizanur (2013) also stated that gold mining plays a fundamental role in generating conflicts. He laid emphasis on conflict between two indigenous communities at Sagada in the Philippines, with one community having resource abundance and the other one with resource scarcity, with their story relating to the interaction of artisanal gold mining, which was being operated by the communities' youths. The major causes of the conflict were environmental degradation and depletion, pollution of rivers and farmlands that led to loss of fishes and decreased food production due to artisanal gold mining. He wrote further about how the two communities did not welcome an external party to intervene or mediate in the conflict, which made it difficult to resolve, thus he concluded that dialogue should be facilitated with Sagada municipality playing the role of mediator between the two communities.

Buckles and Rushek (1999) indicated that mineral resources utilisation is driven beyond means of support of the local indigenous populations, because it signifies their lifestyles and cultural identity. They also added that the trend of exhaustion of natural resources supply by indigenous communities and large scale mines in view of great ferocity of utilisation, variation in the environment and unequal allocation, have exacerbated the conflicts in indigenous communities, because the diminishing state of the mineral deposits in some of these communities angers them, and they are convinced that, there have been several years of mineral deposit extraction on their soil and yet they have been deprived. They further stressed that, even though conflicts on land use feature artisanal small scale mining adversely in the state of situations, it is however an opportunity for transformation and creativity of the indigenouspopulations. Castro and Nielsen (2001) agreed with this and explained that conflict has certainconstructive connotations because it has the ability to carry out contending prerequisites for mineral deposits in the community and improves reformation and development, thus the main objective of stakeholders is to formulate conflict management frameworks and not the outright elimination. Also, Bebbington and Bury (2009), stressed the same by pointing to the identification of conflicts as occasionally beneficial and its achievable productive importance that is a booster to the benefit of the community.

Coumans (2011) wrote about different types of conflicts in mining sector, like conflicts involving some members of the host communities that the mine affect but do not collect incentives, disputes that emerge concerning entitlement legitimacy payment level, and also conflicts that are born out of abuse of human rights by the miners' security agencies against the members of the host communities, with some of these conflicts evolving into deadly violent conflicts. He concluded by majorly suggesting that there should be increased awareness of potential social and environmental harm connected to mining by all the stakeholders in the mining sector, especially the indigenous host communities.

United Nations Interagency Framework Team for Preventive Action (2012) agreed with several authors in one of their publications that mineral resources have been a major factor in setting off, exacerbating or sustaining violent conflicts around the world, with mining activities aggravating these conflicts because of environmental degradation, population growth and climate change.

Wetzlmaier (2012) explained how mining of solid minerals in the Philippines had affected their cultural heritage, and ancestral domains with the belief that their traditional values and beliefs tend to fade out when people were being forced to look for other options for sources of livelihood due to socio-economic realities they were experiencing because of mining activities in their communities. He identified conflicts between communities because of division among them, and with the military due to environmental destruction. Conflicts do happen on matters like whether mining would be profitable to the communities or not. Mining activities accept the possibility of catastrophic impacts on the environment, as well as on the domains of the indigenous peoples, which could even escalate existing conflicts.

International Council on Mining and Metals observed in a study on "Company-Community Conflict (2015), that mining related conflicts have gained so much attention by advocacy organisations, and social and traditional media, establishing the view that such conflicts are increasing with time. Due to the complex nature of the development of mineral resources, diverse preferences and interests will always lead to disputes between miners and members of indigenous host communities. The report highlighted the costs and losses of the conflicts between mining organisations and host communities, which in some extreme cases, could lead to physical harm to members of the communities, workers in mining organisations, or security providers. Also the underlying causes of the conflicts which according to the research are complex, multidimensional. and intertwined. were identified. and environmental concernsremained the leading roots of these conflicts as identified in the research, just like so many other research works. Health and safety, or economic causes followed, which have effects on sources of livelihood and incomes. The report concluded that most of the conflicts between miners and host communities occur in countries where governance is weak and suggested open communication as the major strategy in managing grievances, which is important to make sure there is collaboration, stability and improved trust between the two parties.

According to Misran and Dan (2016), mining activities in indigenous territories have brought about significant complications of environmental degradation and social conflict. They wrote about how the natural resources on which the members of host communities depend on for their means of support (survival) are being carried away from them or destroyed, and how a particular development model is being forced on them lacking their permission. They sighted these and the issue of land as part of the major causes of conflicts between miners/government and the indigenous people (host communities) in agreement with various authors. They laid much emphasis on resolving the conflicts, and negotiations with various stakeholders in form of nonjudiciary as the way to the resolution of the conflicts.

In a write up by the United Nations Department of Political Affairs (UNDPA) and United Nations Environment Program - UNEP (2015), it was discussed that natural extractive minerals such as metals, timber, oil, water, minerals and land are essential sources of livelihoods, earnings and influence for nations and communities around the world, and when these mineral resources are not properly managed, unjustly distributed, or business operations are implemented without considering context and communities, they can be contributions to tensions that can exacerbate into violent conflict, or feed into and escalate pre-existing conflict dynamics. Thus, the need to have a renewed attention given to methods that will mitigate and resolve mineral resource conflicts, and mediation was identified as the major tool. It was further stressed that mineral deposit disputes are usually closely aligned to mediation than disputes where ethnicity or ideology are the major causative factors. Many causes of conflict on mining were identified, but illegal extraction and organised criminality was pointed out as frequent factors that drive conflicts in indigenous communities.

Darrell (2010) stated that mining industry and indigenous host communities have a long history of intractable conflicts, which are usually costly and draining for both parties. He expressed the fact that mining organisations and indigenous communities will always have a meeting point, which is mineral extraction location, and disputes about sovereignty over land and the rights of the indigenes will continue. He stressed that new ways and improved tools should be adopted to resolve the tensions that arise between the two parties, premised on the platform of environmental and moral philosophy, with focus of miners on understanding and respecting the relationship indigenous host communities have with their lands. He further laid emphasis on the environmental issues and the attachment of indigenous communities to their lands as land is more than a resource to them.

An instance was given about conflict between miners and host communities by Connell (2000), which took place in 1989, November when those who ownthe huge "Panguna" copper and gold mine that had produced nearly fifty percent (50%) of Papua New

Guinea's revenue for export for twenty (20) years, rejected the claims for rewards that the populaces of the island of Bougainville brought. As a consequence of the damage on the environment that the mine had caused, farmers in the area made demands for compensation, which was rejected by the operators of the mine on the basis that the claims were not backed up scientifically. The members of the host communities expressed their anger through sabotage actions taken in opposition to the mine. The mine was compelled to shut down, and suppression and a government barricade of the island rapidly exacerbated the dispute into open combat that recorded over ten thousand (10,000) casualties in terms of human lives. This situation is confirming what many authors have indicated, that conflicts between miners and host communities could escalate into violent conflicts, if nothing is done to stop it at the early stages.

Nicholas, Matthieu and Rohner (2014), investigated impacts of large scale mining that were being carried out majorly by the government of various countries or multinationals, on conflicts in Africa and found out that these mining activities increase conflicts at local level which usually spread to violence across territories and also enhance the financial capacities of fighting groups. They identified greed, unequal distribution of proceeds from mining, and grievances due to frustrations from environmental degradation, as causes of mineral resources conflicts between miners and host communities.

Tariq (2009) explained that activities of mining have brought more conflicts on the issue of land than any other sector, mainly because of issues connected to activities of mining like complicated environmental factors, potential activities of economy being restricted and other severe disruptive actions in the communities. He wrote on how activities of mining should be organised while proper land use procedures and methods ought to be put in perspective in order to balance the interests of all conflicting parties.

Spaull (2016) discussed the inflow of illegal Chinese miners, attracted by the large deposits of gold in Ghana which have caused environmental devastation and ignited conflicts resulting in social unrest. He explained parts of the effects of activities of mining on the host community such as fertile agricultural land that had been turned into wasteland which will involve lots of difficulties to restore.

Channing (2014), stressed the issue of illegal miners and conflicts in South Africa, how it had turned out to be an increasing cause of illegal activities and conflicts. He approximated illegal miners in South Africa to fourteen thousand (14,000), who are illegitimate migrants coming in from Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Lesotho. The unlawfulminers of gold are identified as "zamazamas" that can be differently interpreted to be "we are trying" or "he who grabs the opportunity" or "take a chance". He mentioned how they (illegal miners) function in a projected four thousand (4,000) to six thousand (6,000) mines that had been abandoned in the Witwatersrand basin, bribing policemen, security forces or mines workers to gain entry to mines that are active and/or to steal equipment. He also wrote about the efforts of the government in curbing the activities of the illegal miners operating in the mines by shutting down mine shafts and getting offenders arrested, but submitted that the effort had resulted in escalating the conflicts between rival gangs fighting for control of mining areas, which is escalating and causing losses in terms of revenue, security and human lives.

Seth & Seth (2014), in their study done in Ghana highlighted perception as a major element between mining and conflict. They explained how it has turned out to be so challenging for mining organisations that depend on large parcels of land to function in coexistence with indigenous populaces whose means of support (livelihood) are essentially linked to their lands that they dwell on, and this apparent incompatibility has led to disagreements amongst the mining industry and the indigenous populaces. They wrote about the host communities accusing the miners of escalating disputes and triggering off dormant conflicts by their activities. These disputes are related to securing livelihoods, accessibility of resources, use or degradation, ownership, environmental impacts, effects on gender, cultural beliefs and social cohesion implications, violations of human rights, rewards and hazards distribution and the description of expansion, as discussed byHilson (2002), Bebbington, Hinojosa, Bebbington, Burneo&Warnaars, (2008), and Kemp, Bond, Franks & Cote (2010). They further mentioned the enormous power and relational inequality between the mining industry and the indigenous communities, whereby the mining industry commands significant resources (both in finances and legal issues) also in potency and size, while indigenous communities are restricted in terms of strength and finances with little level of impact, thus the population resorted to opposing the operations of mining publicly and intense agitations leading to serious rooted conflicts.

Tsuma (2010) wrote about artisanal and small-scale mining in Ghana as an indigenous and traditional activity that has existed for as long as 15th century when gold extraction was carried out through the use of mercury which was first used with common rudimentary means of extraction. He pointed out that artisanal and small scale mining was strictly restricted by law to Ghanaian citizens. Gordon and Gabriel (2016) built on this by mentioning how illegal Chinese miners have infiltrated the mining communities, transforming the artisanal pattern of mining by introducing an improved level of mechanisation, remarkably the use of wash plants, excavators and bulldozers (most of the equipment were also hired out or sold by Chinese traders). They agreed with other scholars that illegal mining activities and the new methods introduced by these Chinese have led to conflicts over the resources. Furthermore, there is the higher resource competition, which has resulted into law and order issues, with relation to straight disputes between miners and members of the host communities, to instances of robbery of Chinese miners, to higher problems of security for the population. Indigenous disputes between the Ghanaian and Chinese miners in relation to assessing gold mineral deposits were described around mid-2012 upwards in the nationwide press, with casualties in terms of lives lost and serious damages on the two sides.

There have been reports of conflicts between the Ghanaians, especially between the community youths and the traditional authorities (chiefs), who were blamed for selling land to Chinese miners. Schueler, Kuemmerie& Schroder (2011) also added that surface gold mining is a serious cause of conflicts between miners and members of host communities in Ghana. Surface mining is the removal of soils and vegetation interruption of service flows of ecosystem, and leads to inevitably, usually permanent loss of farmland. Also, Kumah (2006) identified how surface mining in the third world countries always wipes out sources of livelihood, making inhabitants to move compulsorily and also forcing farmers to generate other earning approaches. These have caused inevitable conflicts between miners and members of indigenous host communities.

Wantaigwa (2016), like many scholars stressed the impacts of mining in Tanzania and the conflicts between the miners and the host/surrounding communities. Due to mining as the only foundation of livelihood for the members of the communities, after they had been deprived ofcapacity to cultivate their lands by the miners, they had been left with no other choice but to enter the mining premises to huntfor gold sands to support their families, and as a consequence, they get into conflicts with the security forces which leads to destruction and deaths at times. He reported the cold blood killings of a dozen of youths by the security guards of the mine for purportedly entering the gold pits forcefully. The miners also accused the members of the host communities of dishonesty, that after they were paid compensation, they (members of the host communities) still went ahead to lease their lands for other activities. He further reported that some of the indigenous communities' leaders and some unprincipled civil servants diverted the resources and funds meant for implementation of social corporate responsibilities in education, water and health projects into personal benefits, thereby tainting the win-win phenomenology of the image of the situation.

Adonteng-Kissi (2015) wrote about Prestea mining community in Ghana, on the issue of land use (competition for pieces of land that are rich in minerals in the indigenous community) and environmental degradation as the major sources and causes of disputes between the extractive entities and the host community resulting in large cost to both the entities and the community. He stressed that conflicts in this community are related to power imbalances i.e injustice, biasedspreading of risk, miners' disregard for indigenous views and world-views like their cultural rights and traditional ways of life. He also noted the issue of violent conflicts between artisanal small-scale miners and large-scale miners on land use because of variability in ownership of land, privileges and control. He further mentioned three (3) principal actors in these indigenous mining communities and they are external large scale mining organisations, the government and the indigenous populaces, with the government not being able to regularise the artisanal mining industry in many of these host communities due to the emotional and cultural attachment of the population to their lands. He mentioned the costs of conflicts on the government of the nation as not fulfilling payments for fees and losing revenues in terms of tax to the black market. Also, the conflicts cost on the indigenous communities such as high cost of living, overbearing pressure on water supply, huge request and huge expenses for indigenous resources, social dislocation, disrupting the local way and manner of hunting and fishing, increase in social vices level like prostitution, robbery and gambling and outburst of epidemic like tuberculosis, yellow fever and so on.

Nigeria, like many other African countries, embraced a confiscatory procedure of state regulator over mineral resource endowments in the 1970s, which resulted into en masse withdrawal of technical land financial involvement of transnational mining organisations from Nigeria and the other countries that adopted a similar policy to safer havens and the virtual collapse of the mining industry. Since then, there has been neglect, stagnation, failed policies and underinvestment in the mining sector in Nigeria, such that the country is not seen on the international mining map as a worthwhile destination for investment in solid mineral resources. All these have made the industry to be devoid of main resource assets, satiated with various illegal, artisanal and small scale miners whose undertakings have brought very small, if any influence on the nation's Gross Domestic Product – GDP, (Adeniji, 2004).

A report on protecting host communities' rights by Global Rights Community Report (2014) mentioned the negative impacts of mining on host communities and conflicts initiated or exacerbated by mining activities, using communities in Ijesaland as part of the study population.

In another report from Environmental Law Institute (2014), the negative effect of mining on health, environment and gender was the focus, also the conflicts associated with these impacts. Although, the report focused more on artisanal and small scale miners in Nigeria not being supported and the need to formalise their activities, for the benefit of all the actors in the gold mining sector, which will reduce conflicts at all levels. The focus of the report is a genuine one because formaliing the activities of artisanal and small scale miners will go a long way in improving the mining industry in terms of production and minimising the crude and rudimentary way of their operations in the mining communities.

Mercury, cyanide and other toxic elements are usually discharged into the mining communities. All over the world, mining activities procedures are usually viewed to cause environmental degradation(Burke, 2006). The degradation in return translates to conflict of different forms which can be violent or non-violent.

Olori (2004) analysed the mining activities in one of the communities in Ijesaland, the community was producing cash crops such as kola nuts and cocoa before the gold rush. And the communities were doing well economically. He identified so many unused ditches dug by illegitimate gold miners who usually desert a particular piece of land once they have finished collecting the gold there. He observed some excavation equipment covered with rust that were abandoned by state-owned Nigerian Gold Mining Company (NGMC), a branch of the Nigerian Mining Corporation, which after they folded up, illegal miners took over the area, following the footsteps of the company, creating more pits and unleashing great mayhem on any piece of land believed to comprise gold mineral. He reported incidences of attacks on whoever tried to disrupt the illegal mining activities of the miners, like the attack on a traditional king in Osun state in his palace by hooligans for having the audacity to disrupt their activities. Similarly in Kogi state, a good number of investors were chased out of some mining fields by miners who were operating illegally, who were feeling threatened by their presence, likewise in some states in the northern part of Nigeria like Plateau, Nassarawa and Jigawa.

According to Adekeye (2010), artisanal and illegal mining activities have played a great part in mining in Nigeria in a negative way especially on the environment, but claimed that it is because the government lacks the ability to check them and their scattered areas of operation, also stressed that since the government does not recognise them, they have been forced to operate illegally and clandestinely. He further explained that the importance of artisanal and small-scale mining activities in mining sector in Nigeria cannot be ruled out because their impacts are mainly ecological, even though with some socio-economic impacts too. He concluded in agreement with the report from Environmental Law Institute that the government should legalise their activities in order to have good and effective control over their operations. This stand is also in agreement with an article on "Communities, Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining" by the

World Bank (2008) which states that even though artisanal and small-scale mining activities have created and contributed to disputes on matters that are associated with rights of ownership and livelihood alternatives, also to corruption and poverty, yet the World Bank is supporting a program which aims to convert the negative effects into positive ones and wholesomely contribute to reduction of poverty that has been caused by the mining activities. And in achieving this, they intend to create positive and fruitful relationships among indigenous communities, large scale mining organisations and agencies of government within a fair and efficacious authorised structure.

According to Natsa (2015), there was a high level of degradation in the three (3) mining sites he understudied in Ijesaland, Osun state, with large expanse of agricultural lands that had been destroyed by the evident impact of illegal mining. He explained the deep neglect these host communities are facing despite the huge resources daily carted away by miners who access the mining sites with full knowledge of the state government. The members of the communities are angry with the government as they accused the government of destroying their lands and farms, and yet refused to give them compensation. He further wrote about how the youths of one of the communities revolted after watching as the government carted away the mined products with little or no benefits to the community, thus demanded that the mining organisation should leave their community, but this resulted into the influx of illegal miners which further degraded the environments and impoverished the people. He mentioned that one of the communities has driven out all the miners in their community because of the health and environmental issues, and also because the miners refused to sit down with them and meet their demands, the community members have refused to allow any mining activities on their lands since there are no benefits to their community. He suggested that there is need for the government to do more to protect mining host communities from the negative impacts of mining by providing them with infrastructures, good roads, schools and portable water. They could even be relocated to another location entirely so that the mining can be fully prospected for the benefit of all the stakeholders.

In similar situations in Pandogari and BarkinLadi/Buruku in Niger/Plateau states of Nigeria, Dukiya (2013) also described the illegal mining activities in these areas as one

of the largest difficulties in relation to damages done to environments and ecological hindrances, which are also intertwined with terrible social tensions between the different stakeholders. He explained the method of mining activities, processes of surface mining and how they affect the environment and the local ecological system. He suggested that the indigenous communities need to be sensitised on the importance of being alert concerning illegal miners' activities in and around their areas for their welfare and the sake of posterity. Also, for the federal government through the state government, with law enforcement agents, to work together with the indigenous communities' heads so as to be protective over the mineral products and the environment as a whole.

Ishola and Adekeye (2010) stressed that conflicts in the mining industry in Nigeria have been taking place for decades, but they were not reported, they cited the example of conflict between Kano State and the Federal Government of Nigeria whereby some uranium deposits were discovered in Kano State Game Reserve, and the Federal Government of Nigeria wanted to access it but were prevented by Kano State Government between 1972 and 1974. The illegality, complexity and corruption involved in the mining activities in these communities has contributed to low reports of the conflicts going on. Due to the involvement of some of the members of the communitiess in the mining business, it has further complicated the issue of reporting.

Mark (2014) described the situation of mining impacts in Zamfara state. At the initial stage, the gold beneath their land (Zamfara), was not paid attention to, but with the meltdown in the financial markets, the communities began to play host to miners in great numbers, which they (i.e the members of the host communities) thought it was a very good thing, in fact they called it "gold boom". But, within a short while, the communities started experiencing lead poisoning that was blinding and killing the children, which also can accumulate in the blood and damage the nervous system. He further explained more effects of the lead poisoning which can cause infertility in adults, but the most dreadful effects were on children, and also documented the worries of health workers in the communities about a potential crime boom, thus linking the impacts of mining through lead poisoning with learning difficulties and violent crimes. He mentioned the futile efforts to stop the illegal mining in the communities, which has

absorbed some of the members of the host communities who claimed they would prefer to die of lead poisoning than to return to poverty. In these communities, poverty has existed before the discovery of gold and the discovery gave them so much hope and resulted in the kind of attitude that prefers death to going back to poverty.

Assessing information given by Global Rights in relation to extractive host communities in Nigeria (2013) explained how mineral extraction had been at the detriment of the communities' health, environment, and with social repercussions which are mostly felt and carried by mining host communities. The rights of the mining host communities need to be protected with attentive interest at the centre of making plans and implementing them in the industry, and any failure in making sure that these rights are protected usually leads to catastrophic issues like theinstance that happened in Zamfara state, Nigeria in 2010 with lead poisoning on quite a number of the population. The report described most extractive rich communities across Nigeria as rural and peri-urban areas, with the indigenes generally poor, illiterate farmers, fishermen or petty traders, emphasising on artisanal miners that have taken over the extractive sector causing communal conflicts in host mining communities in Osun state as it is with many other extractive mining communities in Nigeria. And the impacts of these mining activities (both artisanal and large scale) were also highlighted as factors that account for conflicts and its escalation in host communities, with formal mining organisations causing conflicts in their own interests. The report further mentioned a particular factor related to one of the types of conflicts in the mining sector raised by Coumans (2011) above and that is the use of excessive force by mining organisations' security forces, which results in violent conflicts in host communities.

2.1.3 Impact of conflict on gold mining, the economy and the host communities

Conflicts do occur as a result of different environmental impacts of gold mining. Many gold mining communities get into conflict in order to gain control over the resources. Gold mining communities are usually forcefully taken over by rebel bodies and the indigenous miners forced out to surrender part of their income (Coumans, 2011). Conflict has affected mining host communities in the aspect of security. Crawford and Botchwey (2016) stated that conflict in solid mineral sector has led to increased security issues for all citizens. Their research was carried out in Ghana, where weapons that were imported by Chinese miners for their protection while mining in the forest, got into the hands of delinquents, who were using them to commit various kinds of atrocities. They also stressed on the conflicts between Chinese and Ghanaian miners which have claimed lots of lives and left many injured on the two sides.

Padilla (2012) argued that mining operations have adverse effects on the ecological system, water bodies, land and some other aspects of the mining communities he understudied, that it has also displaced the consistent view of life, which has translated into conflict that has further impacted the economy and the members of the communities negatively. Ruiz, Correa, Gallards&Sintoni (2014) corroborated this assertion that conflicts in mining communities have affected homes, rural properties and communities. Slack (2009) also wrote about the fear of the Peruvian government on the issue of local conflicts that possess the potentials to disrupt foreign investment in mining. He further linked the conflicts to violation of human rights by some mining companies who have increased tensions by making use of security forces.

Conflict in the solid mineral mining has caused underdevelopment in the industry in Nigeria. The resources in the solid mineral industry are not well harnessed in the country. Ishola and Adekeye (2010) stressed that the Nigerian government has underplayed the reality of conflict in the solid minerals mining industry by not reporting and keeping mute about it. They further emphasised that it is difficult to believe that with the many solid mineral deposits in the country, the industry is not developed despite the well-known promising benefits of the mineral development to a nation's economic growth. Benefits, in form of job creation, foreign and internal revenues, wealth creation and infrastructure development. They wrote that since

Nigeria depends on one major source (oil) of revenue, and not harnessing her solid natural resources, she is susceptible to conflicts, price shocks in the world market, corruption and economic mismanagement. They further claimed that exploiting these mineral resources would provide employment opportunities for her youths (unemployment has caused so much tension in the country), create wealth that will benefit the citizens greatly, give the country revenues, and can even compete and exceed oil in revenue generation for the country.

2.2 Conceptual Review

This section categorises and examines applicable concepts in the study.

2.2.1 Conflict

Conflict according to Coser (1967), Goodhand and Hulme (1999) and Nwolise (2004) is defined as a contention between people or groups concerning beliefs and assertions to limitedposition, influence and assets, in which the goals of the rivals are to defuse, damage, or eradicate the opponents. Pruitt and Rubin (1986) termed it as discerned difference of interest, or a conviction that the groups' existingambitions cannot be accomplished concurrently. Conflict occurs when there is a discrepancyamidst two or more individuals who requirestransformation in at least one individual so that the relationship can carry on and improve; the changes cannot harmonise without certainmodifications (Jordan, 1990). Conrad (1990) explained conflict to be interactions that are communicative between individuals who are co-dependent and who recognise that their concerns are conflicting, unstable, or in strain. Moreover, Donohue and Kolt (1992) pointed to conflict as a circumstance in which co-dependent individuals demonstrate (dormant or patent) variances in fulfilling their personal necessities and concerns, and they pass through intrusion from each other in the achievement of these objectives. Fajana (1995) simply identified conflict as a discord amidst two or more groups who recognise that they have dissenting interests. Folger, Poole &Stutman(1997) defined it as a relationship of co-dependentindividuals who recognisediscordantobjectives and intrusion from one another in attaining those objectives. Conflict is seen by Schramm-Nielsen (2002) as a situation of crucial disputes and squabble concerning something observed to be essential by at least one of the groups involved.

Furthermore, Albert (2003), posited conflict to be unavoidable in any environment where there is more than one (1) person or group. He views conflict as a usual phenomenon because of its crucial means by which purposes and ambitions of people or parties are coherent. Moreover, conflict to him is a pathway for the description of innovative measures to solving human crisis and ways to the improvement of a communal homogeneity. Conflict is viewed by Mullins (2005) as a conductprojected to disrupt the achievements of some other people's objectives, and is established on the irreconcilability of objectives and emerges from contrastingconducts that can be at the personal, collective, or associational level. Conflict exists in a situation where two (2) individuals or groups intend to carry out acts which are incompatible with those of other persons or groups (Umar, 2005). Olaoba (2011), viewed conflict from the African perspective as a term difficult to define, but resorted that it is part of the excitement for networking relationships, whether negative or positive.

All of these definitions above reflect the inevitable nature of conflict in the affairs of humanity and the major characteristics of conflict situations, like the involvement of two or more independentpersonalities or parties, which the individuals or groups recognise some irreconcilabilityamong themselves, and the persons or parties relate with one another in certainmanner. Conflict is further viewed as a way of finding solutions to crisis that stems out from clash of interests and the continuous existence of human race. Conflict is a necessary innovative component in human relationships; it is a channel to change, the channel that can make societal standards to be accomplished, if contained, society becomes unvarying.

Conflict can be functional or dysfunctional; functional conflict is healthy, productive disagreement that will yield positive results between people or groups. It is the reflection of various individuals' opinions and actions going on in the society. This kind of conflict keeps the society moving and gives innovative ideas and practises that bring development and growth (Lombardo, 2011). It is positive in improving

circumstances, there are joint efforts from the opposing parties to get the problem solved.

However, dysfunctional conflict is unhealthy disagreement that emanates from sentimental or behavioural source that takes place between people or groups. The use of threats, deceit and verbal abuse are all features of dysfunctional conflict. It is a situation where conflict escalates to an uncontrollable level. It is synonymous with breakdown in communication and in extreme situations, it can lead to total breakdown of communication (ibid).

Conflict is based on objectives, which are usually on interests, position and needs. The perception is on accessibility to different scarce or limited resources, which are established and dispersed in between distinct establishments, places, superior positions, authority and position, pasture, market water spots for animals and grassland routes, sovereignty of kings and chiefs, headship of political groups. According to Otite (1995), conflict is real, it is a means to accomplishing objectives and upholding claims, which gives people and groups to identify conflict position in reference to objective considerations. There are usually positions taken by the opposing parties, which are based on their interests in the issue at hand and these can be negotiated, but the non-negotiable one is the 'need', which is usually the core reasons of many disputes and can be categorised as the most crucial.

Conflict changes from one level to another and these changes comprise five (5) levels; initiation, escalation, controlled maintenance, abatement and resolution (Sandole, 1993). Many times, peace is the desired outcome of conflict, individuals or groups may not accomplish their goals in relation to the conflict, but the goals might be subdued by negotiations (Otite, 1995).

Individuals have groups they are part of; family, organisations, or communities. There are bound to be interactions with others in these groups despite the differences in culture, religion, status, objectives, needs, positions, race and sex, among others. All these differences may lead to disputes that will affect the entirety of the group. The process of conflict usually starts on a gradual note. This process is not easily detected, it

is usually concealed and takes extra efforts to detect it. In some conflict situations, people might not even be able to relay when the conflict actually began, they might even be thinking it started suddenly when in actual fact, it had started gradually, undetected much before anyone could remember because of lack of surveillance or lack of skill in conflict diagnosis (Goodluck, 2002). He further classified conflict into gradual and sudden phases.

Gradual phase of conflict is usually undetected and hidden. This phase is still under control depending on the opposing parties' abilities to forgive, let go and move on, while sudden phase of conflict is obvious and can be easily detected by everyone involved. Just a little push from gradual phase can escalate to sudden phase of conflict (ibid).

2.2.2 Artisanal and small-scale mining

The extraction of geological materials or valuable minerals is called mining. There are two types of excavation used in carrying out mining, i.e. surface mining and subsurface mining (underground mining). In the contemporary times, the more common type is surface mining and it produces up to eighty five percent (85%) of minerals (petroleum and natural gas not included) in the United States (Hartmann, 1993). Surface mining is described as extraction from near surface deposits of different kinds of raw materials. In surface mining, the non-bearing surface strata (overburden) are completely removed so as to have access to the resources. The application of different surface mining is depends on the obvious features of the raw material and on the specific situation of the site (Dukiya, 2013). However, sub-surface mining is generally put into use when the raw materials are obstructed by water tables, rock layers, or other strata and are in veins deep beneath the surface (Subsurface Mining, 2015). Almost all activities associated with mining have one or various kinds of environmental effects that are different in the degree or level of severity in the long or short run.

Techniques like mineral processing and extractive metallurgy were used to process the minerals after excavation. The procedures involved in mining right from when the minerals are discovered, to when they are extracted, and eventual return of the land to

its natural state take various unique steps. When minerals are found initially through prospecting or exploration, it is to know the location, extent and the worth of the mineral in terms of value. This will lead to resource calculation in estimating the grade of the deposit and the size, which will be necessary to carry out a feasibility study to appraise the viable monetary capability, risks in the aspect of finances and technical issues, and how massive the project is. And at this point, the mining organisations will decide whether to develop the mine or dump the project (Hartman, 1993).

Developing the mine includes evaluating the economic portion of the mineral that can be recovered, the mineral and metallurgy recovery, marketing and payment of the mineral concentrates, infrastructure and milling costs, engineering concerns, equity and financial prerequisites, and an assessment of the mine in question from the first excavation all through to the reclamation level. To have access to mineral deposits in a particular area, means mining through or eliminating waste material which is not useful to the miners immediately. The totality of moving the mineral and waste constitutes the mining process (ibid).

Artisanal and small scale mining is very prevalent in many third world nations, especially in Africa, and to a large extent, it is an activity driven by poverty (this is not the case in all third world countries because in the location of study, their farming business was doing well before the advent of mining which impoverished the communities and made them to look for alternative means of livelihood) which plays an essential role economically (Aryee, Ntibery and Atorkui, 2003; Hentschel et al, 2003; Hilson and Banchirigah, 2009; Hilson and Garforth, 2013). Rodney (1976) argued that Africans everywhere had arrived at a considerable understanding of the total ecology of the soil, climate, animals and so on. Therefore, the need for survival might have driven the members of the host communities and the miners rather than poverty. Artisanal and small scale mining is an essential means of support program in third world countries, and in Africa especially (Economic Commission for Africa, 2011). The estimated figure of individuals involved in artisanal and small scale mining universally vary dramatically, ranging from thirteen (13) million (International Labour Organisation, 2003) to fifty (50) million (Zolnikov, 2012). Artisanal and small scale mining happens in about eighty (80) countries around the globe (World Bank, 2013).

The sector is also estimated to produce fifteen (15%) to twenty (20%) percent of all metals and minerals used globally encompassing about eighty (80%) percent of all sapphires and about twenty (20%) to thirty (30%) percent of gold (Estelle Levin Limited, 2012; Sippl and Selin, 2012). Governments in many nations of the world regard artisanal and small scale mining as an illegitimate activity (Hentschel and Hruschka, 2003). Artisanal and small scale mining activities, especially illegal mining procedures in many regions of the world are considered equally significant as large scale mining activities, mainly because of the number of individualshired in the sector as well as its important role in alleviating poverty and development of rural areas (Opoku-Antwi, Amofah and Nyamaah-Koffour, 2012).

Artisanal and small-scale mining is characterised by high level of physical work, low level of mechanisation, lack of proper health care and occupational safety, qualification deficiency of personnel at different operational levels, incompetence in the processing and exploitation of the production of mineral (low level of value recovery), exploitation of peripheral and/or very slight minerals, which are not exploitable economically by mechanised mining, production level is low, likewise salaries and income, occasional operations by indigenouslabourers or in accordance to marketplacefeegrowth, absence inadequatethoughtfor environmental of security socially, concerns, thus substantial effect on the environment, serious absence of investment and working capital, and frequently operating without legitimate mining titles (ibid). The International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM, 2009) has identified five (5) categories of artisanal and small scale mining, and they are;

- (1) Traditional This is artisanal and small scale mining that is generational i.e. it has been in existence for an elongated period of time in a particular area, and may be a forming criteria for sources of local livelihoods.
- (2) Seasonal This is another kind of artisanal and small scale mining which is complementary to other periodicmeans of support (livelihood), such as farming or livestock tending.
- (3) Permanent Co-habitation This is connected to areas with large scale or medium scale mining, such as miners working in deserted areas, in tailing dams, or downstream of the larger processes.

- (4) Shock This type of artisanal and small scale mining occurs when unforeseen circumstances happen, such as collapse in economy, drought, fluctuations in commodity prices, retrenchment from mining organisations, conflict and sudden closure of commercial mine, which may drive individuals into artisanal and small scale mining.
- (5) Influx This is an opportunistic inflow of artisanal and small scale miners into an area where minerals have been found.

According to Collins (2014), artisanal small scale mining is mostly segregated from organisational large scale mining by the production level, which is usually low. Other features of artisanal and small scale mining according to Chaparro (2003), Hinton (2003), Hinton (2006), and Adler, Bergquist, Adler and Guimaraes (2013) include;

- Extensive topographical distribution
- Activities are decentralised
- Different choices of jobs in isolated rural areas, thus, reduction in rural-urban migration
- Supplying indigenous markets
- Indigenous economy is stimulated
- Indigenous local productivity strings are generated
- Geopolitical growth and expansion is encouraged
- New minerals are usually discovered (but extracting primary or secondary ores can be involved)
- Bigger projects are encouraged
- Various stakeholders are involved
- Results in social disputes
- Mechanisation is scarcely used thus, lot of bodily exhausting labour
- Low standard of employment safety and health welfare
- Low standard of prerequisite of workforce at all steps of the process
- Inefficient exploiting and processing of mineral production (poor recovery value)
- Low level of income and salaries
- Lack of social security

• No active and investment capital

Artisanal and small scale mining activities for many years have been major sources of conflict mainly because of the damages to the environment and its irresponsibility, according to different scholars. It is connected with multiple adverse environmental, social and health implications and reflects specific maintainable development issues. Problems that are usually linked with artisanal and small scale mining include disputes concerning access and land use, human rights violation, regulation and formalisation are lacking, environmental practices are poor, health and safety risks, forced and child labour, security threats, disputes with large scale mining, relocation related issues, and benefits not distributed equitably (International Council on Mining and Metals, 2009).

Artisanal and small scale mining has positive impacts, despite the many negative impacts attributed to it. And the positive impacts as stated by some scholars include;

- Providing employment in situations where economic options are seriously limited (Hinton, 2006).
- Provision for alternatives in terms of farming in the presence of structural adjustment programs (Hilson and Garforth, 2013).
- Smallholder agricultural activities that are deteriorating are reinvigorated (Hilson and Garforth, 2013).
- Shoots up infrastructural development
- Reduction in rural-urban movement (Hinton, 2006).
- Establishes downstream employment (Hilson, Hilson and Adu-Darko, 2014).
- Accommodation of different varieties of professions, e.g. service persons (cooks, taxi drivers, clothing merchants), semi-skilled workers (those operating machines, repairers), and those that have skills, and education (those involved in book-keeping, accounting, technicalities) (Hilson, Hilson and Adu-Darko, 2014).
- Contributing to foreign exchange revenues
- It makes exploiting of mineral resources that are not appealing to legitimate mining organisations possible and interesting (Hinton, 2006).
- Contributing to economic development.

Despite the attention given to artisanal and small scale mining in the last forty (40) years, it is still surrounded with poverty alleviation and the policy of developing local economy, and "in the situation of sub-Saharan Africa, not recognising the importance of the industry's economic development has obstructed its growth" (Hilson and McQuilken, 2014). Buxton (2013) considered artisanal and small scale mining as a response to poverty and vulnerability, and asserted that the industry will not disappear neither will it be licensed anytime in the nearest future. This assertion is not true in all cases, as some indigenous host communities were well off before the commencement of mining and were eventually driven by the need for survival after the destruction of their means of livelihood as a result of negative impacts of mining activities on their communities.

For many years now, Nigeria has been a nation permeated with illegal mining operations, especially the solid mineral industry, which has been abandoned for many years due to the 1973 Indigenisation Law which necessitated the foreigners who were in control of mining locations to leave the sites, which automatically gave unskilful miners who used to work with them (the foreigners) the chance to take over (Ewepu, 2014). Furthermore, he gave two (2) major facts that make illegal miners engage in the extraction of minerals as frustration and poverty. Though, more often than not, it is usually a need for survival. And he stressed that illegal miners have set kegs of gunpowder which many states are sitting on, and will explode sooner or later and consumefaultless Nigerians if nothing is urgently done. He also stated that artisanal and small scale mining is an essential integral part of Nigerian mining industry which has the feasibility to increase internal income coupled with foreign exchange, establish employment and reduce poverty, and encouragement of foreign direct investment if it is properly managed. This is in agreement with several authors like Jacob (2010), Opafunso (2014), and others.

Coppin (2005) identified the following characteristics of artisanal and small scale mining in Nigeria and many other African countries;

- Abject poverty this is mainly because many Nigerians in rural areas live in an increasingly vulnerable environment and battle with dwindling livelihood alternatives
- Seasonality during the dry season, because of less agricultural work, subsistence farmers augment their meagre income by going into mining activities
- Economic Stagnation economic decline is another reason why many people get involved in artisanal and small scale mining in Nigeria
- Rush/Migratory Miners once there are new discoveries of new minerals, particularly gemstone, there will be attraction of different individuals from diversergions of the nation
- Illegality majority of the artisanal and small scale miners in Nigeria are operating informally and illegally.
- Large scale mining retrenchment because of insolvency of the Nigerian Mining Corporation, many people have been forced to seek informal work
- Commodity prices as international demands change, so do prices of minerals and miners
- Federal Government of Nigeria apathy the government neglected the mining sector for a very long time, and not really sure as per the long term objectives they had for the industry. The Federal Government may have been trappedamidst the shorter term nationwide economic gains that could be benefited from giving necessary encouragement to foreign large scale mining organisations versus the idealised possibility of having a formal, major local artisanal and small scale mining industry
- Artisanal and small scale mining policy the country lack the appropriate policies and institutional capabilities to help formalise and render assistance to the artisanal and small scale mining sector
- Rural education there is a very low level of quality education and very poor educational facilities
- Rural health there is a high level of worsening health situations in indigenous mining regions, like malaria and the increasing danger of HIV/AIDS that is before now rampant in other places in Africa

Over ninety (90%) percent of activities of mining in Nigeria are artisanal and small scale, of which seventy five (75%) percent are carried out illegally according to Opafunso and Alaba, (2015). In a report by Environmental Law Institute (2014), which stated that, countries like Ghana and Burkina Faso have proper developed large scale mining industry, but in Nigeria, large scale mining industry is not yet developed, thus gold mining in the nation is implemented by artisanal and small scale miners, and they are nearly informal by definition i.e carrying out their operations outside present laws and regulations. Most of these artisanal and small scale miners who are majorly men, women and children, are rural, poor and are usually without legal mining titles. Devaluation, misinterpretation and criminalisation of artisanal and illegal miners prevent them from participating in the political and environmental decision making procedures, as well as preventing them from negotiations of possible alternative livelihoods for the rural dwellers(Jacob, 2010). Dukiya (2013) also viewed artisanal and small scale miners as illiterates and that they are not well informed about procedures of approach to mining activities in Nigeria. He pointed out that illegal miners do ignore existing mining laws intentionally with impunity and sometimes with support from officers that are corrupt in the federal agencies.

The contemporary mining laws and protocols in Nigeria concerning artisanal and small scale mining focus on providing extension services, which means that miners are not provided with any meaningful incentives and assistance to formalise them. So many authors have written so much about the reasons that contribute to the low performance of the artisanal and small scale mining industry, and some of them are: simple and open fiscal and legal systems are lacking, institutional structures are weak, lack of ability in implementation of existing regulations, and lack of political will (United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, 2002).

Opafunso(2012) classified some of the difficulties that artisanal and small scale mining sector face in Nigeria as;

- lack of organisation and instabilities of the miners
- improper mining regulations
- illiteracy

- non-availability of financial and technical assistance (especially in the remote areas where miners work)
- poverty and unemployment

Many scholars who have written on artisanal and small scale mining in Nigeria have all stressed the significance and essence of this sector with potentials to provide sources of livelihood for millions of people around the globe (Nigeria inclusive) and also as a source of income generation for the nation. Thus, it is not an industry that should be overlooked or neglected, because it is already having very high consequences for its neglect, which if nothing is being done very quickly, could degenerate into more terrible consequences.

2.3 The Gap in Literature

The nature of mining activities suggests that conflicts are meant to happen particularly as it involves various stakeholders and their interests. Mining has indeed impacted negatively in many of the indigenous host communities by degrading their environment, changing their social and cultural heritage and has contributed largely to the poor level of these communities, thereby causing conflicts in one way or the other. However, it has also impacted their economy positively in trading, jobs, among others.

The literature that has been reviewed thus far presented various scholarly works on natural resources or mining conflicts between different stakeholders, such as conflicts between miners (illegal artisanal miners and mining organisations) and governments; between different fractions of miners (between illegal artisanal miners, or between mining organisations; or between illegal artisanal miners and legitimate mining organisations); between indigenous communities and governments; between indigenous communities and their surrounding communities; and between miners and members of indigenous host communities which happens to be the focus of this study. Researches have been done on conflicts between miners (whether illegal artisanal miners or mining organisations) and indigenous communities with natural resources at different locations around the world, and Nigeria. Many researches have also been done on environmental degradation of indigenous communities, social, economic, health implications of mining on different indigenous mining communities, however conflicts between miners (illegal artisanal miners, there is no large scale mining or mining organisations in these communities as at the time of this research) and indigenous communities in Ijesaland of Osun state is one of the new ground to break. The conflicts between these parties have been given little attention in Osun state, and even in Nigeria as a whole, ignoring these conflicts can lead to armed conflicts and wastage of human and material resources as witnessed in the Niger-Delta, where oil exploration led to land degradation that led to the arms struggles by Niger-Delta youths in Nigeria, thus the major reason for this study. It is imperative to mention that many people living around Ijesaland and its environs are not even aware of the extent of these mining activities and issues surrounding the activities that are happening right under their noses and backyards. This study investigated the nature and pattern of the conflicts, how mining has brought and influenced conflicts in these indigenous host communities, the root causes of conflicts between the two parties and the strategies that have been used or are being used to manage the conflicts. The study also proffers possible solutions on the issue. It is hoped that the outcome of this study will create the kind of attention needed in these indigenous communities and the kind of awareness from the governments and the members of the urban communities in and out of Nigeria.

2.4 Theoretical Framework

Theories are formulated to expound, forecast, and comprehend phenomenon. In explaining fundamental issues, theories are necessary ideas that are intended to analyse facts or events. It has been noted in this study that mining of natural resources has contributed positively to different nations and communities all around the world, and on the other hand, the negative impacts are quite enormous, and part of them (i.e. the negative impacts) are the issues of conflict that arise between the miners and indigenous host communities. Thus, this section of the study comprises the different approaches that were used to analyse the mining situation and conflict related issues between miners and indigenous communities. The study is anchored on Human RightsBased Approach Model, Stakeholder theory and non – violence model of conflict theory.

2.4.1 Human Rights-Based Approach Framework

The equality and inalienability of rights of all human beings give the basis for fairness, peace and liberty in the world, according to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948. The human rights-based approach has those that are discriminated against, excluded or marginalised as its focus. An analysis is needed for power imbalances, various kinds of discrimination and gender norms, to see to it that interventions get to the most marginalised sector of the population.

Human rights are world-widelegitimate guarantees that protect persons and groups from activities and oversights that restrict fundamental independences, rights, and dignity of humans. Human rights laws oblige governments and other people whose duties are to act (duty bearers) to do specific things and prevent them from doing others (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2006).

Human rights are majorly characterised by universality (the birth right of all human beings), which entails the right to life, liberty and security; freedom to associate, express, freedom of assembly and movement; the right of attaining the highest health standard; freedom against indiscriminate arrest or incarceration; the right to an impartial hearing; the right to fair and suitable conditions of work; the right to be educated; the right to sufficient food, accommodation and social security; the right to equal protection of the law; the right to nationality; the right to participate in cultural life, among others. Human rights obligations are to reverence, to defend and to fulfil the human rights. It is also characterised by parity and fairness, interdependence, inalienability, involvement and incorporation, indivisibility, responsibility, the rule of law and interrelatedness. Application of human rights ideologiesturned out to be a primeconcern of United Nations reformation efforts which was instigated in 1997. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) was part of the organisations that embraced the United Nations Common Understanding on Human Rights-Based Approach to Development Cooperation in 2003, which explains how human rights principles and values should be practiced in programming.

COMPONENTS OF ACCEPTABLE PRACTICES UNDER A HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

- Identification of the realisation of human rights as utmost aims of improvement.
- Individuals are recognised as major players in their own growth, instead of being inactivebeneficiaries of services and commodities.
- Involvement is both an objective and a means.
- Approaches are not disempowering, but empowering.
- Either results or procedures are scrutinised and assessed.
- The attention is on marginalised and excluded people.
- The process of development is indigenously retained.
- The target is to lessendiscrepancies and endow those forgotten.
- Position analysis is employed to classifyinstant, fundamental and major reasonsfor development difficulties.
- Analysis of the entire stakeholders are included, the capabilities of the government as the key duty-bearer and the part of other non-state players.
- Human Rights principlesdirect the creation of assessableobjectives, aims and pointers in programming.
- Generalresponsibilityschemes should be reinforced with an outlook to ensure that autonomousevaluation of the performance of the government and means to rectification for aggrieved persons.
- Tactical partnership are established and maintained.

Source: The Human Rights-Based Approach to Development Cooperation

International Human Rights Network (IHRN) identified some similar ideologies that guide the application of human rights-based approach, and they are;

 LEGITIMACY: Human rights based approaches might or might not entaillegitimateapproaches or language, but have ground in and obtain legality from the intrinsic human rights acknowledged in universal law. These are standards agreed on at the minimal level. Nations are usually enthused to achievegreaterheights of reverence for human rights, and the law itself is changing – it is incessantlyprogressing through nations identifying and collating new human rights or categorising the subject of operational standards e.g the right to water.

Development contains the complete related qualities of human rights and they are inseparable, closely connected and depend on each other (for instance, the right to food is essential before enjoying the right to education). Discrimination must be eliminated to be able to enjoy all the rights. There are three (3) methods in which immediate obligations of social, cultural and economic human rights are involved irrespective of resources (equality and justice; responsibility "to take steps"; and to guarantee the basic minimum of the right).

Sometimes, international human rights and their origination in universal treaties are criticised as western paradigms, incorrectly 'imposed' on individuals in serious diverse cultural frameworks. In the real sense, all nations have implemented their independence in transforming groups to human rights treaties. On this premise, organisations devoted to human rights based approaches prompt 'beneficiaries' through their effort that their nation has undertaken to respect minimum principles.

2) EMPOWERMENT: Improvement based on human rights moves the emphasis from the point that people who are poor have needs to the point that they have human rights. It entails that the corereasons be attended to and includes the impartialsharing of authority and resources. This runs from the point that human beings' intrinsic self-worthenables them to a basic set of human rights that none can give or take away. This kind of approach is different from a charity-based approach by exactingconferred interests and command structures, recollecting that development is an integrally political procedure. It requiresexpending human rights language where appropriateexcept it is tactical not to do so. Human rights based approach is formulated to endow communities and persons to identify, request and protect their rights and to have knowledge of their complementary responsibilities. This entails recognising people responsible – legal or moral – to be respected, protected and fulfilled as their human rights, and to hold them liable for such responsibilities.

- 3) TRANSPARENCY: Human rights based approaches also encompass the engagement of awareness creation with government associates, 'service providers' and other duty bearers. All these players (actors) must comprehend their responsibilities in terms of respecting, protecting and fulfilling the human rights of all. An all-inclusiveattitude to human rights consciousnessinvolves that rights holders and duty bearers have the same perspective of human rights.
- 4) PARTICIPATION: The participation of a community is maximised under human rights based approaches (participation itself being a human right) to enhance the effect of improvement work, as well as its continuity.
- 5) MULTI-LEVEL: Human rights based approaches recognise the different stages at which human rights duties and abuses emerge and the necessity to pay attention to them in a systematic and strategic manner. This may includefresh alliances betweenpersons, communities, at national level and globally, and new strategies for support.
- 6) ALL ASPECTS OF AN ORGANISATION'S WORK NEED TO BE HINGED ON HUMAN RIGHTS: All tacticalarrangement, promoting, procedure, programs, priorities and partnerships (with donors, CBOs, NGOs) – or the organisation's own employees' working conditions, promotion, selection, training and management.

Applications of these ideologies eventually results in larger empowerment, accountability and pellucidity, which invariably leads to greater fulfilment of human rights.

Before 1997, most United Nations development agencies were majorly concerned with 'basic needs' approach, they were able to identify rudimentaryrequests of beneficiaries and however assisted initiatives to enhancedelivery of service or championed for their accomplishment. United Nations development agencies focus on fulfilling the rights of individuals, instead of the essentials of beneficiaries. It is an essential distinct situation because a necessity that is not fulfilled results in dissatisfaction, while a disrespected right results in violation. Redress or reparation can be claimed legitimately and legally.

Human Rights-Based Approach is a framework of concepts for the procedure of human improvement that is normatively premised on global human rights principles and operating in direction to improve and protect human rights. And it also hunts to examine discriminations which are at the bottom of developmental difficulties and correct prejudiced practices and unfair distribution of supremacy that obstruct the progress of development. The approach is hinged on two major rationales, and they are;

- 1) The intrinsic rationale, which recognises that a human rights-based approach is the proper thing to do, either legally or morally.
- 2) The instrumental rationale, which recognises that human rights-based approach, brings an improved, and more maintainable human improvement result.

Practically, a blend of these two rationales is usually the reason for the pursuit of human rights-based approach. Under this approach, conflicts amongdiverse stakeholders in development can help give opportunities for dialogue, which can generate an avenue for positive change. While disputes brushedunderneath the carpet and grievances not attended to can aggravate into violent conflicts, as it is in these host communities in Ijesaland whereby grievances of the indigenous host communities are not being attended to, thus looking like a time bomb in waiting.

The positive change after conflicts can be achieved through reinforcement access to equalityconstituents within policies and programs of development, for redress when rights are violated, creating human rights awareness, and providing transparent and productive manners of expressing grievances and resolving differences (United Nations, 2016). The human rights-based approach deals with outcomes, in addition

tomeans to achieving the outcomes. This is also pointing to conflicts between the host communities and miners as avenue for positive change, and constructively channelling their grievances to achieve good outcomes. It recognises that individuals are recognised as major players in their own growth, instead of being inactive beneficiaries of services. Empowerment, information and education are all very important for the members of the host communities. They have a central participation, in order to make sure they have proprietorship over the program, and also to sustain development.

With Human Rights-Based Approach, communities have basic rights to be included in the decisions that will have effects on them. With this approach, the strategies, rules and procedures of development are premised on a structure of rights and conformingresponsibilities created by universal law that should correlate with national law (United Nations, 2006). This theory analyses the realisation of the rights of marginalised and excluded individuals and the rights of those that could be violated, but this study is focussing on the rights of the indigenous host mining communities that are being violated and the responsibilities of the government to protect those rights. Similarly, the political, social and legal context that defines the relationship between communities, mining organisations and state authorities, and the resultantdues, obligations and accountabilities which are decided through participating procedures should mirror the harmony between people whose rights are violated (right holders) and people with duty to act (duty bearers). A human rights-based approach hunts to strengthen the capabilities of duty bearers (typically governments) to meet up with their responsibilities and encourages rights holders to demand for their rights. Governments have three (3) stages of responsibility: to respect, protect and guarantee these rights. To respect a right means to refrain from meddling in the enjoyment of the rights. To fulfil a right means taking active steps to put in place procedures, institutions, policies, laws, allocating resources inclusive, enabling people to enjoy their rights. It also intends to address complexities of development comprehensively, considering the relationships, the structures of authority or influence and persons. And it makes effort to establish dynamics of accountability.

Mining has been generally linked with abuse of human rights, and it has been a major issue with indigenous mining communities. United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (2011), identified human rights abuses that go on in the mining industries to be arbitrary detention and torture, forced resettlement, disappearance of people, the destruction of significant cultural places without reward or adequate reward and abuses of labour rights, violating the right to clean environment, loss of land and means of support without negotiation and without sufficientreward. Artisanal and small-scale mining activities abuse human rights of inhabitants of host mining communities and sometimes, surrounding neighbouring communities. Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice - CHRAJ (2008), agreed with this point that artisanal and small-scale mining has resulted in environmental severities, as well as violation of some basic human rights of host communities and surrounding neighbouring communities and surrounding neighbouring in Talensi-Nabdam districts in Northern Ghana, in form of human displacement, farmlands destruction and the absence of compensation, or inadequate compensation to the members of the indigenous communities.

The human rights of the host communities in Ijesaland are being violated from time to time by illegal artisanal miners, their cultural heritage and values are not being respected. In the case of Owu, Igun-Ijesa and many of the other host communities where their water sources have been contaminated (toxic chemicals like mercury, lead, cyanide, copper pollute underground waters and streams), vegetation and farmlands have been destroyed, which are parts of their cultural heritage (Omofoye, 2015). Also, there is the issue of child labour; children are usually part of the extractive industry, sometimes for themselves or for their families. Some of the diggers are underage (within the range of school ages), who are already involved in child labour in this vocation. Irene, Esther de Haan and Mark (2015) emphasised the danger of gold mining on adult miners and how it is more dangerous and harder on children with physical damages, and how it affects their physical and psychological development, and negatively impacts their future as they drop out of school. Also, illnesses that are associated with mining like pulmonary and respiratory diseases from too much exposure to dust, injuries of the skeleton from lifting heavy loads, different kinds of eye and skin conditions (wounds on the body that get infected from the terrible hygienic situations of the pools that various children stand in all through the day), and exhaustion due to the endless hours of hard labour. They identified different kinds of work that children engage in at mining sites, such as pounding ore with hammers, using mercury to process the minerals, shovelling, digging, picking and transporting minerals, cleaning, looking for gold in mine tailings, work in small businesses (shops, restaurants, motorcycle and ore repair), bringing food and firewood to other workers. According to the International Labour Organisation (2006), child labour at gold mining sites is the worst form of child labour, as it is detrimental to them in all aspects.

RIGHTS HOLDERS AND DUTY BEARERS

These are in two different ways; Communities and individuals must be properly and totally intimated about their rights and their participation in resolutions that have effects on them. Governments and other duty bearers always need support to improve the capability, the resources and the political willpower to accomplish their obligations to human rights.

Human Rights-Based approach as an international instrument with definite national customs which should be derived from international human rights mechanisms, conventions and other customs or standards, such as the Convention on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (1989), or International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention 169. Human Rights-Based Approach is founded on principles of transparency and accountability through the formulation of policies that address specific human rights, and to specifically point to what must be done, to what standard and who is accountable, thus making policy formulation a transparent procedure, and also empowers people and communities to hold accountable those who have a duty to act. Accountability is very crucial to Human Rights-Based Approach, which enforces those with duties to act to fulfil and be accountable to citizen's rights:

Perhaps the most important source of added value in the human rights approach is the emphasis it places on the acco untability of policy makers and other actors whose actions have an impact on the rights of the people. Rights imply duties and duties demand accountability (United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2002) in (NyamuMusembi and Cornwall, 2004). The right of communities to participate within Human Rights-Based Approach is deliberated by a tactical right that unlocks the door for other rights to be implemented, as a means and also as an end in itself, as a political right due to its possibility of shifting power relations, which may create conflict, and conflict is a pointer to the fact that change is taking place. In order to handle this conflict properly, it is essential to view it from the two sides of the equation, i.e. those whose rights are violated (right holders, and in this situation, the host communities in Ijesaland) to exercise their right to be involved, and those with duties to act (duty bearers, the government in this case) to listen to communities' requests, be answerable and allow the environment for the accomplishment of community's right to participate.

There are four criteria that are being used to describe the model of meaningful participation and they are:

- An influent (binding) participation in making decision that is more than consultation or a technical fact that is included in a project design (Echave, 2008).
- 2) Informative participation, where communities are provided with information all through the phases of the mining project.
- Appropriate participation, where throughout the life period of a mining project, differentstages and concentrations of participation should be properly circulated: information, consultancy, observing or attention and participation in decision making.
- 4) Intercultural participation.

Notion of accountability can be used in Human Rights-Based Approach framework majorly for state actors, but also extend to non-state actors and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights expresses the broader notion of accountability:

> "Under international law, the state is the principal duty bearer (those with duties to act) with respect to the human rights of the people living within its jurisdiction. However, the international community at large also has a responsibility to help realise universal human rights.

Thus, monitoring and accountability procedures must not only extend to states, but also to global actors such as the donor community, intergovernmental organisations, international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and The Nature Conservancy (TNCs), whose actions bear upon the enjoyment of human rights in any country".

Sustained results will be achievable by building the capacity of those whose rights are abused (rights holders – host communities) and those with duties to act (duty bearers – the government), improving social interrelation through pursuingharmonious participatory procedures, by integrating human rights claimsinside a context of rules and institutions, and by institutionalising independent processes.

Human Rights-Based Approach in relation to mining sees poverty and distress as being triggered and propagated by unfair relationship between and insidenations, whose preys are susceptible people (members of the host communities). Thus, such unfairness and distress is neither normal nor unavoidable (Bice and Ensor, 2005). Therefore, the approach creates an implied principled call for shifting power relations that may bring about unfairness and repression.

Mining will keep having negative impacts on the loss of lands, livelihoods, waterways and land degradation, and high rise in violence and conflicts if it does not follow the human rights standards and thus putting human security and freedom at risk. Human Rights-Based Approach in relation to mining assists in preventing adverse social effects, reduces environmental harms, and lastly, relieves poverty (ibid).

Human Rights-Based Approach is a win-win context that may offer welfares not only to those whose rights are violated (right holders– host communities), but also to those whose duty is to act (duty bearers – the government). While the main purpose of Human Rights-Based Approach in mining is to profit mine affected host communities, the application of this context may also profit miners because its implementation can advance and defend the miners and raise their status.

Inclusion of the host communities in decision making concerning mining on their soil will make Human Rights-Based Approach to be successful in practice. The United Nations Draft Norms incorporate the idea of including the host communities in decision-making

> "Transnational corporations and other business enterprises shall respect the rights of local communities affected by their activities and the rights of indigenous peoples and communities consistent with international human rights standards. They shall also respect the principle of free, prior and informed consent of the indigenous peoples and communities to be affected by their development projects" (United Nations Organisation for Education, Science and Culture, 2003).

2.4.2 Stakeholder Theory

People in different kinds of circumstances evaluate the status quo of others on any given issue, so as to make them measure the level of backing or hostility from others, and also to envisage how they will act if changes occur. Stakeholder theory is used to understand a system by recognising the major stakeholders or actors in the structure, and to be able to assess their corresponding interests in, or power on that structure. Stakeholders are the people that matter to the system, those with the interests or rights in a system (International Institute for Environment and Development, 2005).

Grimble and Wellard (1997), described stakeholders as any group of individuals, structured or unstructured, who have a mutualconcern or stake in a precisesubject or system, they can be at any level or placement in a society, from universal, nationwide and provincial concerns down to the level of domestic or intra-domestic and be groups of any magnitude or accretion. They identified stakeholders to include policy makers, commercial bodies, subsistence farmers, planners and administrators, other small-scale resource users, and additionalimprecisegroupings such as "future generations," the "national interest," and "wider society". Stakeholders are collections, communities, social actors, or associations of all kinds of sizes or aggregation that act at

differentstages (local, domestic, regional, private, public, national and international), have an important and particular share in a particular set of resources, and can influence or be influenced by resource administrationcomplications or interferences (Chevalier, 2001). Stakeholders are generally composed of shareholders and other financiers, suppliers, employees, clients, communities, and the government. Stakeholders are groups or people who are able to influence or be influenced by the operation of business (Freeman, 1984), or simply put as anyone meaningfully influencing or influenced by some other person's decision making activity. From the definition above, the list of possible stakeholders can be virtuallylimitless (Azapagic, 2004). The theory defines the collaboration and interrelation of the numerous stakeholders.

According to Figar and Figar (2011), stakeholders are of two (2) concepts, and they are;

- 1) the stakeholders as personalities or parties who influence the corporation (system) or rest on the corporation (system),
- 2) theother one is the model of stakeholders to create the burden or convey benefits to the corporation (system).

Also Freeman et al (2007), divided stakeholders into two (2) segments, and they are the primary stakeholders and the secondary stakeholders. Primary stakeholders are the ones precisely connected to the company (system) like clients, financiers, workforces, merchants or communities, while secondary stakeholders, who are not precisely related to the company (system) such as media, government, opponents, customer organisations, or other similar groups. Thus, the stakeholders under these two phases in this study are categorised into primary stakeholders who are people directly connected to the issue of study, and they are the miners, the agents and the host communities, while secondary stakeholders are not directly connected to the issue of study, and they are those who are not directly connected to the issue of study, and they are those who are not directly connected to the issue of study, and they are those who are not directly connected to the issue of study, and they are those who are not directly connected to the issue of study.

Analysing stakeholders can be seen as a way or pattern of comprehending a system by recognising the major actors or stakeholders in a particular system and evaluating their interests in that system (ibid). Ramirez (1999) identified four (4) main reasons why stakeholders should be analysed, and they are;

- To empirically determine current interaction patterns
- To analytically advanceinvolvements
- As a tool of management in making policies
- As an instrument in predicting conflicts

According to Eden and Ackermann (1998), interest, power and influence levels, linked with various stakeholders are usually described qualitatively and compared in two (2) dimensional grids i.e. power in influencing the state of affairs versus interest in the particularventure. To understand stakeholders' views and motivational factors is of substantial necessity in relating to preservation and secure area projects. Analysing stakeholder is important mainly because it is widely acknowledged as an essential means for getting more understanding of the intricate systemic collaborationsamong natural procedures, policies of management and dependency of the local indigenous people on the resource. In the contemporary times, community and group based participatory inquiry methods are widely used for this purpose (Carsten,Stig and Peter 2005).

There are many groups whose interests in and actions concerning communities' natural resources can result in or aggravate conflicts, and these stakeholders may include rebel groups, local communities, governments, and outside actors (United States Institute of Peace, 2007).

An instance of conflict evaluation in relations to community based natural resources was provided by Warner (2000), the evaluation is conducted in two (2) steps, which are;

- Official based, which is to influence the consequent process of stakeholder discoursedevoid of creating erroneous expectations, aggravating tension, or putting people involved at individual risk. At this stage, predicted or known conflicts or disagreements are recognised and plotted, which includes types, scales and cause-effect relationship.
- 2) Participatory, is the step that is concerned with the development of belief and comprehension between groups involved in conflict, as it involves validating

the precision of outcomes from the analysis made previously. It involves the development of an effectual kind of communication among stakeholders, knowledge sharing, details clarification, information verification and identification of conflict management choices.

Stakeholder theory has been produced from management and organisational literature. It endeavours to address the "principle of who or what really counts" (Freeman, 1984). The theory defines the interactive and interconnectivity of different stakeholders, thus it is inviting examination of the power connection between parties and persons and their separate interests in a resource or circumstance. It furthers identifies major disparities within parties and aspects of possible unifying ground and practicable interventions purposed at having an improved management of natural resources and conflicts associated with them (ibid). Stakeholder theory has its focus on the affiliationamong business and the parties and people who can influence or be influenced by it (Smudde and Coutright, 2011).

In most cases, because illegal artisanal miners are operating illegally, they are usually viewed as non-stakeholders, however illegal miners have always been operating in these communities, thus they could be described as dangerous stakeholders (having both power and urgency) when they turn violent (Irawan, Sumarwan, Suharjo and Djohar, 2014). Stakeholders in this study are the miners, the agents, the middlemen, the members of the host communities and the government. Although in the broader sense, the communities all around mining communities are affected in one way or the other. Hogem (2014) included stakeholders to be workers and their family members, local indigenous peoples, local authorities, subcontractors, the people that make use of the local environment for business or leisure, or the natural environment itself, and both current and future generations. But the focuses in this study are the ones mentioned above. The interests of the stakeholders are different and are affected in different ways by the mining activities. The stakeholders are classified premised on the characteristics they possess according to Mitchell, Agle and Wood (1997) and the characteristics are;

 Power – This is the capacity of stakeholders to affect the ways others do some things that will lead to the desired results, and this can be achieved by using coercive-physical, material-financial, and normative-symbolic resources at one's disposal.

- Legitimacy This means the acceptable attributes of stakeholders in relation to law and social ethics.
- 3) Urgency It can also be called attention-getting capacity. This is the extent where stakeholders have the interest level on other stakeholders, i.e. the capability to emphasise the crucial and pressing attribute of one's claims or interests, aims that are sensitive in terms of time and will be costly if deferred.

These three (3) characteristics are subject to change, they are socially put together and they can be owned with or without any awareness and wilful application. They can also cross one another or be in combination in several methods, such that stakeholder salience will be confidently connected to the accumulated number of characteristics effectually owned (ibid). They further pointed out that power gains authority through legitimacy, and it gains exercise through urgency. Seven (7) types of stakeholders were generated from these attributes according to Mitchell et al (1997), and they are;

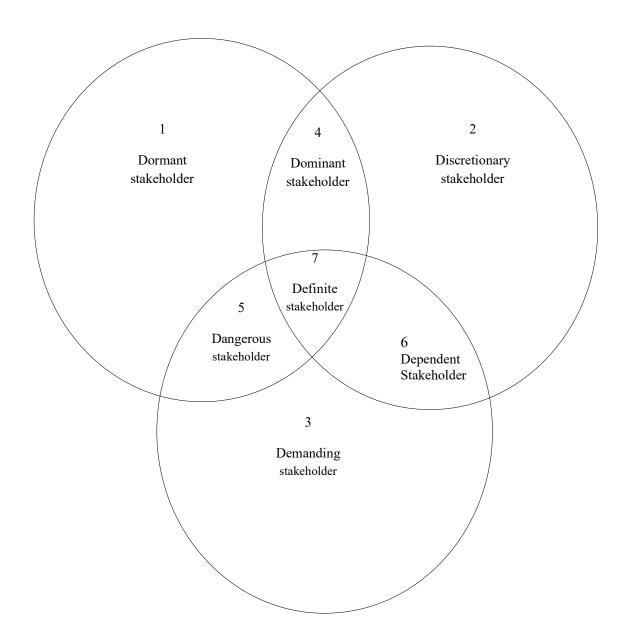
- 1) Dormant stakeholders are the ones with power but no legitimacy and interests.
- Discretionary stakeholders are the ones with legitimacy but do not have the power and interests.
- Demanding stakeholders are the ones with interests but do not have power and legitimacy.
- 4) Dominant stakeholders are the ones with power and legitimacy, but have no interest
- 5) Dangerous stakeholders are the ones with power and interests but do not have the legitimacy.
- 6) Dependent stakeholders have both interests and legitimacy but do not have power.
- 7) Definite stakeholders have the three (3) types; power, interests and legitimacy, and will therefore receive the greatest attention.

These models attributes give details to the study in order to recognise the types of stakeholders so as to know the influence each of the stakeholders possess. In some

situations, stakeholders have positive impacts, like the artisanal miners in these indigenous communities of the study, who have made the communities their homes, have contributed to the socio-economic activities of the host communities. And in other circumstances, the stakeholders have impacted negatively on the indigenous communities, and even the surrounding communities. Appropriate stakeholder management by the stakeholders (especially the government), would have positive implications for the sustainability of the host communities and their environments.

Stakeholder Typology:

One, Two, or Three Attributes Present



Adapted from Chevalier (2001)

The model attributes are valuable contributions to stakeholder analysis which give information on how to identify different stakeholders in this particular situation of mining activities and conflicts, objectives of managing projects, perspectives centred on actors and as well as empowerment principles (ibid). Also their roles, be it positive or negative in the conflict between them (i.e. the stakeholders). Stakeholder theory is very essential in supporting the decision making situations, especially when the interests of the various stakeholders are competing for the resources that are limited, thus their needs must be balanced appropriately. Since there are many parties involved in mining activities, management of stakeholders can be better exploited in the formation of the policy of natural resources (Stool-Kleemann and Welp, 2006).

The analysis lays emphasis on facilitating interactions among local groups who are involved and affected in one way or the other by some specific kind of resources or its management. Thus, it can be concluded that it is participatory, which will give voices and representations to marginalised groups especially in situations of power imbalances. This analysis is very useful in unorganised constituencies where they are not aware of their level of interests in managing their natural resources and is always committed to enhancing stakeholders' involvement in the processes of natural resources management. However, not all stakeholder analysis is carried out through participatory processes, sometimes they are done independently from various actors. But analysis carried out without participation will likely indicate the interests and agendas of the group in charge of the exercise in the management of the natural resources.

2.4.3 Non – violence model of conflict

In these contemporary times when violence, wars, injustice and so much hatred are the order of the day, it is imperative to seek a peaceful way of communicating grievances. Non – violence is a kind of strategy to adopt in dealing with disputes. It emphasises that physical violence should not be used in handling conflicts. Non – violence is renouncing violence in personal, social, or international affairs, it involves the commitment of non – violenct direct actions that diligently resist violence i.e evil or injustice by non – violence mediums (Holmes, 1995).

Non – violence has two (2) historical ideologies; the pacifistic and the pragmatic ideologies. The pacifistic ideology includes non – violent ideas, views and visions from philosophies, ways of life, religions and ethnicity. No reason is enough to warrant the harming and killing of any human being according to pacifistic ideology. While the pragmatic ideology views non – violent deeds as essential and efficient instruments for politics, an array of strategies and as mediums of communicating a social movement, revolution or structure of defence (Johansen, 2007).

Pacifistic ideology – is majorly dominated by religious conventions that are kindled by holy scriptures, priests, gurus, imams, gods or other leaders in any religious sect. They believe that any form of violence is not in accordance with God's will, thus it is a sin (ibid). These religions do not see any reason for violence under any circumstance except for the use of self-defence of individuals, group of people or nations in situations of conflicts. Instances of extreme violence in the historical background of these holy books are situations of wars against the enemies, which is viewed as a justifiable reason for violence. Any other reason for violence is virtuously incorrect. The basic general scope of non – violence is rooted in refusing to commit murder. However, the rationale of non – violence by some philosophers are viewed beyond this, they consider every kind of psychological and physical hurt on anyone as contravention of non – violent pattern. Moreover, some even extend it to all living things and not limited to human beings alone. The concept of non – violence was used by Mohandas Karamchand Ghandi as 'Ahimsa' which he contended that it should be the procedure instructing people in their thinking, talking and doings.

Pragmatic ideology – is based on the societal aspect that has used non – violent ways to achieve democratic government, independence and human rights dignity. Stakeholders use it to affect conflict situation. They have chosen various strategies and tactics of non – violence to fight all forms of mistreatments against humanity, thus it can be concluded that in the contemporary times, most people that are involved in the use of non – violence are fitted into pragmatic ideology (Johansen, 2007). It is used to make more room for the cause and ideas of stakeholders, assist their purpose, focus on their target in achieving them and stop their adversaries from accomplishing theirs. This is closely related to the issue of this study and it is a model that is bringing the key issues together i.e human rights dignity, stakeholders and non – violent nature of the conflicts in the mining communities. This non – violence is a phase which might achieve its aim according to the expectations of one or the two parties involved in the conflicts or move out of that phase to violence phase if not ell managed at that non – violence phase.

Non – violence could be in three (3) forms namely;

- Non violent protests which are peaceful demonstrations opposing mistreatment, it could be in form of displaying placards, using symbols and having protest gatherings. This is all put up to send an opposing message, especially when they are not heard in an organisation.
- 2) Non-cooperation is prominent among unions and they usually use strike actions, boycotts, and civil disobediences to communicate their grievances. They always use them to pressurise their bosses into giving in to their demands.
- Non violent interventions are circumstances in which stakeholders are directly involved in interfering in conflict situation. Interfering directly means exposure to various dangers with instant and critical effects (Dugan, 2003).

Non – violence and violence are possible outcomes of issues in relationships. While violence is expressed physically in situations where relationships break down and hurts the conflicting parties negatively, non – violence is equally an expression of dissatisfaction that hurts both conflicting parties negatively but not physically. Thus, non – violence is an integral part of violence in waiting, which is not the best option in conflict management geared towards the development of a system.

Problems that started out as non – violence sometimes do result to violence if care is not taken. And with different kinds of conflicts in the host communities (conflicts within family members in the communities, conflict within the members of the communities and conflict between the members of the communities and the miners), the non – violence nature of the conflict between the members of the host communities and the miners is already tilting towards violence with instances of people missing and deaths of some landowners.

Non – violence has limits, it takes a lot of time, determination, courage and wisdom because it can be effective, safe and lasting in overcoming injustice (Nagler, 2015). However, it is not always a success in all conflicts. There are some situations of conflict that need the use of force to be able to get justice at the end of the day or a situation whereby the people causing the injustice are not bothered or affected, then non – violence might transform into violence in order to call attention of the necessary quarters and achieve a reasonable outcome.

CHAPTER THREE

Research Methodology

This chapter is concerned with the research methodology that is appropriate for data collection and analysis, which answers the research questions for this study. It entails the description of participants and the processes for administering the instruments that are used. This research is for the purpose of scholarship in creating awareness about this aspect of mining activities and conflict going on in these communities.

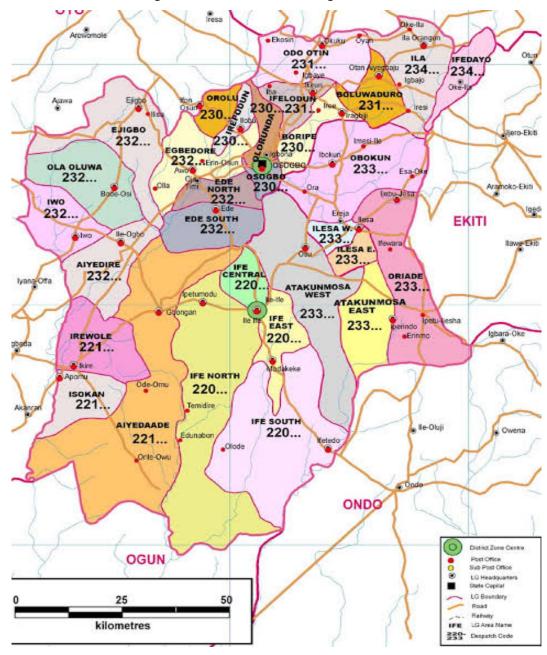
3.1 Research Design

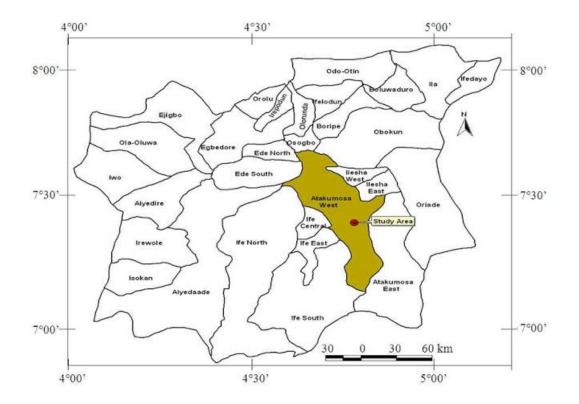
This study adopted exploratory research design. The approach was adopted because it helps to have a comprehensive insight and understanding of the phenomenon and factors that are relevant to the purpose of the research. It is also a thorough and in-depth study of a subject or group of subjects, describing their characteristics in the given situation, their relationships and degree of association among stakeholders. Its major objective is to discover ideas and thoughts of the research respondents. Furthermore, the data and insights have given the research specific direction and comprehension for more precise investigation. The interviews are flexible and unstructured, which are the most popular primary data collection method with exploratory research design. The researcher was able to gather information through the following ways;

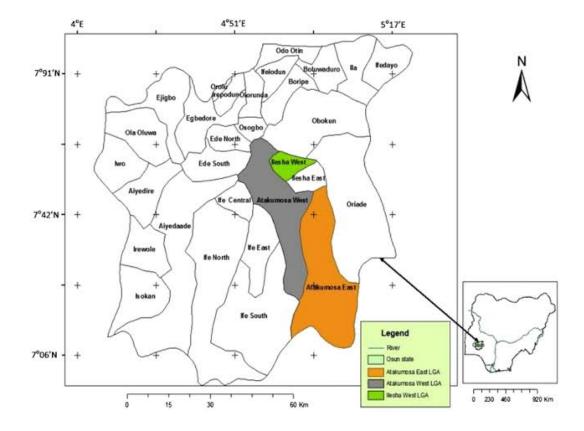
- Field Observation (non-participant), which is an approach that views and records the participating subjects.
- Key Informant Interviews, which are interviews with individuals that have good knowledge of the happenings in the communities.
- In-depth Interviews, which are interviews with individuals to probe and understand responses with meanings that are deep in order to gather the data for this study and
- Focus Group Discussion, which is a group interview with participants who could respond to questions freely without pressure from any quarter.

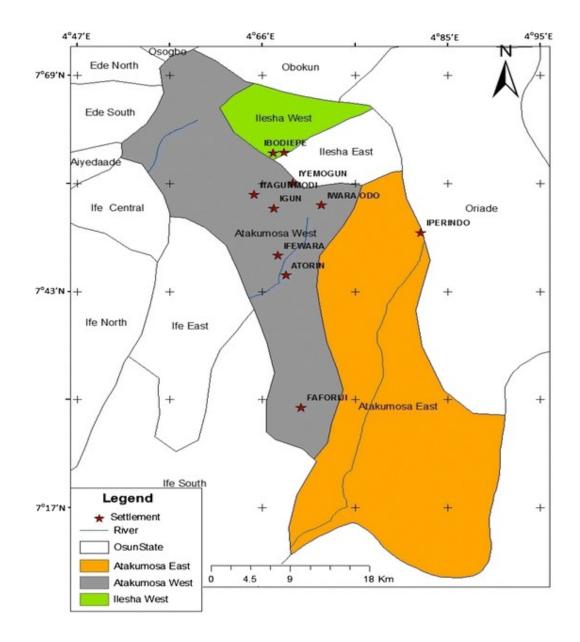
3.2 Study Area

The study area is the rural region (communities) in the southern part of Ijesaland, which is majorly endowed with gold and has mining activities going on there. This region is Atakunmosa west local government area of Osun state. The emphasis is particularly on the mostly affected communities in the area. Below is the map of Osun State and of Atakunmosa west local government where the mining sites are:









Map 1:	Map of Osun State
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- Map 2: Map of Atakunmosa Local Government Area where the mining sites are
- Map 3: Map of the Local Government Areas inOsun State sited inside the Nigerian map
- Map 4: Map of some of the mining communities within Ijesaland

Adapted from: nigeriazipcodes.com

springer.com

3.3 Study Population

As at the time of this study, the southern part of Ijesaland has been the main region where gold has been found in large quantities. Mining of gold and issues associated with it are being experienced in this area. The mining communities are all in Atakunmosa local government area. Some of the communities are not having any serious conflict with the miners, they have accepted them to be part of the system and are almost totally integrated into the mining trade (these communities are smaller and members of the communities are fewer in number) which they cannot do anything about. The researcher, through purposive sampling method selected three (3) communities that are experiencing more issues related to conflicts with miners among all these communities, and the communities are Ijanna-Wasare, Iyemogun and Iyere. The population of this study comprises the miners, their agents or dealers, members of the indigenous host communities, especially key members and some members of the neighbouring communities who are affected by the mining activities going on around them.

3.4 Sample and Sampling Technique

Respondents were drawn from the miners, the agents (dealers), members of the indigenous host communities, especially the leaders in these communities and some members of affected neighbouring communities. The study made use of purposive sampling techniques (which are primarily used in qualitative studies and may be described as selecting units i.e. individuals, groups of individuals, or institutions, based on particular purposes associated with answering a research study's questions) in the communities selected. The purposive sampling method was adopted in selecting the respondents because of the availability of some and those that are more informed about the issue of the study.

Purposive sampling method was employed in selecting the communities of study and respondents. This gave the researcher the opportunity to select those interviewed based on availability and willingness without following a rigid pattern. Also, those that are well informed about the issue of study were interviewed. The researcher also observed

the reactions and attitudes of the participants, what the mining procedures look like at the rural and rudimentary level, and the damages it has done in these communities.

3.5 Sources of Data Collection

The study utilised both primary and secondary sources of data collection. The primary sources are the observation (mining procedures), in-depth interviews, key informant interviews and focus group discussion that were conducted among the stakeholders in these communities. While the secondary sources of data collection, include relevant books, scholarly works and reports, journals, magazines, newspapers and internet materials.

3.6 Methods of Data Collection

The study made use of qualitative method of data collection using primary and secondary sources in collecting its data. This qualitative method is mainly exploratory, thus it gave insights into the problem to understand why the specific situation is the way it is. This method was adopted because the majority of the participants could not express themselves in writing and could not respond to any other method due to this reason.

3.7 Research Instrument

This study made use of notes on non-participant observations through recordings (audio and visuals) and interview guides.

3.7.1 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)

There were three (3) key informants from the three (3) communities of study (one per each community of study). The key informants were able to give certain information on issues of key importance to the research. Some oral interactions were recorded with the voice recorder from an electronic mobile phone device and the researcher took some information in written notes. Not all the respondents agreed to be recorded.

3.7.2 In-depth Interviews (IDIs)

Seventeen (17) in depth interviews were conducted with different members of the communities of study. Five (5) from each of the three (3) communities, then the remaining two (2) were from neighbouring communities who were around during the time of the interview. The participants that took part in the interview included men and women, youths and the elderly.

3.7.3 Focus Group Discussion (FGDs)

The research employed nine (9) focus group discussions in all, within six (6) to ten (10) persons selected from across the communities of study. The people selected were the people that were available and willing to give information on the issue of study, and those that could speak in Pidgin English were also purposively selected for easy communication and interpretation for others who could not. The focus group discussions were categorised into three (3) per community; one with the indigenous miners/agents, who were mostly youths of the communities, another with the foreign miners (who are majorly from the northern part of Nigeria, others from neighbouring African countries like Niger Republic, Senegal, Cameroun, Cotonou, Chad, among others). The third category was with the elderly members of the communities. Many of the foreign miners were able to converse in Pidgin English and they were also able to interpret what their colleagues who could not speak English had said.

3.7.4 Observation

The researcher observed the attitudes of the participants and the mining settings through a checklist, especially the miners/agents and the members of the communities that were involved in the mining business. Most of them were very cautious and careful because of the clandestine nature of the business and notes were also taken.

3.8 Method of Data analysis

The data that was generated for this study from observations, notes, key informant interviews, in-depth interviews and focus group discussions were presented and analysed using thematic analysis technique. They were summarised and gathered under emerging themes and sub themes in line with the research questions and objectives. So also, data collected from secondary sources.

Important phrases, instances and exact words of the respondents were imputed to support points made. The information got from observation was documented in the field notes and were analysed for or against as the case may be.

CHAPTER FOUR

Research Findings and Discussion

This chapter focused on the research questions and answers to them through the information collected from the field. These include data gathered from structured and unstructured interviews (Key Informant and In-depth Interviews), and Focus Group Discussions on the causes of conflict between miners and the host communities in Ijesaland of Osun state, how mining had brought and influenced conflict in the communities, the nature and pattern of the conflict, and how the conflict were being managed or resolved. The data was collected from the miners (both indigenous and foreign), their agents, and the members of the host communities, especially the leaders in these communities and some members of affected neighbouring communities. The research objectives are discussed one after the other below;

FINDINGS

4.1 Research Objective One: The nature and pattern of the conflicts in these mining communities in Ijesaland

4.1.1 Nature and pattern of the conflict

The nature of conflict is the features, characteristics, or essence of the conflicts happening in these mining communities. While the pattern of the conflict is the sequence, structure, or shape the conflicts have taken over the years.

The nature and pattern of the conflicts in these communities

Two of the communities of study (Iyemogun and Iyere communities) have similar narratives on the nature of the conflicts in their communities. They claimed that the nature had always been non-violent, at least openly to people's knowledge (because there had been some reported cases of missing persons whom they suspected challenged the miners on their lands and nobody knew what happened to them to date). Some of the miners confirmed this indirectly during one of the focus group discussions. They said if anyone came to disturb them after all 'settlements' by their bosses (agents), they could just push the person(s) inside one of the open pits and cover him up there (especially if he was alone or with just one person). They did not admit that they had done it before when the researcher asked if there had been a situation like that in the past. One of the elders also confirmed this by saying;

We cannot go and meet them by ourselves at the mining sites, if you have an issue with them, it is either you look for their agents to sort it out, or you go to one of the members of the community that is also in the business. If not, you will just be reported missing within the community like it happened to some people before and nothing will happen thereafter (Key Informant Interview – Male, December 19, 2016).

On the contrary, the third community (Ijana-Wasare) has it in their history that there was a time in the past when the conflict was violent, especially when they had to resist the miners after discovering the damages they had done to their communities. However, when the miners came back, and involved some of the members of the communities, it became a bit difficult to be violent, because before it gets to that level, the situation would have been sabotaged by the members of the communities who have stakes in the mining activities. During one of the focus group discussions, one of the participants confirmed it:

I remember that before the mining activities became this big, the miners were resisted and it was successful due to their small number then. They are more now, even more than those of us staying in the community. It will not be that easy chasing them out now, without using the help of law enforcement agents and I am sure it will even be bloody. (Focus group discussion – Male indigene of Iyere community, December 28, 2016).

In this particular community, the nature of the conflict was violent but has now turned non-violent due to the reason given above. With the non-violent nature of the conflicts, the study observed that the members of the communities are so aggrieved and bitter towards the miners and the members of the communities that are part of the mining trade in the communities. It has been noted earlier above that non-violence is not always the first choice for people in conflict, sometimes it is out of fear of the consequences that makes people resort to it and from observation in this study, it is part of the reason they have consciously or unconsciously chosen to stick with non-violence model of conflict. Violence will always bring forth further violence, though it does not work like that for non-violence because it might not necessarily bring forth non-violence results at the end. Non-violent conflicts can be necessary in social development and advancement and are interconnected to all the stakeholders (the miners, the indigenous host communities and the governments). Nonetheless, instances of disagreements or corresponded demonstrations by the members of these indigenous host communities can aggravate into armed conflict, which can undermine or cripple the little rapport that exists between them, thus disputes expressed through protests or demonstrations can lead to physical violence.

Members of the communities of this study claimed that they have demonstrated several times in a peaceful manner to oppose the mistreatment meted out on their communities, had many protest meetings to convey their grievances to their leaders and have sent several messages to the local and state governments concerning this mining issue, but according to them, they have not yielded any results. They kept emphasising that the reason why they have not achieved anything is basically because of some 'powerful' people in the mining business with the backing of some of their community leaders. One of the community leaders (the second in command in that particular community) that was interviewed said;

Our leaders are corrupt, many of them are into this mining business, they have many boys working for them, so how do you expect our grievances to be attended to, they have joined hands with the illegal miners to destroy our heritage. I and some leaders in this community have taken our protest to the local government and even to the state government, they kept promising us that they will come and do something about it, we are yet to see them do anything, may be when we become violent, and so many properties and lives are destroyed, and their boys will not be able to mine for them again, they will do something then (Key Informant Interview – Male, December 19, 2016). It was confirmed from the interview that the leaders in the communities are involved in the mining business, which has made the whole issue more complicated. For instance, the study discovered that the king of one of the communities is involved in the mining trade. He has different agents working for him, and because of the resentment and bitterness the members of his community feel towards his involvement in the mining business, (which many of them confirmed from the interviews) according to his second in command, he does not stay in the community, he only comes there once in a while. It was so difficult tracking him down for an interview, and when the researcher eventually got him on phone, he refused to grant any interview. They even named him 'atokereselu' which means 'ruling from afar' or 'ruling from Diaspora'. His second in command added that most of the issues happening in the community are handled by him except some extreme ones.

In another community, the king directed the researcher to speak with their youth leader because he is the one in charge of most of the community issues, in other words, he is the king's right hand man. It was later discovered that this youth leader controls about fifty percent (50%) of the mining businesses going on in that community. He knows all about the other miners, nothing is done without his consent as far as mining activities are concerned in that community. The members of the community alleged that anytime they want to react towards the issue of mining, the youth leader knows how he will sabotage their efforts behind them, they claimed he is connected to 'powerful' people in the state. One of them said;

The youth leader? He is a very powerful man connected to big people in this state, he controls the mining activities in this community, tell me how can we express our grievances or even get the grievances to the authorities that be, when the one that is supposed to lead us to convey such grievances is the one behind our woes (In-Depth Interview – Male, December 20, 2016).

The story is the same in the third community of study, some of their chiefs are also into the mining business, when they were interviewed, they dwelt more on the benefits mining has brought to them in the community and tactically avoided any question that they claimed were 'sensitive'. From one of the interviews with one of them: Mining has brought good changes to us in this community, it used to be quiet and boring, you could count the numbers of people in the entire community then, when you have goods and wares to sell, it might be there for weeks without selling them, but now there are so many people around who have boosted our economy, more houses have been built which have been rented mostly by the miners, everywhere is lively (In-Depth Interview – Male, December 19, 2016).

Although, this is very true from observation, the mining communities are active in terms of having many people around in their communities, which has boosted their economy and social aspect of life, unlike the typical rural communities in Nigeria.

The pattern of the conflict in these communities of study is multi-faceted because, apart from the major one that is the issue of the study (conflict between miners and indigenous host communities), there is intra communal conflict i.e the one within members of the communities, especially on the issue of family and communal lands. There is also the issue of grudges and grievances against the government on the part of the members of the communities. Many of them blamed the government for their predicament and unanimously agreed that there is corruption involved in the whole processes right from the local government level to the federal level. This assertion was observed from the attitudes of many of the agents and members of the communities involved in the mining business when majority of them refused to be recorded, and the research team was harassed at a point in one of the community of study, when one of the indigenous agents and miners felt they were being recorded. But prior to that, the indigenous agent corroborated the assertion mentioned above:

> This mining business is very lucrative, but our people are very greedy. As you see this business, we 'settle' many stakeholders, from our community here to the local government, state government and even to Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria (In-Depth Interview – Male, November 29, 2016).

The non-violence nature of the conflicts in these communities is pregnant, i.e it could degenerate into violence any moment if the situation continued like it was as at the time

of this study. As Natsa (2015) stressed that future armed conflict is certain in these mining host communities in Ijesaland if the situation continues this way.

4.2 Research Objective Two: The way mining has brought and influenced conflicts in these indigenous host communities

Normally, conflict happens anywhere there are people or groups of people interacting with one another, thus before the advent of the mining activities in these communities, they would have had their own share of different kind of conflicts within them and ways of managing the conflicts. However, with new levels and discoveries in life, come various challenges. With mining activities taking off in these communities, the faces of conflicts will definitely take a new dimension. Viewing the ways mining has brought and influenced conflicts in these communities, it was noted by the members of the communities that they were very elated and excited when the mineral deposits were discovered, having the impression that it would bring growth and development to the communities. One of the leaders of one of the communities of study corroborated this when he said:

We had high expectations about the development of our community when someone like me was growing up in this community, because of the gold that had been found on our lands, but here we are today, we are worse off now than then, with the destruction of our lands and empty promises by the government (Key Informant Interview – Male, November 25,2016).

Natural resources are supposed to be sources of growth and development to the communities where they are discovered, but many host communities suffer as a result of the discoveries many times. This is where the issue of 'resource curse' comes in. Resource curse is an irony of nations blessed with natural resources, but suffer economic growth and development in comparison with nations that have little natural resources.

The ways mining has brought and influenced conflicts in these communities are categorised as follows;

Degradation of the communities' environment

According to the members of these communities, environmental degradation was the first of the series of incidents noticed after mining activities commenced en mass in the late 1980s in these communities. The children were the first to suffer the consequences through the water they were drinking from the communities' streams and rivers. They were dying from strange ailments, had strange skin diseases, and some became blind. The adults started showing the effects too, but since they had higher immunity, it took a longer time. According to another elderly member of one of the communities that was interviewed:

There are people in this community that lost all their children, they became blind due to the effects of these mining activities on our rivers. You can see there is only one river in this community and it is very big and it served us all for all our domestic uses, but that is the same river the miners use to wash the gold they dig out. We resisted them initially, but since our people are also involved in the gold mining business, they gave them the necessary support to continue. We had to find alternatives to getting water for our daily uses (In-Depth Interview – Male, December 28, 2016).

This particular river is very big and thick, as the researcher touched to feel the texture of the water, it has small pools at its edges and the colour of the river is brown and one wonders if there will be any living thing inside it, but the members of the community confirmed that there are no living things in the river anymore. The only set of people seen around the river were the miners washing the nuggets of gold that they had found as usual inside the river.

The next discoveries were the farm produce that started falling and dying, or that refused to grow or that was producing shrunken fruits. When the members of the communities realised it was caused by mining activities, they took up arms in order to chase these miners away from their lands, which was a temporary solution, because the miners only left for sometimes and returned in greater numbers with time. The study discovered that the miners were not resisted when they returned the second time, one of the chiefs said:

We could not resist them when they came back because we discovered that even after they left, the farm produce was still the same and that it would take a very long time before the lands returned to normal again, the damage had been done, our people were already impoverished. Then, they came back in higher numbers and made sure they had already gained the support of some powerful people (Key Informant Interview – Male, November 29, 2016).

This is another conspiracy issue, the gold mining activities are thriving because of the cooperation of some key members of the communities with the miners/agents. The miners cannot just move into the communities and start mining without the consent of some of the key members of the communities. Some of the community leaders (kabiyesi or baale), elders and chiefs are directly involved in the gold mining trade, which has further complicated the whole problem.

Donkor (2012) and Burke (2006) confirmed the issue of environmental degradation as a recognised factor that negatively has different impacts that affect and influence conflicts between indigenous host communities and miners. They stressed that mining activities procedures negatively affect the environments of the indigenous host communities in different manners such as exhaust pollutants, producing dust, land use change, pollutant leakages from tailings and slag, and acid mine drainage.

Loss of family/communal structural values

Another way mining has brought and influenced conflicts in these communities is in their family/communal structures. They claimed that there was unity and love among them, before the commencement of mining activities, but there is now mistrust, disunity, betrayal, and hypocrisy among them. One of the chiefs said:

Since these miners came, our communal relationships have been ruined. Before, we had peace and we sincerely loved ourselves, we were all one big family. Even when we fought, we would settle everything amicably, but now, they have destroyed our well-built family and communal structures with money. I will give an example; when there is a family or community land, the miners will approach some people in the family or elders in the community, who would take a huge sum of money from the miners and give them the go ahead on the land, they will share the money amongst themselves without the knowledge of other family or community members. This has generated lots of family and community scuffles (In-Depth Interview – Male, December 20, 2016).

The study observed that many families have been divided over the issue of mining in these communities. In some instances, some family members revealed that their family heads are in total control of their family lands, using the lands to make money from the miners and leaving out the other members of the family. The community leaders noted that they had tried to settle so many family and communal land related issues to no avail. Some of the members of families involved in such cases that were interviewed could not say anything, but rained curses on the heads of their families, leaders of the communities and the miners.

In addition, there is the issue of child labour; the study observed that there were school age children at the various mining sites visited by the research team. Some of the children pointed out that they were there to make money for themselves, while some others were there for their families. Some of them are foreign miners and some are children from the host or neighbouring communities. Amazingly, some of those digging were underage (within the range of school ages). This is corroborating Irene et al (2015), who emphasised the danger of gold mining on adult miners and how it is more dangerous and harder on children with physical damages, and how it affects their physical and psychological development, and negatively impacts their future as they stop going to school. Also, illnesses that are associated with mining like pulmonary and respiratory diseases from too much exposure to dust, injuries of the skeleton from lifting heavy loads, different kinds of eye and skin conditions (wounds in the body that get to be infected in the terrible hygienic situations of the ponds that some children stand all through the day) and fatigue due to the endless hours of hard labour, have all been discovered to affect them in these indigenous host communities. They identified

different kinds of work that children engage in at mining sites, such as pounding ore with hammers, using mercury to process the minerals, shovelling, digging, picking and transporting minerals, cleaning, looking for gold in mine tailings, working small businesses (shops, restaurants, motorcycle and ore repair), bringing food and firewood to other workers. In addition, relating it to the International Labour Organisation (2006), gold mining is the worst form of child labour.

4.3 Research Objective Three: The root causes of conflict between miners/agents and host communities in Ijesaland, Osun state.

A number of causative factors were identified as conflict triggers between miners and members of the host communities in Ijesaland. A considerable number of respondents identified environmental degradation as the single biggest cause of conflict in the studied communities. Others causes identified include issues of compensation; land encroachment, multiple extortions as well as the socio-economic and health impacts of mining on the indigenous communities. These root causes are further discussed below.

4.3.1 Environmental Degradation

Mining has always been associated with environmental degradation. As observed by Wetzlmaier (2012), Misran et al (2016) and many other studies. Mining-induced environmental degradation of the indigenous communities comes in different forms. In the case of land, the majority of the people in these communities were farmers, especially of cocoa, palm kernel and plantain. Their once fertile lands have been turned into dangerous environmental risky regions, with the conspicuous consequences of the mining activities in these communities. Gold mining and exploration causes different kinds of environmental pollution mainly because of the related minerals that constitutes imminent danger even when they are in small concentrated levels in animals and humans (Hendrick, 2010). Furthermore, the results of the soil test carried out by Eludoyin, Ojo, Temitope&Awotoye (2017) in these communities of study indicated

that the mining sites are heavily contaminated by toxic metals which is absorbed by plants or washed into surface water, from where they may pollute the food chain (Olabanji, Oluyemi, Fakoya, Eludoyin&Makinde, 2015). They further claimed that exposure and bioaccumulation to these contaminations have been connected to inhibit the formation of blood cells and causes brain damage especially in children. The presence of these heavy metal contaminations suggested reduction in soil enriching components which means there will be gradual reduction of farming as gold mining increases (ibid).

There are several mining pits that have been dug in the bid to find precious stones in these communities, the pits pose great dangers and risks to the members of the communities. The study found out that the pits are so deep and most of them were filled with dirty, stinking water. The miners confirmed some of the pits to be as deep as twenty (20) metres or more, this is in line with what Balogun (2015) pointed out, that the pits are dangerous and risky to the communities. He also corroborated the depth of the pits to be as deep as 20 (twenty) metres at least, with many channels under the ground which could cave in anytime. This had also affected major access roads and houses. The study further discovered that there are 'loto' (different channels that the diggings have taken underground) that can make the ground to collapse anytime. One of the communities' youth leaders that was interviewed expressed fear that;

mining activities have degraded our environment so much to the extent that we can no longer use our sources of water, cultivate our lands and we are at a very high risk of earthquake, landslide and flooding, in fact we are already experiencing some of them like serious flooding (Key Informant Interview - Male, December 22, 2016).

He further stated that the community is a looming disaster waiting to happen because many deep open wells and channels have resulted in the falling of economic trees and farm produce. Gold mining activities have taken over majority of the farmlands in these communities. Also, these pits have been abandoned with contaminated water in them, and the water finds its way into the river in these communities, thus polluting the river and causing different epidemic for the members of the communities. The fact about this is that digging of pits is a continuous exercise in these communities of study as the miners continue to search for gold. These pits are not only very dangerous, as they are located at different spots on farmlands, some of them are already covered with weeds, and it was discovered that there have been instances of unsuspecting people who have died, sustained permanent or terminal injuries or lost limbs due to falling into the pits unknowingly. The contaminated water inside them is also a breeding ground for mosquitoes and all kinds of bacteria. This is consistent with Oladipo, (2016) who noted that the pits that miners dig and abandon are good grounds for the breeding of germs that could cause diseases. He further cited instances of heavy metals causing miscarriages in pregnant women, low birth weight, deformities in children and stillbirths.

As indicated in the literature review, the environmental impacts of mining affects personal, social and communal lives of the members of the host communities. Gold mining activities in these communities have ruined landscapes, polluted water sources, and contributed to the havoc on essential ecosystems. All these translate to reduced standard of living, which in turn has succeeded in increasing the tension that aggravates conflict in these communities. The environmental impact of mining can further be discussed under three perspectives: land degradation, water pollution and air pollution.

Land Degradation: Wherever mining activities take place, agricultural produce can hardly grow there, except in situations where clean up procedures or land reclamation (which is the process of reconverting disturbed land to its former or other productive uses) are in place. In thesekind of situations, it takes a long time before the land can be used for any agricultural purpose. Thus in these communities, it was discovered that most of their cultivating lands have been damaged by mining activities, farm produce is no longer as much as it used to be from these communities. In one of the communities of study where they had cash crops such as cocoa and palm trees as their major source of livelihood, many of them recalled how their palm trees started falling and dying, also their cocoa was producing shrunken fruits, due to the mining activities which had released heavy metals into the ecosystem in their community. Before the advent of mining in these communities, their economy was buoyant through farming in cocoa, plantain and palm kernel, there was even an adage about plantain surplus in

Ijesalandthat says "what do they use plantain for in Ijesaland, it is so surplus to the extent that it is food for the birds". Likewise cocoa and plantain, but since the mining activities have destroyed their farm produce and lands, the communities have been impoverished to poverty level. And are left with no other choice than to seek for alternative means of livelihood. Thus, joining the foreign miners to prospect their lands. They mentioned how farm produce from their community has drastically reduced. Very few of them still farm on their farmlands as means of livelihood, and these are the ones with farmlands at the extreme outskirts of the community, far from the mining sites. Even though they have also been affected in other ways by mining activities. In an interview with one of the respondents, he said:

these miners have made life difficult for us, they have impoverished us the more by destroying virtually all our farmlands, we sustained ourselves through agriculture, but not anymore, someone like me now ride a motorcycle in order to cater for my family. If you get to our family land whichwe used for farming, it is at the verge of collapsing right now as I am talking to you, nothing worthwhile can be done on it again (In-Depth Interview - Male, December 20, 2016).

Farming is no longer prominent in these communities, alternative sources of livelihood have been sought by the members of the communities. Some of them are into the mining trade, some are motorbike (okada) riders, and some have become petty traders, while some are just loafing around doing nothing. All these were created by mining activities after their dislocation from their indigenous vocation. This dislocation has brought about a halt in the development process of the farming business in the communities. They are relocated into other areas of the economy to play peripheral roles to foreign business as motorbike riders (bikes made by foreign nations and trade items from outside Nigeria). Then, the loafers readily become social reserve army that can be used to foment social troubles due to their joblessness in the communities.

Due to the environmental degradation and illegality of the gold mining activities, some of the members of the communities refused to have anything to do with the activities, thus sending out their children and any member of their family who cared to listen to other places outside their mining communities to go and look for their sources of livelihood. They claimed they discouraged their wards from taking up any work with the miners. Moreover, on the issue of family lands that was mentioned by the respondent, the family lands that have been leased (without the consent of all the family members) for mining have created so much conflict within various families in the communities.

Awotoye (2015) also corroborated their story that the soil is no longer productive in these host communities, that there is crop failure and pollution, and that the rate at which things are going, there will be disaster in another thirty (30) years. Wildlife is also affected, the members of the communities claimed that they do not get bush meat like before, that the ones that are seen around the communities are brought from other communities (either sold to them or their own hunters have gone to other places to hunt for them).

Another danger that the land degradation poses is the issue of the miners getting wounded and/or dying as a result of the land collapsing on them as they dig. During one of the focus group discussions with the miners, it was discovered that the lands cave in on them, thus causing serious injuries or sometimes deaths. The miners and some of the members of the communities reported itching and skin irritation as a result of exposure to the negative implications of mining activities in the communities which they confirmed from medical reports got from different health centres and hospitals they had visited in the past.

Water Pollution: Part of the issues of environmental degradation that is common in these communities is water pollution. Initially, from the findings of the study, these indigenous host communities relied on surface water as their sources for water usage, but with the contamination of surface water through mining activities, they were compelled to resolve to groundwater, which turned out to be nearly the same with the surface water. They claimed that the groundwater could still be used for washing clothes, cleaning the floor, but not for drinking, cooking or bathing. Armah, Obiri, Yawson. Onumah and Yengoh (2010); Ayantobo, Awemeso, Oluwasanya, Bada and Taiwo (2014); and Marcovecchio, Botte and Freije (2007) revealed and confirmed from

the tests they carried out on the water, in their different studies that the surface water and groundwater extracted from these communities are not safe for drinking nor for any other domestic purposes. The sources of water in these communities have been contaminated through the mining activities going on there, and they no longer have access to clean water even for their daily usage. They also identified various sources of water like rivers, boreholes and wells in these communities to have become undrinkable as a result of mining activities through contamination by heavy toxic substances, even when it is not concentrated.

The effects of mining on water are acid mine drainage, heavy metal contamination, processing chemical pollution and erosion with increased sediment levels in streams. Active or abandoned surface and underground mines, haulage roads, processing plants, tailing ponds and waste disposal areas are all sources of water pollution in mining communities. Sediments usually from increased soil erosion, result into siltation or the smoothering of streambeds. And the siltation affects fisheries, swimming, domestic water supply, irrigation and other uses of streams (Gold mining process, 2001). Acid mine drainage is a potentially severe pollution hazard that can contaminate surrounding soil, groundwater and surface water. The configuration of acid mine drainage is a function of the geology, hydrology and mining technology employed at a mine site. The primary sources for acid generation are sulfide minerals like pyrite (iron sulfide), which decompose in air and water. If water infiltrates pyrite-laden rock in the presence of air, it can become acidified, which can destroy living organisms and corrode culverts, piers, pumps, boat hulls and other metal equipment in contact with the acid waters and render the water unacceptable for drinking or other domestic use (ibid). From all indications, mining and water pollution are inseparable as negative effects of mining cannot be overemphasised on water in whichever way it might want to be viewed from in these host communities.

Many of the members of the communities complained bitterly on how difficult it is for them to get water for their daily use, having to trek long distances in order to get water from other communities and through buying of sachet (pure water) from distributors that bring the sachet (pure water) to their communities. This is simply because of the damage that has been done to their various sources of water. They further claimed that these sachet (pure water) distributors might sometimes not come for a long period of time, which makes the problem more complicated for them. One of the essentials of life is water and it can be got from two major sources that are natural, which are groundwater and surface water like streams, lakes, rivers and so on. Krishna, Satyanarayyanan and Govil (2009) and some other studies have revealed and confirmed that the processes involved in mining activities degrade the quality of water and damage the use of water for drinking, household, commercial and farming purposes.

Information gathered from some of the elderly members of the communities interviewed has it that in the past, before they got to know that their water had been contaminated, many people died, became blind, had twisted tongues and had some other strange diseases as a result of the contamination of water from the mining activities in their communities. However, with the knowledge they now have about the water, they initially abandoned the surface water like their streams, rivers and lake, but started using well and borehole water, which they later discovered was not much different, as they were still being infected with the ailments they had with the surface water. Thus, they abandoned all their sources of water in the communities. This is the major reason why they have to go far in order to get water for their day-to-day use. And this was corroborated by Ayantobo, Awemeso, Oluwasanya, Bada&Taiwo (2014) and Omofove, (2015) that host communities water sources have been contaminated (with toxic chemicals like mercury, lead, cyanide, copper pollute underground waters and streams), vegetation and farmlands have been destroyed, which are part of their cultural heritage. They further added that the lead substance contained in the surface and groundwater in the mining areas is hazardous to human health and aquatic life.

Air pollution: This is another environmental issue that mining has brought into the indigenous host communities. Although, the members of the communities werenot really concerned about it at the time of this study, as it had not posed any serious problem to them to the best of their knowledge. Nonetheless, studies have shown that all the processes of mining have effects on the quality of air in mining communities. Particulate matter is discharged in surface mining when overburden is uncovered from the site and accumulated or reverted to the pit. However, once the soil and vegetation are taken off, the soil will be exposed to weather thus making the particulates to

become airborne through wind erosion and road traffic. Particulates are generally known to have negative effects on human health by contributing to ailments connected to the respiratory tract and can be assimilated or absorbed into the skin (ibid).

Badu-Nyarko, (2013) also confirmed that air pollution is another problem in mining communities because of the ore mode and some other chemicals that are used in the mining processes, and once this takes place, they flow into the atmosphere to cause dust to the people living in the mining communities. Thus, the study connected the itching and skin irritation experienced by the miners and members of the communities from time to time, to be as a result of the particulates that are airborne. In addition, Kazmeyer (2017) also pointed out that airborne pollution from gold mining activities usually comprises heavy metals like mercury, and this is a prospective health implication for anybody susceptible to it. Moreover, some kind of strange coloured particles were observed on the weeds and plants all around the mining sites in the communities of study.

4.3.2 Compensation

Broadly speaking, leaving the issue of illegality of mining in these communities out of the scope of this study, wherever there is resource exploitation, the issue of compensation will always come up. There is always the case where indigenous community leaders or members complain of lack of, or inadequate compensation. The perception by host communities that resource exploiters have not paid the necessary "homage", or acquired "freedom to operate" through financial compensation, has been creating conflicts between the local population and the miners. For instance in Ijana-Wasare, some members of the community complained about not being compensated by miners for exploiting gold resources in their community. However, this was faulted by one of their elders who said that they (members of the communities) have never agreed on what or how they want to be compensated. He further claimed that some of them want physical cash, while some want infrastructures, which has generated controversies even within the members of the indigenous communities. However, the miners disputed that allegation and claimed that they pay landowners, 'settle' some of the leaders in the communities and even buy tickets on daily basis which gives them the authorisation to go ahead with the mining unhindered, thus making them not guilty of the allegation on compensation. This was discovered from the findings of the study, that different tickets are sold to miners on daily basis in order to get access into the mining fields apart from other dealings with landowners or community leaders. Obviously, it was observed that they were divided on this issue mainly because some members of the communities were actually benefitting from the miners through various means of collecting kickbacks from them. One of the elders noted:

> We cannot agree on the issue of the miners compensating us, because some of the elders of this community take money from them, in fact they demand it from the miners from time to time, they had called me into it before, but my conscience will not let me collect such, because we the chiefs and elders of the community had met and agreed initially that the miners should pay a certain amount to the community's purse on daily, monthly, or even on yearly basis so the money can be used to build our community, but they now go behind to collect and share the money among themselves, I cannot be part of such because it will eventually boomerang one day (In-Depth Interview - Male, December 22, 2016).

Moreover, many of the elders and leaders of the communities claimed that the idea of miners buying tickets on daily basis before accessing any mining sites originated from them so as to use the money for something worthwhile in their communities. However, the idea was hijacked by different unscrupulous groups of individuals who take the proceeds from the sales of the tickets for their personal gain. There is also a conspiracy problem, which has made the issue of compensation very complicated. This is in the sense that some landowners willingly lease out their lands to the miners and get paid for that, some elders of the communities get 'settlement' and different dubious groups have devised ways of selling tickets to authorise the miners to work in these communities. All these have given strength to the intensity of the resentment mounting up in the host communities.

Whatever compensation structure is put in place in these communities, it does not cover for the losses and negative impacts they have been experiencing since the advent of the mining activities in their communities. Supporting this observation, Antwi (2010) stated that no measure of compensation can competently fill the gap of losses of precious forestlands, farmlands, wildlife sources, and water channels degraded with the increasing numbers of individuals suffering from mining consequences. The major stakeholder (the government) is the main authority to sort out this issue of compensation, because the miners claimed that the only premise for them to build any infrastructure in the mining communities is if the leaders of the communities stop taking money from them and stop the tickets that are being issued to them. They further claimed that they are risking so much because they could be sent out by the government anytime, because of the mining law that states that anywhere in the country where natural resources are found in large quantities belongs to the federal government (which makes their mining activities illegal). Thus, they need to make good use of the time they have now and make lots of money before that happens.

On the issue of tickets that the miners purchase on daily basis, the members of the communities and the miners asserted differently that the tickets are sold by various groups of people claiming to come from the local or state governments. This assertion was blatantly denied by the representative of the local government chairman and some of the people spoken to at the office of Forestry, Natural and Mineral Resources, claiming that these groups of people are frauds who are ripping off the miners and the communities. The study observed that these kind of fraudulent activities are going on in these communities due to the negligence of the government and some unscrupulous people was capitalising on this to perpetrate this evil.

4.3.3 Land Encroachment

Land encroachment by the miners is another issue causing conflicts in these communities. The study discovered that once the miners suspect that there is gold on a particular piece of land, whether the land belongs to an individual or a family, and the landowners have refused to allow any mining activities on it, the miners go at night to dig up the place for gold and cause damages that the landowners did not bargain for in the first place. The landowners claimed that they would only wake up to discover that their lands have been ravaged by the miners. Reporting to the law enforcement agents has been futile according to the members of the communities mainly because they have

not seen any offender being punished or prosecuted. Once the law enforcement agents make any arrest, the miners are released almost immediately to be seen by the members of the communities walking freely around only a day or two (2) after. This has definitely discouraged reporting to the law enforcement agents, and this has made some of such landowners to handle the situation in their own way.

On the other hand, the miners denied ever encroaching on anybody's land, during one of the group discussions with them, they maintained a stand that they (their agents) 'settle' whoever claims to be in charge of the land especially if it is a family land. The issue appeared to be more controversial because the miners work directly under agents or dealers as they are called and most of the time, these agents are outsiders and they claimed that they normally go through proper channels before telling their workers to embark on digging on the lands, except in few instances when the agents might be indigenes who might be using their family lands or personal lands. However, the study also found out that they work a lot at night and they (the miners) claimed that it is because of the weather, that there is always so much heat during the daytime. They further emphasised that they only work anywhere their agents allocate to them, meaning they obey the voice of their bosses only. This appears to be true, because they refused to grant the research team any audience until their bosses (agents) directed them to and that was after the research team had gone to see their agents for the purpose of the study.

On the contrary, the indigenous agents confirmed what the landowners said about the miners encroaching on their lands at night. In an interview with one of the indigenous agents; it was noted that:

some landowners are very stubborn, no matter how much they offer them, they will not give in, they will claim that it is their family legacy and once the miners find out that the land is rich in gold from their investigations, they will be bent on mining such lands, and the only option left for them is to operate at night, or who will go and challenge them at night? But they won't admit it, since it is not right, they can never admit it anywhere (In-Depth Interview - Male, November 18, 2016). This kind of problem will definitely cause dispute, even though the dispute might be one sided (that is, the miners having the upper hand by having their way) and the landowners looking for means to get back at them for the damages they have caused.

The research team was taken around by some members of the communities of study to see some of the lands that the miners had gone ahead to dig without the owners' consent and the destruction they had done on such lands. Many of the mining lands in these host communities had started caving in, which is already indicating great danger ahead.

All the implications of mining on members of the host communities are quite critical. Ontoyin and Agyemang (2014) agreed with this view that artisanal and small scale mining have very serious effects on host communities in various ways like reducing the activities of farming, fishing, causing the death of livestock, virtually expelling hunting, farmlands being unproductive, and minimising labour for agricultural activities.

Consequently, it could be argued that local communities' grievance sometimes emanate from the feeling of being cheated by the miners who they accuse of benefitting the most from the extractive activities to the neglect and detriment of the resource-bearing communities. There is the belief by the people that they are being robbed off their heritage and being taken for granted. Conflicts erupt from time to time from the issues that have been mentioned above, which sometimes could be violent or non-violent in some other instances. Instances of land encroachment have generated conflicts to the extent that the members of the communities now take the law into their hands, since reports they made earlier to law enforcement agencies did not yield the desired results. To corroborate this, a respondent said:

> There was a time some miners approached me concerning my piece of land, and I told them I could not lease it to them since I have seen the damage done to other people's lands in this community, but one morning I got to the land and a part of it had been dug by unknown people, and I know from the experiences of others that reporting to the police is useless, thus I hired some strong men with both physical and

spiritual power to come and deal with them because they kept coming back. Once the men pounced on them suddenly in the course of one of their night operations, they fled and never came back. One needs to show them that one can handle them in numerous ways (In-Depth Interview - Male, December 20, 2016).

This case is not so common, most of the time, the research found out that the ones whose lands they encroach on are usually helpless, thus will have to eventually give in to them and negotiate how much they will lease their lands to the miners or in some other instances, procure some kind of 'security – voodoo power' to make their lands untouchable. Furthermore, with those that have leased their lands willingly, sometimes they want to change the agreement with the agents and it is usually when they want to ask for more money, especially when they discover that the miners are really getting so much gold from the lands. If the agents refuse, the landowners can take hoodlums to the land and fight it out with the miners to the extent that they collapse the mining sites on the miners, which leads to serious injuries or even death in some cases. During one of the focus group discussions with the miners, one of them stressed this;

When the landowner and our master (agent) disagrees, the landowner will come with some people to beat us and even collapse the site on us, and we will have to flee the site until the matter is settled between them (Focus Group Discussion – Foreign Miner, November 18, 2016).

Even with this, the research discovered that the landowners know their limits, because the agents claimed that sometimes, they refuse to give them more money and work will eventually continue on such lands, and the landowner will not dare to disturb them again, due to appropriate warnings. The study connected this to the response by some members of the communities about the disappearance and killings of some landowners, who they felt must have had issues with the miners/agents.

4.3.4 Multiple Extortions

Extortion appears to be a way of life in the norms of mining communities, as it is in various forms. In the communities of study, some groups of people have been issuing daily tickets in the names of state and local government of the state to miners, in order to gain access to mining fields and these tickets could not be traced to any of the government offices in the state. The research found out that many people have formed different groups and have started using the situation to make money in unscrupulous ways from the miners and the landowners.

Some uniformed law enforcement agents were seen at the major entrances into the host communities collecting money from miners trouping into the communities as fresh miners or from neighbouring communities (as some of them live in other neighbouring communities). This was observed from a reasonable distance by the research team each time they went into the communities of study. It was also confirmed by the miners and some of the members of the indigenous host communities that the law enforcement agents collect tips from them in order to go into the communities for their mining business, as they troupe in and out on daily basis.

Different sets of people had been presenting themselves in different ways to extort money from the miners and even the members of the host communities. Some willing landowners were not allowed to lease out their lands until they paid "homage" to some people or took a particular percentage out of the proceeds they collected from the miners, to give to these extorters, which sometimes turned into conflict.

4.3.5 Health impacts

The health implications of gold mining in these communities are enormous, with the crude manner in which the mining is being done, various chemicals that the miners use have terrible effects on the miners themselves and the members of the host communities. Studies done by World Health Organisation (2016) and some other researches stressed this by noting that mercury and cyanide, which are the two (2) mostly used chemicals in artisanal and small-scale gold mining, are toxic when discharged into the atmosphere.

The members of the communities stressed the health implications they have suffered as a result of the mining activities happening in their communities. They gave instances of different families that have lost breadwinners, children and close relations due to the consequences of mining on their health, and also those that are blind, deformed due to the same reason. They confirmed this from medical tests that many of them have done and how they have been advised by medical personnel to relocate from these mining areas for the improvement and sustenance of their health. A member of one of the communities of study recalled sadly how she lost her husband who was the breadwinner of their family;

When my husband was ill, we thought it was an ordinary sickness, but he was later diagnosed with respiratory infection, but by that time, it was too late. He usually stayed around his farm which was already polluted by chemicals from mining activities going on then on his land (In-Depth Interview – Female, December 21, 2016).

Twerefou, Tutu, Owusu-Afriyie&Adjei-Mantey (2015) complimented what the respondents have said by indicating that contamination by substances related to gold mining has been linked with respiratory issues, elaborate painful kidney complications, miscarriages in women, dizziness and deaths in various gold mining communities. In addition, the incident of deaths in Zamfara state, Nigeria in 2010 as a result of exposure to lead poisoning from the mining sites confirms the issue of health implications of mining in these communities.

There were many sad stories recalled by the members of the host communities of different families that have lost one or more person(s) due to health implications of mining in the communities, and there were also some people who are still alive but with one ailment or the other which they claimed was in connection with exposure to mining activities. It is in cognisance with what Oshaghemi (2016) indicated that residents of mining communities could be infected with respiratory diseases and blood system contamination. The study found out that many families have relocated due to all these health implications.

This can be related to what Mark (2014) stressed concerning the communities in Zamfara state that experienced lead poisoning from the mining activities in their communities that made many blind and killed lots of children. He further explained more effects of the lead poisoning, which can accumulate in the blood, damage the nervous system, cause infertility in adults, but the most dreadful effects were on children thus linking the impacts of mining through lead poisoning with learning difficulties. The study observed that unchecked mining activities accounts for health issues on members of the indigenous host communities.

A public health physician, who specialises in public health disasters and emergency from university of Ilorin, Kwara state of Nigeria, professor KayodeOshagbemi, who has researched on the health implications of mining in these communities corroborated the claims of the respondents by adding that the residents in these indigenous host communities can be infected with respiratory diseases and blood system contaminations.

4.3.6 Socio-economic Impacts

With the exploration and extraction of gold on these communities' farmlands by artisanal and small-scale miners, came some social changes in the lifestyles of the members of the communities. They claimed that they had a routine of going to their farms early in the morning as that was their major source of livelihood, but many of them were seen in the communities selling goods and different kinds of wares displayed in some wooden shops, caravan containers placed in front of their houses. Some of them were discovered to be riding motorcycles popularly known as 'okada' as a means of livelihood, while some were just loafing around in beer parlours and palm wine shrines, not really doing anything, and the elders that were interviewed also added that most of their children (youths) had left the communities for where they would get something useful out of their lives. They claimed that the remaining ones are those involved in either mining activities or riding motorcycles in the communities. The researcher observed that apart from the miners who are majorly foreigners mostly from the northern part of the countryand some neighbouring countries to Nigeria, the communities had more elderly people around than youths.

The members of the communities also complained about the high rise in prices of goods, services and food items which used to be cheap. However, with the influx of the foreign miners/agents in their communities and with the impression by outsiders that they deal in gold, goods, services and food items have become so expensive to the extent that they have to go to other villages and towns to buy needed commodities especially in bulk. The research team observed this with the prices of some items bought in comparison with the same items in other non-mining communities in Ijesaland.

Crime rate was also discovered to be on the increase from many of the respondents in the communities. The members of the communities interviewed unanimously confirmed that the level of crime has increased in form of stealing, prostitution (the research team observed in the communities, that at night, a few ladies were lurking around some beer parlours and palm wine shrine), gambling, rape, drug and alcohol abuse, and murders. They further complained about the socio – cultural values differences that made the miners disrespect their traditions and customs.

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With all the activities going on in these communities, the first thing anyone stepping into the communities would notice is the level of poverty; bad infrastructures like roads into the communities, dilapidated buildings, no good schools or no school at all in some of the communities, no health care facilities (they confirmed that they have to travel to major towns near them in order to access any health facility). Although this is not majorly caused by the mining activities going on in the communities, but it has contributed to worsen the situation, since there are more people in the communities that are competing for the limited and over stretched facilities and resources. In addition, the situation in the communities could have been alleviated if there were proper inputs or compensation from the miners and other stakeholders. However, many of the members of the communities stressed that poverty level had increased since the advent of the mining activities.

On the other hand, the socio-economic impact is also viewed from a mixed perspective. For instance, many of the buildings in the indigenous host communities are occupied (rented) by the miners, many people who would have been jobless now have one thing or the other doing at the mining sites in exchange for wages. Businesses are generally booming since there are many people around to be involved in buying and selling in the communities. The communities are lively compared to other typical rural settings in the country, which indicates that the gold mining business has influenced the economy of the communities, though not in a sustainable manner because their lands and environment are being destroyed which will remain so for many generations to come, even if the mining stops now due to the long term effects of mining on environment and lands.

As a result of some of the social implications like robbery, rape, and desecrating the communities' values and culture, the members of the communities stressed that there were times that they would gather themselves and employ some hoodlums (one of the communities of study mentioned that they employ soldiers) to help in dealing with the foreign miners because they cannot handle them on their own, this leads to the foreign miners leaving the communities for sometimes, until the issue is resolved. However, the study found out that this usually happens when the majority of the miners have travelled to their bases for breaks, like Ramadan period stretched to Id el Kabir (Ileya)

period. Thus keeping their (members of the communities) grievances until when they know the miners will be fewer in number to deal with. Nevertheless, once the miners come back in their full numbers, the problem will automatically resolve itself. This shows fear of the great number of the miners on the part of the members of the communities, the study observed this in the ways some of them responded and it is indeed obvious that the miners have outnumbered the members of the communities. This kind of situation is viewed from the non – violence conflict model which stated that non – violence is not always the first choice for people in conflict (Dugan, 2003), sometimes it is out of fear of the consequences that makes people to resort to it.

On the part of the miners, they claimed that they are always prepared for any conflict that might want to erupt since they know that the members of the communities are only putting up with them because they have no choice. They said they are prepared to defend themselves against any attacks from the indigenes, unlike before when they would flee from them, and this courage came from their agents who they claimed have already told them to get prepared for anything that might happen. It was observed by the research team from the way they were armed with cutlasses, knives, swords around them at the various mining sites. According to them:

> We are loyal to our employers, anything they tell us to do is what we will do. Since they told us that they usually settle the landowners and community leaders, and we obtain daily tickets with our money, they have no right to disturb us, thus, we are prepared for any attack they might want to carry out against us. All these weapons (pointing to the knives, swords and cutlasses), are for such times (Focus Group Discussion – Foreign Miner, December 21, 2016).

Armed disputes are not far from these communities due to the sensitivity that surrounds the gold mining activities, the miners are battle ready. There were mining sites where once the research team arrived, the miners would just rise up as if they were ready to attack, but there was always one (1) or two (2) members from each community of study that went with the research team every time to the mining sites. Even with a familiar person or persons, the research team was always viewed suspiciously. All these causes are similar to environmental distress, land use disputes, compensation, insufficient community consultation and engagement, lack of information on consequences of mining, unmet expectations of economic and social benefits, etc that the Fraser Institute and many other studies identified as causes of conflict in indigenous host communities.

4.4 Research Objective Four: The mechanisms put in place for managing the conflicts between the miners and the host communities.

Mechanisms adopted for managing conflicts between miners and host communities are discussed within the context of established conflict management strategies identified by extant literature. Generally, there are five (5) major conflict management or handling strategies, even though their names may differ slightly, but the general principles and basic descriptions of the strategies are very similar. The conflict management strategies are;

(1) Accommodating which puts other people's interests before one's own interests;

(2) Compromising which is moderate concern for self and others, it is a give and take situation;

(3) Dominating which relies on the use of power, position, aggression, verbal dominance and perseverance to win by all means;

(4) Collaborating which focuses on joint problem solving; and

(5) Avoidance and denial which is a situation whereby there is conflict and yet nothing is being done about it or the parties involved are not even accepting the existence of the conflict.

In situations of conflict, two (2) or more of the above-mentioned strategies may be combined in order to manage them, also the type of conflict determines the strategy or strategies to apply sometimes. Then, the parties involved in conflict or the people with the responsibility of managing conflicts may also choose any strategy they deem most appropriate in any given conflict situation.

From the field of study, it was observed that three (3) of the strategies mentioned above have been in use. They are accommodating, collaboration and avoidance, and these are discussed further below;

Accommodating Strategy: This is a strategy that can also be called obliging (low concern for self and high concern for others) in which one of the party allows the other party to satisfy their concerns, while neglecting their own. It is associated with accommodating characters that include putting aside one's own needs to please the other party. It simply entails giving the opposing party what it wants. This strategy comes with element of self – sacrifice. From observation, the members of the host communities have allowed the miners to continuously carry on with their activities on their lands, even though many of the respondents from the members of the communities have accommodated and tolerated them thus far. They are allowing the miners to satisfy their own concerns at their own detriment, giving them what they want, even though it is inconveniencing them. Although, on the other hand, the miners are also paying for the land they lease from the members of the host communities for mining purposes, but the lands are not being used in a sustainable manner that leaves opportunity for the next generations of the Ijesa people.

Collaborating Strategy: This could also be called integrating or joint problem solving strategy (high concern for self and others), and it is a strategy in which the parties involved in the conflict work together to sort out the conflict and find a solution that suits the parties involved. It reflects openness, exchange of information and examination of differences to reach an effective solution acceptable to both parties. It could be a third party that has been called to come and handle the conflict, but not one with decision-making power. This is win-win conflict management approach. This collaboration was observed on the issue of compensation in the communities of study. It was noted that some elders/leaders in the communities have met with the miners/agents several times in the past and have discussed on how the miners should

compensate them as communities and not as individuals. Although, the members of the communities asserted that such collaborations had never been concluded, they were always ending in scuffles. However, the miners/agents claimed that they were not ready to do anything for the communities as long as they settle some community leaders, and buy tickets on daily basis. At least, there have been attempts to sort out issues to some extent.

Avoidance Strategy: It is associated with withdrawal, buck-passing, or sidestepping. By delaying, avoiding, or ignoring the conflict, the party avoiding hopes that the conflict will resolve itself without any confrontation. This is more or less like sweeping the dirt under the carpet. It is low concern for self and low concern for others. This is not a good conflict management strategy especially in the long term, because it is like sitting on a keg of gun powder that can explode anytime and the explosion could be fatal. However, it is good in cases where one does not have the capacity to deal with the party, person, or institution.

The study observed that a majority of the members of these indigenous host communities are dodging confrontations with the miners/agent due to fear of the consequences of what such confrontations might attract. Then, the issue of the large numbers of the miners as against theirs and the problem of the disappearance of some people which has created so much insecurity in the communities. Another reason is the conspiracy between the various stakeholders (especially the miners/agents and some key members of the indigenous host communities that are involved in the gold mining trade) which is illegal, thus managing whatever rift that might be happening between them. The study further discovered that the members of these communities do not regard the police as a law enforcement agency that can help them in any way, due to the unpleasant experiences they claimed to have had with the police force around their communities especially on the issues related to mining. The two (2) police stations in the areas of these communities were visited (Ibodi and Osu police stations) by the research team, but could not get anything substantial in terms of records or even verbal confirmation or otherwise. However, the research observed that the law enforcement agency was on the miners' sides and was not ready to say or do anything against them.

The study could perceive from all these that the members of the communities of study are left with no other choice than to avoid any physical launch out against the miners, at least for now, even though, this is very temporary as grievances and anger are mounting up daily. In agreement with what Hocker and Wilmot (1985) posited, when avoidance strategy is applied in trivial situations, it can solidify relationships, but when it is applied in important and significant situations, it can be stressful and ultimately lead to intractable conflict. There is high possibility that things will get terrible and brutal if the situation persists.

Thomas (1992) wrote about avoiding strategy being suitable in the following circumstances;

- In a trivial situation, and when there are some other important issues to attend to with one's time and effort in a most productive manner.
- In a situation where no opportunity is available to address the issue constructively. Trying to handle the problem may be unyielding and may result in worse situation.
- In a situation of weighing the issue and realising that confronting the conflict will be more costly than the benefits of addressing it. Assessment and judgement is needed in this kind of circumstance.
- In a situation of making attempt to allow tension to cool down by buying time, especially when the situation has become tense.
- To give time for more information and support in order to arrive at better and well informed decisions.
- In a situation where others are needed to help in resolving the conflict, it is better to wait and allow them to intervene.
- In a situation where the problem is tangential for the real issue which needs to be handled from the depth and not just the symptoms.

The study is connected to the second and third situation mentioned above with the likes of Baumgardner (2012) that stressed that when there is no power and the chances of getting concerns met are very slim, then avoiding is appropriate, which is appropriate for the situation of the indigenous communities of study at the present. They have taken to looking helplessly on as these miners continue to wreck more havoc on their communities. They claimed to feel trapped, and are afraid of their communities going into extinction very soon if serious measures are not taken to help them.

As posited in human rights-based approach model, human rights are universal legal guarantees protecting individuals and groups against actions and omissions that interfere with fundamental freedoms, entitlements, and human dignity. The human rights of the members of the indigenous host communities are being violated through different means that have been mentioned above. The duty bearers (government – local, state and federal) as identified in chapter two (2) in these communities are not showing enough concerns in limiting the issues in the communities, while the right holders (the indigenous host communities) are not cooperating among themselves in order to be able to find proper and permanent solutions to the menace (since some of them are even part of the gold mining business).

Human rights based approach is formulated to empower communities and individuals to recognise, demand and defend their rights and to know their correlative responsibilities. This includes identifying those responsible – moral or legal – to be respected, protected and fulfilled as their human rights, and holding them accountable for such responsibilities.

All the human rights based approach principles; legitimacy, transparency, participation, empowerment, among others are also not followed in these communities. The human rights of the host communities in Ijesaland are being violated from time to time by these artisanal miners, their cultural heritage and values are not being respected. Human rights violation will keep happening in these communities if something is not done on time to salvage the situation. Governments as stakeholder in these communities have the major responsibility to regulate the artisanal and small-scale mining going on in the communities, ensure the protection and respect of the rights of its citizens by seeing to the accruement of the benefits of the mining activities to the members of the host communities, which is taking place on their lands. Also by ensuring, its citizens are protected from all kinds of abuse. Furthermore, in the case of the stakeholders in this issue of study who are the miners, their agents, the members of the host communities and the governments, they are all involved in one way or the other either directly or indirectly and as contributors to the issues in these communities. In addition, all the stakeholders have different parts to play in making any progress concerning the issues on ground.

Different stakeholders have different degree of interests, potency and authority. And since there are different interests, there is also clash of interests which is an indicator to conflict directly or indirectly. The classifications of the stakeholders in the communities of study are as follows;

- The miners and their agents for instance, have contributed both positively and negatively to the host communities. They have high degree of interests, and no legitimacy. They are in these indigenous communities for their interests, and are contributing to the socio-economic activities of the host communities (although not intentionally), and on the other hand, they are the ones causing the major problems for the communities and even for the surrounding communities with their crude manner of exploration and extraction.
- The members of the indigenous host communities as stakeholders have high level of interest and low potency. Their interests are mainly on the development of their communities due to the natural resources found there. If the issue of their natural resources is put into proper perspectives, then their communities will benefit greatly. However, as things are, they are at the receiving end, it is their communities that are being destroyed, the implications are with them fully and the future of their communities is really on the line.
- Governments at all levels as stakeholders have high degree of significance and degree of potency. The degree of their concern and authority in relation to their functions and roles in the mining industry is high, especially in regulating the mining activities in these host communities. They have so much at stake. The resources in these communities are resources that can generate revenue for the tiers of government if properly harnessed. It is even more imperative at a time like this when the economy of the country is facing huge challenges. Appropriate stakeholder management by the government at all levels, would

have positive implications for the sustainability of the host communities, their environment and human rights.

CHAPTER FIVE

Summary, Conclusion and Recommendation

This chapter deals with the summary, conclusion and recommendation of this study. The chapter summarised the study, arrived at the conclusion and proffered plausible solution and recommendations to tackle the problems and prevent the aggravation of the conflict.

5.1 Summary

All the negative impacts of mining have the potentials of inducing conflict in mining communities, especially artisanal and small-scale mining due to the crude and rudimentary methods that are used in this kind of mining. In the communities of study, the negative impacts have stirred up different facets of conflicts, which have destabilised them in several ways and have impoverished them to a great extent. However, the resources could have made their lives better if they were properly managed by the different stakeholders involved.

The results from the findings of the study have confirmed that solid mineral industry in Nigeria is not well explored despite the fact that it is capable of being another major source of revenue for the nation. The research explored the issue of conflicts between miners/agents and the members of indigenous host communities. This was done on the basis of the identification of the causes of the conflict, the various ways in which mining has brought and influenced conflicts in these indigenous host communities, the nature and pattern of the conflicts, and the mechanisms that have been in place in managing the conflict.

The issues of grievances in these communities were discovered to be environmental degradation that is categorised into land degradation, water pollution and air pollution; compensation issues; health implications; socio-economic implications and land encroachment. Other issues are social impacts in form of prostitution, disorientated family values, gambling, etc. However, all these issues have brought and influenced conflict in the host communities as their situation was different before the advent of the

mining activities. The nature and pattern of the conflict in these communities of study happen to be non-violence, which could escalate into physical violence or armed conflict if nothing is done to curb the issue on time.

The situation in these indigenous host communities is complex because the miners exonerated themselves from some of the issues that the members of the host communities complained about, for instance, concerning compensation (as far as they are concerned, they 'settle' all the necessary stakeholders), to environmental degradation and social implications. While some elders and members of the host communities are involved in the mining business (playing dual character), and the governments at local and state level seem to be indifferent to the plight of the communities, it is a matter of time before the escalation of the grievances, if the situation persists.

The institutional framework of mining in Nigeria is weak in several ways, such as;

- The mining laws that cater for artisanal and small-scale mining are not easy to fulfil for commoners, thus giving room for the miners to carry out their operations unguarded and unguided;
- It does not cater for preceding consultations of the indigenous host communities, because once the mining licence is obtained, many times, the miners just go into the communities to start exploring without due consideration for the indigenous host communities;
- The mining laws are not well supervised and implemented within the framework of international mining standards.

It is imperative to acknowledge the inevitable feature of conflict, however the direction of the miners and their agents should be towards prevention of conflict by maintaining cordial and amiable centre to hold the two (2) parties together. Dialogue and concentration on efficient grievance management should be imbibed in order to maintain united, stable and sustainable mining communities. Addressing the issue of mining effects is equally important, which can be done through transparency, open communication and collaboration from all stakeholders.

5.2 Conclusion

Naturally, mining activities attract conflicts due to all the negative effects on host and surrounding communities, the benefits got from gold mining in these communities of study are much less than the implications. Any process that devalues the social, health, economic and environment of a particular community or nation and robs them of their livelihood is not considered to be sustainable. Many gold mining communities have seen and experienced many hardships due to these inconsiderable methods of extraction of natural resources found on their land. Although, development and growth usually have their implications, but such implications should be understood and well prepared for by the affected people or members of the indigenous host communities and all other stakeholders involved in one way or the other. With the dangers and implications of mining activities on host communities, if managed properly, it can bring positive changes to host communities and even to governments at different levels. However, this research done possibly marks the beginning of how more attention to positive links can be drawn from mining in merging it with the indigenous host community development and to prevent conflict.

In actual fact, mining has really done more havoc in these indigenous host communities, with the level of degradation which has contributed to their impoverished state. It is imperative to be sensitive to the plight of these host communities by engaging them in decision-making procedures, respecting their views and cultural values which will improve the interactions between the parties. Even though the conflict is not yet violent, but the frustration of the members of the host communities is increasing by the day which should not be overlooked because of the possibility of escalation which might be very costly, not only to the communities, but to the nation at large.

The United Nations Guiding Principles (UNGPs) demands that miners should take preemptive measures in order not to contribute to human rights abuses in their operations.

Disputes and conflicts between the miners and the members of the indigenous host communities can be prevented if their relationship takes off on agood note and is properly managed. Even if they happen, they can be settled amicably through processes of dialogues and unbiased interventions. Indigenous host communities and their human rights should be respected for sustainable mining.

5.3 Contribution to Knowledge

This study is in support of previous studies that have noted some issues like environmental degradation, health implications among others that can ignite disputes or contribute to existing tensions that can also exacerbate conflicts. There is every need for the stakeholders in this issue to work together in order to benefit all and sustain the solid mineral mining industry either on a large or small scale.

The major contribution to knowledge of this study is the awareness of the high level of gold mining activities going on in these communities in Ijesaland and related issues that surround it, especially the causes of grievances of the members of the communities, which have been discussed above. Also the way and manner mining has brought and influenced disputes in the communities, and the nature and pattern of the conflicts.

There is the issue of the disconnect between the federal and the mining communities in Nigeria (like Ijesaland) which is a discovery that points to the over centralised political structure that do not allow for thorough oversight on the needs of the people including their fundamental human rights. And this can be addressed by re-structuring of the Nigerian nation through devolution of power which is a way to make the government close to the people, connect the stakeholders, reprioritise their interest and make real development to be determined by the locals in conjunction with a closer government.

The non-involvement and almost non-existence of the government in the administration of the mining activities in Ijesaland is also a contribution to knowledge on mining administration in Nigeria, which in a way has contributed to the disorganised nature of the business breeding conflict among stakeholders more often than not.

Furthermore, the conflict happening between the members of the communities and the miners at the time of this research is categorised to be non-violence and low intensity

conflict that has the tendency to become violent in a little while, thus the study is creating awareness that can attract the governments at all levels and the members of the urban society in and out of the country in order for something to be done to forestall the problem before it becomes an intractable armed conflict. It is hoped that the outcome of this study will create the kind of desired attention needed in these indigenous communities and the kind of awareness from the governments and the members of the urban communities in and out of Nigeria.

5.4 Recommendations

With the tensions and potential violence looming between the artisanal miners and the indigenous host communities in Ijesaland of Osun state, and with all that has been said thus far, the following are therefore recommended in order to have sustainable mining activities in these host communities;

1) Creating awareness concerning mining activities in the communities

Many of the members of the indigenous host communities were not aware of the implications of mining either on small or large scale, until they started experiencing them in a direct manner. Mining has different kinds of social and environmental effects, most especially on host communities and these effects should be known by these communities to a large extent before mining commences, they should be educated on the risks involved, in order to prepare for coping and management strategies before the mining activities begin.

2) Inclusion of the communities in decision making

Members of the indigenous host communities should be able to participate in the process of decision-making for setting up and directing the mining activities on their lands. Community participation should be encouraged as much as possible in order to have a direct interaction with the miners, because marginalising them on the decisions that involve the resources on their land could only cause opposition from them, and result to conflicts or exacerbate the existing ones. Including members of the host communities in decision-making will increase participation and partnership, which will reduce grievances and possibilities of conflicts.

3) Organised/Structural Compensation Policy

The members of the communities should be compensated by these miners, irrespective of the 'settlement' of landowners, the level of wretchedness in these communities show that they need any kind of compensation that can help in improving their living conditions. Physical cash should not be given to community leaders, rather the stakeholders (governments and miners) should carry the members of the communities along in putting up structural developments like good primary and secondary schools, health centres or hospitals, good roads, etc.

4) Review of the laws guiding artisanal and small scale mining

The Nigerian mining laws are tilted towards attracting foreign investors into the industry with less consideration for artisanal and small-scale mining within the country, which is more prominent. Banning or ignoring the existence and activities of artisanal and small-scale miners (which are mostly illegal) could be detrimental. Government should regularise the activities of artisanal and small-scale miners by putting in place means of monitoring and streamlining their activities in accordance with general mining policies and standards, and to make sure that sustainability of the development of the indigenous host communities are well implemented. This can alleviate poverty in these communities by encouraging many of the members of the communities in the artisanal and small-scale mining business run legitimately. Adebayo (2015) mentioned that artisanal and small-scale mining is an essential piece in the mining industry in Nigeria, with the possibility of raising internal revenue, boosting the earnings of foreign exchange, generating job opportunities, decreasing poverty and stimulating foreign direct investment, if properly managed.

Moreover, with the rate at which foreign miners keep trouping into these host communities for the purpose of extracting gold, if the issues on ground should become violent, it could be very intense and result to unimaginable consequences. Thus, considering this recommendation could go a long way to avert such conflict intensity and ensure stability. There is a gradual unanimous concession that artisanal and small-scale mining plays a major function in the lives of the members of the host communities, offers employment opportunities, and promote the improvement of goals and objectives if it is officially recognised and regulated (United State Agency for International Development - USAID, 2005).

5) Provision of good water

Since the sources of water in these communities have been contaminated, the stakeholders should make provision for well-treated water for the use of the members of the communities, or an alternative source should be made available for the activities of the miners in the communities.

6) Strengthening institutional and legal framework

The existing institutional and legal framework concerning solid mineral mining should be reviewed and strengthened in order to meet up with international standards, and if need be, necessary amendments should be made in order to be able to implement policies and programs connected to the frameworks.

7) Dialogue between the host communities and stakeholders

There should be an avenue where grievances of the members of the host communities are communicated to the different stakeholders (governments and the miners) and issues should be settled amicably before they escalate. This will also allow the foreign miners to understand the communities' customs and traditions, which can further ensure stability.

8) Consideration on resettling the host communities

The major stakeholder (the government) should start considering seriously on relocating the communities from where they are right now. Since it has been discovered that the mineral resources in these communities are of economic quantity that can last for a very long time (Ajeigbe et al, 2014), thus, resettling them to another place will possibly give them a better state of living and give

more opportunities for large-scale exploration and extraction of the mineral resources in the area.

9) Good governance

When there is good governance at local, state and national levels, there will be adequate legislation and human rights protection, which will decrease exploitation of host communities, human rights abuse and some other deliberate vices against the indigenous host communities. Moreover, the level of the participation and involvement of the governments at all levels should increase, as they are the major stakeholders in this issue.

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Appendix I

List of Interviewees

S/N	Name of informant	Sex	Designation of informant	Place of interview	Date of interview
1	Chief AmudaIsmaila	М	Trader and a chief in Ijana-Wasare community	Ijana-Wasare community	25/11/2016
2	YomiAjiire	М	Motorcycle rider and an indigene of Iyemogun community	Iyemogun community	14/11/2016
3	AkinloyeAdesola	М	Trader and the youth leader of Iyere community	Oke-Ola, Ilesa town	25/11/2016
4	Mrs Dada (Mama Sunday)	F	Petty trader and an indigene of Ijana-Wasare community	Ijana-Wasare community	21/12/2016
5	Joseph Olowoporoku	М	Agent/Trader	Ijana-Wasare community	20/12/2016
6	OgoOlomi	М	Motorcycle rider and an indigene of Ijana-Wasare community	Ijana-Wasare community	20/12/2016
7	Chief OlufemiOke	М	Retired hunter and an indigene of Ijana-wasare community	Ijana-Wasare community	28/12/2016
8	Mr KayodeTaiwo	М	Civil servant and a non- indigene, but a resident of Ijana-Wasare community	Ijana-Wasare community	19/12/2016
9	Chief Idowu	М	Retiree and an indigene of Iyemogun community	Iyemogun community	29/11/2016
10	GbenroAdeja	М	Trader and an indigene of Iyemogun community	Iyemogun community	25/11/2016

11	Adebayo Yusuf	М	Palm-wine seller and an indigene of Iyemogun	Iyemogun community	20/12/2016
12	Emmanuel Adeyemi	М	Mining agent	Iyemogun community	19/12/2016
13	LateefatArowolo	F	Food seller and an indigene of Iyemoguncommunity	Iyemogun community	28/12/2016
14	Chief Samuel	М	Retiree and a chief in Iyere community	Iyere community	22/12/2016
15	KabiruAyodele	М	Motorcycle rider and indigene of Iyere community	Iyere community	18/11/2016
16	Mrs Akomolafe	F	Trader and an indigene of Iyere community	Iyere community	18/11/2016
17	Ebenezer Ogundele	М	Indigenous miner of Iyere community	Iyere community	22/12/2016
18	TiamiyuLaoye	М	Trader and an indigene of Iyere community	Iyere community	29/12/2016
19	Bose Fadimu	F	Food vendor from a neighbouring community - Ipendo community	Ijana-Wasare community	20/12/2016
20	Mr Badmus	М	Mining agent in Iyemogun and Igun communities	Olodo, Ibadan	03/11/2016

Appendix II

List of Focus Group Discussions

S/N	Community	Category/Designation	Number of participants	Date
1	Ijana-Wasare community	Indigenous miners/agents (mostly youths of the community	7	28/12/2016
		Foreign miners/agents	10	18/11/2016
		Elders/leaders of the community	6	19/12/2016
2	Iyemogun community	Indigenous miners/agents (mostly youths of the community	6	20/11/2016
		Foreign miners/agents	9	25/11/2016
		Elders/leaders of the community	7	28/11/2016
3	Iyere community	Indigenous miners/agents (mostly youths of the community	8	21/12/2016
		Foreign miners/agents	10	21/12/2016
		Elders/leaders of the community	7	19/12/2016

Appendix III

Interview / Focus Group Discussion (FGD) guide

- 1. What were the reactions of the members of your community with the influx of miners into the community?
- 2. What kind of relationship do you have with the foreign miners in your community?
- 3. Has there been any occurrence of conflicts as a result of these miners in your community? If yes, can you describe the kind of conflict and what possibly caused such conflict?
- 4. In your own view, what are the major causes of conflict as concerning mining in your community?
- 5. How have you been managing or resolving these conflicts in the time past?
- 6. How effective are the mechanisms put in use in managing or resolving the conflicts been so far?
- 7. Who are the stakeholders involved in the mining issue in your community?
- 8. What are the roles of the stakeholders in mitigating or exacerbating conflict concerning the issue of mining in your community?
- 9. What are the implications of mining on members of the community?
- 10. What are the implications of the mining induced conflict on members of the community?
- 11. What do you think can be done for peace and sustainability to be established over mining issues in your community?
- 12. How did you get to know about gold mining in this community?
- 13. How long have you been in this community as a miner?
- 14. Do you take a break any time in the course of the year?
- 15. How lucrative is the gold mining vocation for you thus far?
- 16. What are the effects of mining on the community and on you as miners?
- 17. What is your relationship as miners or agents with the members of this community?
- 18. What are the causes of disputes between you and the members of the community?
- 19. Have there been situation of violence in the events of conflict between you and the members of the community or any other person or group of people?
- 20. What are the steps you have taken as agents or miners in managing or resolving the conflict?
- 21. What do you think can be done to ensure a peaceful and sustainable environment for you to continue your mining activities in the community?

Appendix IV

Plate 1: Ijana-Wasare River where miners wash gold



Source: Ijana-Wasare Community

Plate 2: One of the mining site in Iyemogun community



Source:Iyemogun Community



Plate 3: Main River in Iyere, which miners have contaminated with gold washing

Source: Iyere Community



Plate 4: Another mining site in Iyere community

Source: Iyere community