

The Social Impact of Artisanal and Small-scale Mining: a Gendered Perspective

By Nogget Matope PhD

Gender Institute

Midlands State University

Introduction

- The study aimed at establishing the social and environmental impact of ASM
- The study sought to explore the experiences and understanding of women in ASM operations
- It also sought to explore how women are positioned and position themselves in ASM
- It employed visual participatory methods which are premised on the critical qualitative paradigm.

The process

- Social constructivism
- African feminism (Shaw, 2007; Tamale, 2011)
- Feminist approach to address issues affecting women in mining
- Qualitative feminist thrust
- Narrative inquiry (Clandinnin & Connelly, 2006; Kamp, 2004)
- Axiological assumption women need to be visibilised & recognised as active participants in ASM

Findings

- Women's experiences & understanding of ASM
- Struggle to be visible, marginalisation, vulnerability, gender oppression, discourses of domination, exclusion, women operate on the periphery, a poverty alleviation strategy, GBV

Positioning

- How women position themselves and are positioned in ASM
- Contributions remain largely invisible and this creates barriers to full participation & visibility (Jenkins, 2014)
- Of the 10 participants one owned a claim in her name, another jointly owned , 3 were selling various wares, a gold buyer , another invested in a detector, the last three transport, sort, wash, grind, crush the mineral

Critical steps

- Problem solvers an indicator of resilience Ramirez (2007)
- Challenge dominant discourses on their conditions and created spaces for personal and community change
- Support, advocacy, lobbying, training for women as posited by (Efitimie, 2009). Inheritance issues, ownership, collateral security to secure bank loans, multiple permits, degradation of environment. Change agents, visible solidarity emanating from the focus group discussions

Conclusion & recommendations

- Empowering to interrogate their positioning through own narratives on ASM
- An extended study which enable participants to critique or challenge themes generated
- Multiple methods can be used to generate data on larger sample
- Participants created own narratives and ideas

End

Thank you