

Positive peace and Mining policies in extractive mining sector in Kenya: Case study of Base Titanium mining Company in Kwale County of Kenya

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Abstract

This paper uses Base Titanium Company mining activities to seek how nascent enacted mining policies could contribute to positive peace in the mining sector investment in extractive sector in Kenya. It interrogates these activities vis-a-vis application of the mining sector policies and evaluates their impact on the society living around Base Titanium. Through field study it looks at the benefits that the local communities have acquired from Base Titanium, and it discusses the challenges of implementation of the mining sector policies at grassroots level. The success of application of nascent mining sector in extractive sector have not been thoroughly researched and documented in Kenya. While in the Kenyan context, major reforms in the mining industry have yielded mechanisms for managing mining industry. More specifically, the mining policies have provisions on mineral profit sharing, local participation, and gender issues. The net effects of these reforms are that there have been minimal open confrontations or disruptions of operations such as that of the Base Titanium mining industry in Kwale, Kenya. The existential policies on mining in Kenya did not take into the consideration the needs of the local community members and profits accrued were shared by the investor and the government. The nascent mining policies in Kenya are not perfect. However, they can be used as a case study to demonstrate how policy reforms that ensure all-inclusive-right based approaches as well as community participation would contribute positive peace in extractive sector in Kenya and beyond. The paper seeks to contribute to debate on natural resource management and peace and conflict studies. I study extractive mining sector because is a growing segment of Kenya's economic sector.

Keywords: Extractive Sector, Mining Sector Policies, Positive Peace, Kenya

Introduction

Extractive mining sector is crucial for developing nations like Kenya. It offers an opportunity for equal economic growth for both the communities and the governments (see for example Ennin & Wiafe, 2023; Gochero & Boopen, 2020). The extractive mining sector is the industries that extract mineral ores beneath the earth and are destined for export to world markets (see for example, Karakaya & Nuur, 2018; Hamouchene, 2022). Today it is clear that many countries in Africa have entered the global mining sector map including Kenya (see for example, Maus et al., 2022; Vásquez, 2022; Williams, 2012; Anyensu, 2013; Opongo, 2013). However, the mining sector in Kenya is relatively young when compared to other countries in the in Africa (Evers, 2020; Muigua, 2017). In the Kenyan context extractive mining is divided into two major topologies: the mining and oil and gas sectors (Vásquez, 2022). The mining sector is further classified into Large –Scale Mining (LSM) and Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM). The issues around a case study of the former sector are the focus on this article. This article focuses on Issues around a purposively selected case study of LSM of Base Titanium Limited located in Kwale County of Kenya.

In social activists and scientific discussions on the potential impacts of LSM extractive mining have quickly increased on two main arguments. On the other authors contend that the mining sector can be central to peace of countries (Garrett & Marie, 2010). Peace has been brought about by shareholders (including communities) sharing benefits that accrue from the mining sector. For example, mining sector has significantly contributed to peace and development in Botswana and Nordic countries and elsewhere (see for examples Jefferies, 2009; Edwards et al., 2014; Antin, 2013). On the contrary it has been acknowledged by critical researchers on natural resources governance that the mining sector is highly contested and often breeds conflict (see for example, Hamouchene 2020; Collier & Anke, 2004). Conflict may not always arise in the extractive mining sectors; however, what counts is how the policies of the extractive sector are enacted and implemented especially on sharing benefits that accrued from mining (Wakenge et al., 2021). This is because of the stakeholders who have different goals and interest regarding mining sector activities (Hamouchene, 2022). Conflicts in extractive mining sectors are determined by mismanagement and social frictions (Wakenge et al., 2021). Presently, the mining sector is impacted on by many intricacies (see for example, Petrova & Marinova, 2013; Opongo, 2022; Schwarz, 2007; Leblanc et al., 2000; Berman et al., 2017; Emmanuel et al., 2018). One of the complex issues is the absence of suitable regulations to govern the mining industry regarding issues pertaining to land ownership disputes, compensation for assets lost during relocation, and environmental degradation; additionally, there is a lack of equity in the distribution of benefits derived from the mining enterprise (Abuya, 2017). Indeed, several scholars have that in several Africa countries the mining sector policies are often unclear, inconsistent, or unpredictable (see for example, Lane & Riccardo, 2013; Ocheje, 2006). Moreover, studies show that the lack of appropriate policies on mining sector has been a springboard for conflict (see for example, Berman et al., 2017; Bezzola et al., 2022; Söderholm & Nanna, 2015). Hence Antin (2013) calls for the need to enact decisive and transparent policies to regulate mining activities. This article adopted the definition of mining policies as rules and institutions that regulate the mining sector for the benefit of a country and its citizens (GoK, 2010).

Peace is a complex term that is often confusing, highly contested and ambiguous. Interesting scholars in peace studies have conceptualized the term peace in different ways. For instance, peace encompasses principles that encourage respect for one another and the achievement of each person's potential within

social institutions (Sandy & Perkins, 2000). While for Galtung (1969), peace is directly tied to the study and practice of social justice and is not simply the absence of physical violence. Besides Groten and Jansen (1981) contend that peaceful community should be inclusive and just. While Vorobej (2008) declares that the pursuit of contentment, which results from equitable access and utilization of resources, should be made possible by peace. As a result, equity could involve distributing the gains from the extractive industry sector (Macdonald, 2018). But the generalizability of the widely publicized research on peace and the extractive mining industry is problematic since local communities have rarely been given voices in what they could consider to be a peaceful society. Using a case study of extractive industry of Base Titanium mining company activities in the Kwale County of Kenya, this paper explores positive peace from based on the perspectives of the local community members in the context of the policies that have enacted to regulate the extractive mining sector. Besides, not so much has been studied about the relationship between community peace and mining policies in the context of extractive mining industry in Kwale County, therefore this article contributes to the growing literature on natural resources management and peace study at albeit at micro level.

The key aim of this paper was to investigate the relationship between positive peace and new mining sector policies on the largest extractive mining industry in rural setting in Kenya, through the analysis of the following variables: (i). Role mining sector policies and its impact on local community, and (ii). Mining sector policies and positive peace in Kwale County. Findings from this study would be important for modeling as well as reforming of policies for sustainable management of mining sector in Kenya and beyond.

This article has eight sections. Following the introduction, the second section describes the context of the study, third section is the theoretical framework that adopted in this study, fourth section teases out the relevant literature that informed the study, fifth section outlines the methodology and ethical considerations. The sixth section is the result findings. The seventh section is the discussion. At the end is the conclusion.

The Context and the Base Titanium Limited Mining Company

Kwale County is administratively located in the South of the wider Coastal region of Kenya. The Coastal region of Kenya is positioned along the Indian Ocean. Besides, the County is borders Tanzania-Kenya border to the South, Taita-Taveta to the Northwest, Indian Ocean to Southeast and Mombasa County to North East side. Kwale County was intentionally selected because of two major reasons. The first reason for selecting the County is that like other counties in the wider Coastal region of Kenya that stretches on the East Coast of Africa is impacted by historical challenges of conflicts over natural resources-land ownership. This could exacerbate the propensity of conflict between stakeholders (Base Titanium limited mining company and local communities). Second and most important reason for selecting County because it hosts Base Titanium Limited (BTL), which is the biggest extractive Mining industry in Kenyan history (Aboudha & Hayombe, 2006). In this regard, hosting BTL in Kwale ushered a new dawn in the extractive mining sector in Kenya (Evers, 2020).

Indirectly owned by Energy Fuels Inc., BTL is an Austrian incorporated Company. It was founded in 2008 with an aim of enriching stakeholders through creative production and development of base mineral resources in Australia, Africa and elsewhere (see <https://basetitanium.com/kwale-operation/>). BTL started its operations in towards the late 2013 after being granted tenure for titanium operations by the Kenya

government. The mine site of BTL lies approximately fifty Kilometers south of Mombasa and it is positioned ten kilometers inland from the Indian Ocean-Kenya Coastal line (Chalagat, 2015). It made history of being the first foreign extractive company to establish Kenya Shillings multibillion investment that exported over 25,000 tons of titanium ore in its first years of operation (Hakijamii, 2017). Next sections tease out the methodology and ethical considerations.

Theoretical Framework

The section elaborates on the theories adopted to explore this study topic.

Theories That Underpin the Study

Issues around the exploitation of natural resources especially pertaining extractive mining sector are complex to explore. To analyse on the relationship between current mining sector policies and positive peace in a rural setting that hosts the largest extractive mining industry in Kenya, study applied two theories: Theory of Positive and Negative Peace (PNP) by Galtung (1996) and Conflict Transformation Theory (CTT) by Lederach (2003), that have been promoted by (Barnett, 2007; Le Billon 2015) and Shoko (2015) respectively.

According to the PNP theory peace is about the structural organizations of people who freely choose to work together for the benefit of mankind. Therefore, this article argues that in the management and sharing of benefits accrued from the mining sector, people may co-operate to ensure optimal benefits for all stakeholders. Thus, the Theory of positive peace and negative peace contributed in probing how the mining sector policies regulate the interaction between the government institutions, investors in mining sector and community that could contribute to positive peace. Galtung (1969) described 'negative peace' as the absence of direct violence.

Further, this research used of the CTT. CTT is based on the assumption that conflict is prevalent in society and aims to transform the very institutions, structures, and relationships that lead to injustice and violence. Therefore, this theory was helpful in examining the tense relationships that develop between mining industry stakeholders and how these relationships have been changed by policies and procedures that guarantee cooperation in mining industry governance.

Literature Review

This part of the article teases out the available and relevant knowledge through an extensive literature view that focuses on extractive mining and peace studies in Kenya and beyond.

Extractive Mining Sector Policies and Positive Peace in Kenya?

For last twenty years, there have been changes to Kenya's mining sector. Existing legislation were repealed and a new one was passed that recognized all types of mining, whether they were small-scale or large-scale, as part of the effort to restore the sector's future and free it from state control monopoly and more specific the Kenyan government has established a semi-autonomy Ministry of mining that devoted to exploitation

and development of the mining sector (Muigua, 2017). The Ministry of Mining¹ carries out a number of tasks to promote the development of the nation's mining industry and guarantee of equitable sharing of profits that accrue from the exploitation of mines (Abuya, 2018). The following is an example of how mining royalties should be divided: 10% goes to the local community where the mining operations take place, 20% goes to the county governments, and 70% goes to the National government (Opongo, 2022). Before the reforms of the mining sector policies all mineral rights were vested to the Government of Kenya (Abuya, 2017).

Various scholarships have examined the mining sector in Kenya (see Davis & Osano, 2015; Huggins et al., 2017; Kayumba, 2014; Buss et al., 2020; Mugo et al., 2021; Basada et al., 2020 Anyona & Rop, 2022) and elsewhere (Spiegel 2015; Sousa et al., 2011). Some scholarships have researched on mining sector and conflict (Carstens & Gavin, 2009; Haslam & Nassar 2016; Jaskoski, 2014; Moomen & Ashraf, 2017; McMahan, 2010) mining and peace (Leifsen et al., 2017; Le Billon & Levin, 2009; Ross, 2005) but without referring to the term 'positive peace' as used in Peace Research. To the best of my knowledge, no significant study has examined the relationship between mining sector policies and positive peace in Kwale County, the site for this study. This study has filled this gap.

The Mining Extractive Industry in Kenya

It is acknowledged that the mining sector in Kenya has four mineral belts: the Mozambique belt, which runs through central Kenya and is the source of Kenya's distinctive gemstones; the Rift belt, which contains a range of resources like soda ash, fluorspar, and diatomite; the gold green stone belt in western Kenya, which stretches to Tanzania; and the coastal belt, which contains titanium (Wanjekeche 2013; Abuya 2018). The latter belt is the first in Kenya's post-independent era to be exploited by a multinational company of Base Titanium on commercial scale (Hayombe & Aboudha 2006; Schwarz, 2007). As earlier described the BTL is hosted in Kwale County of Kenya. It started its operations in Kenya under reformed extractive policies. The key distinguishing factor between the old policy in mining industry and the new policy is the level of people's participation. The new policy envisages robust participation of the citizens, right from grassroots in the direction of resources management. This system of governance appears to have introduced check and balances in the mining industry (Africa Development Group, 2016).

Extractive Mining Sector Policy Reforms: Governance Institutions in Mining Industry in Kenya

According to the Institute Human Rights and Business's (IHRB) research reported entitled: *Human Rights in Kenya's Extractive Sector Exploring the Terrain*, the country's new constitution (2010) brought about a significant change in policy that allowed a wide range of stakeholders to participate in the governance of the mining sector (IHRB, 2016). The research has divided the organizations that oversee the mining industry governance into three groups: the first category of stakeholders that are involved in the governance of mining activities is private sector. The major players in mining governance in Kenya from private sector include *Kenya Oil and Gas Association (KOGA)*: KOGA's principal purpose is to assist its members in solving the challenge of sustainability, which entails delivering value to shareholders while offering

¹ The Ministry of Mining has been renamed to Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs under the State Department for Mining was created under the reorganization of the Government of the Republic of Kenya vide Executive Order No. 1 of January 2023. Previously it was a department under the Ministry of Petroleum and Mining

economic and social benefits to impacted communities and reducing environmental footprint. The association's primary goal is to support private sector interests, particularly those in Kenya's upstream industry. Companies are eligible to join the group after executing a Production Sharing Contract (PSC) with the government of Kenya, and *Kenya Chamber of Mines (KCM)*: Membership of KCM consists of both small size and large business in the mining and other manufacturing sectors of Kenya.

The second category is composed of four (4) community institutions and the specific roles they play governance in the mining sector; *Civil Society Platforms*: who work on various issues such as transparency, accountability and human rights, land and other community issues emanating from extractive sector. For example, *Haki Madini* which operates in the context of this investigation specifically focuses on campaigning for the common good of communities affected by the extractives; and *Information Centre for the Extractives Sector*: This is a multi-sector public forum that promotes knowledge, transparency, and evidence-based stakeholder discourse on the extractives sector in Kenya in order to address concerns about the industry; *Kenya extractive sector forum*: It advocates for sustainable use and management of Kenya's upstream minerals, oil, and gas.

Whereas the third and final category involved in mining governance consists of several entities and institutions of the Kenya government. They include: *The Ministry of Mining*: The Ministry of Mining was established in 2013 in accordance with Kenya's new constitution; it is the country's first semi-autonomous agency dedicated solely to the mining sector. It is at the core of the mining sector in Kenya, because it is responsible for issuing mineral licenses, collecting and analyzing geological data for purposes of providing a mapping and understanding of the country's geological nature, and providing oversight of the Kenya's mining sector and engaging in a number of initiatives to develop the mining industry; *Mineral Rights Board*: The members of the Mining Rights Board are appointed by the Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Mining and Natural Resources from the mining sector professionals, several government ministries, and the National Land Commission. It was established in accordance with the Kenya Constitution under stipulation of Section 30(1) of the Mining Act. The role of the Board is to advise and recommend to the Cabinet Secretary on matters relating to strategic minerals, areas to be designated for Artisan and Small Mining or large scale, and mineral rights agreements that include fees and royalties payable under the Act, and other matters related to mining sectors; *The Ministry of Land & Physical Planning*: It has the authority to reserve public land for any useful use, including the exploitation and development of natural resources, and it is tasked with managing and administering land in Kenya; *The Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA)*: It carries out certain regulations, such as the Income Tax Act, which deals with the taxes of operations related to extractive sector (mining, oil, and gas), among other things. KRA is domiciled in the Ministry of Finance, which is in charge of collecting taxes for the government in all their forms; *National Land Commission (NLC)*: NLC was created under Article 67 of the Constitution. Among other tasks, the NLC makes recommendations on national land policy and, more crucially, acts as the custodian of public land on behalf of the county and national governments; *County Governments*: Counties are decentralized governmental units that carry out a number of county-level administrative functions. County governments provide companies with permission to use the lands within their jurisdictions. The rights of communities living near extractive sector operations must also be protected by county officials. For the sake of the community and themselves, county governments manage the money obtained by the national government's extractive industries; *The Judiciary*: In Kenya, the judiciary handles disputes involving land rights, mineral rights,

human rights, and any other issue arising from the extractive industry. The Environment and Land Court, established in 2010 under Article 162(2)(b) of the Kenyan Constitution to address issues involving the environment, land use and occupation, and property rights, is very important. For example, this court would resolve a land dispute or a claim against an extractive firm. This role is limited only in circumstances where agreements clearly confine dispute resolution to arbitration—as is common in many extractive deals; *The Attorney General (AG)*: AG is the government's main legal adviser, is highly involved in the extractive industry. Every law produced for the industry must pass via the AG's office for processing and legal assessment. Agreements between extractive companies and the government must first pass via the AG's office for scrutiny and evaluation before being sent to the National Assembly for ratification; *National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA)*: NEMA which is domiciled in the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources, and Regional Development Authorities regulates environmental issues, particularly those that impact the extractives industry. NEMA grants environmental licenses to extractive sector after the completion of an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA). Its mandate is anchored and guided in the Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA); and finally, *Parliament*: According to Article 71 of the 2010 Kenyan Constitution, Parliament, which consists of the Senate and the National Assembly, is in charge of regulating the management of natural resources. Transactions involving the grant of a concession or right to utilize any natural resource ought to be approved by Parliament. Additionally, the Senate is anticipated to exercise its control over issues like the distribution of natural resource profits and safeguarding counties' interests in these areas. Besides, recently through executive powers the Cabinet Security of Minister of mining established a *Mining Police Unit*: It is investigative branch within the Ministry of mining who role is to curb illegal exploration and mining of minerals across Kenya.

It is safe to argue that the above from the description government entities and institutions as well as civil societies have the potential of impacting on the governance in mining industry, but, because they are many in number and with contradicting or overriding mandates, they are bound to create more bureaucracy and confusion which could become a springboard of conflicts. Therefore, it will be prudent to ensure all stakeholders involved in the mining industry work together harmoniously.

Methodology

The article is anchored on a qualitative case of study on community members' views on the issues around BTL in Kwale County of Kenya. In order to achieve the intent of this study, fieldwork was conducted out between July 2024 and September 2024-three months. The participants were selected through purposively sampling, and the pool composed members of the communities who are knowledgeable and either have participated or have not participated in the activities and issues around BTL Company in Kwale County. The research targeted participants from different identifiable relevant social community classes/groupings and women-youth as there is research evidence that they impacted in different in ways by extractive mining activities (see example, Shiquan et al., 2022; Al Rawashdeh et al., 2016; Mensah et al., 2015; Sincovich et al., 2018; Pretty & Odeku, 2017; Conde & Le Billon, 2017). Women were also included in this study because of the growing need for gender dimension in academic discourse (Cohen et al., 2005). Therefore this, article builds on previous scholarly research on the issues emanating from extractive mining company but exploring the mining policies and positive peace on BTL in Kwale County of Kenya. Besides, the information from leaders of local civil society organizations and other development partners was useful in

choosing and recruiting participants. Thus, snowballing sampling was also applied in recruiting participants who had different experience and a variety of perspectives on mining issues on BTL. Noy (2008) claims that in various social sciences studies snowballing is the mostly commonly applied method of sampling.

This study, only after obtaining the prerequisite ethical approval and clearance from the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation and Technical University of Mombasa Ethics Review Committee. Any study concerned with peace and conflict and natural resource should evaluate the cost benefits and risks of the study especially to society and participants (Shoko, 2015). Therefore, throughout this study the author was cognizant and recognized that there are risks involved while engaging with the participants in the field. One such risk is the potential for the participants to overstate their current situation in an effort to seek assistance or win sympathy. To lessen this, the researcher made it plain to the respondents right away that he was not acting on behalf of any particular party and that the goal of the research was instead to reveal the intricacies around the mining activities in the context of the study. Besides, all data to this study was collected on the basis of respondents reporting their experience freely; participants participated in the study voluntarily; the research sorted consent of the respondents, and the research made every attempt not to allow personal bias and prejudices in this research. Additionally, researchers used impersonal names in this article in order to maintain the participants' confidentiality and anonymity.

Data collection and Data Analysis

The data that informed this study was obtained via mixed approaches through review of existing literature (Secondary data), interviews and observations (primary data). The secondary data was captured from sources such as government documents, relevant websites, published or unpublished work that focus on extractive industry in general based on research that relied on primary sources (Rabianski, 2003). The research also consulted studies on peace and conflict studies. In addition, this study utilized semi-structured interviews and Focus Group Discussion (FGDs) and observations to capture primary data. The semi-structured interviews were used mainly for key participants that were deemed to have privileged or extensive knowledge on the issues under research (Hennink et al., 2020) and were held because the study wanted to enhance the understanding by probing on questions that could have strayed from the research tool guide. Second, this study also conducted Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). Morgan (1996) defines FGD as a group of individuals selected and assembled by researchers to discuss and comment on, from personal experience, the topic that is the subject of the research. Each focus group had between six and 15 participants (Powell & Hellen, 1996). FGDs enabled the exchange of information from the participants to the researcher (Abuya 2017). FGDs are helpful of getting large amounts of data quickly (Morgan, 1996). The interview discussion and interviews focused on the prevailing issues and situation around extractive activities of BTL. In the discussions and interviews first, the author of this article wanted the participants to describe the meaning of the word “positive peace;”, then I asked follow up questions to explore the interviewees’ perceptions on the nature of community relationships around issues of mineral sources, the opinions of the participants on what they consider to be peace in relation to mineral mining activities, and finally the author wanted to get the views of the on how the local community members resolve conflicts related to sharing of benefits that accrue from mining sector use, when and if they arise. The author was open and willing to explore relevant issues relevant to study brought up by the participants. A total of thirty-eight semi-structured/in-depth and five FGDs were held. Semi-structured interviews lasted 40 -60 minutes

whereas FGDs took 45 -70 minutes. The interviews were stopped once the point of saturation was reached (see for instance, Hennink et al., 2020; Malterud et al., 2016; Fusch & Ness, 2015).

The study deployed participation observation to contextualise the data and triangulation (Noble & Heale, 2019). Observations took place in interview meetings as well as when the other was strolling during field work. Triangulation aimed at cross-checking, enhancing credibility, and verifying the data collected (Hesse-Biber, 2010).

The researcher conducted a thematic analysis of interviews using the techniques outlined by Creswell (2009): reading and transcribing field notes, recognizing themes, creating a coding system, and grouping the data. The audio-recorded interviews collected from the field were transcribed. The analysis of the interviews was based on themes that emerged from the transcripts and developed in the course of field work. The responses were then classified by themes that were connected to participants' perception on peace, conflict and collaboration in relation to mining activities in the context of the study.

Since many studies reveal that extractive mining sector can generate unpredictable intricacies especially in global South, the contribution of this article are cautions and tied to 'snapshot research at the time' to the case study of BTL in Kwale County of Kenya. The next section deals with the key findings of this article.

Findings

The data was analyzed, and three main themes emerged: peaceful coexistence of stakeholders around extractive mining activities, community partnership around mining activities, and broad scale resolution of conflict. These are discussed below in verbatim statements and fictitious names.

Peaceful Coexistence of Stakeholders Mining Activities

Based on the field work the interviewees suggested that peaceful coexistence was one of the most important components of peace in the study. Peaceful coexistence is similar to sincere concern for common good, desire for consensus, cooperation, a sense of belonging, understanding and mutual trust. The participants saw harmony as a phenomenon in which community members benefit together from profits that accrue from mining activity. They claimed that peaceful coexistence as an agreement in action, feelings and opinion over mining issues in the community. Furthermore, participants viewed that, if there is peaceful coexistence in the community, there is harmony, and the community members may help each other in accomplishing common chores or tasks. The interviewees clarified their understanding of peace as a harmonious coexistence between the local community and the mining company BTL. As an illustration respected village elder Athumani, noted:

I view peace as the harmonious coexistence of residents who gather to have roundtable discussions on issues pertaining to mining operations.

Cooperation as highlighted by community members enhances intragroup communication skills and is a prerequisite for fostering tolerance among those who profit from mining operations. Members of the community get to comprehend one another's points of view when they come together and engage in views of others.

As such the interviewees perceived peace as being unselfish and considerate to one another welfare. As Bwana (Male) contended:

According to me, maintaining good relationships with one another while coexisting peacefully with all the parties involved contributes to world peace. Coexistence is the practice of peacefully coexisting with others while acknowledging that the mining operations benefit the entire community.

This, however, would be utopian because there is sometimes disagreement over the advantages of mining, which might cause conflicts. It is clear from comments provided by a large number of participants that there were disagreements between community members when it came to how to manage and distribute rewards from mining activities. The peaceful coexistence that the community desires is threatened by the differences. While tolerance is not the same as universal agreement on issues, it does show that, despite differences in personality, community members develop "frenemy" (love-hate) relationships in order to allow their communities to benefit from profits that accrue from extractive mining operations. For example, they may have to attend community sensitization meetings organized by the Base Titanium, despite the fact that they might not like one another. Even though people may hold diverse worldviews, the community is united by the need for subsistence generated from joint mining activities.

According to the participants, peace is characterized by compassion and lack of fear. They therefore saw empathy in peaceful coexistence. Empathy highlights the possibility of rivalry among community members for access to or utilization of the benefits resulting from mining activities. However, there were differences in opinions on how the participants viewed the mining activities on the ground in line with 'Positive Peace'. On the other hand, participants who support the mining activities argued that:

The mining activities have made us live in harmony because we have been able to improve our living standards. In our community, we are able to meet and share some common challenges that are facing us. We are glad that through the benefits from the mining company our children (students) being sponsored for further studies in our local schools and universities. In addition, the participants argued that the establishment of Base Titanium has led to the creation of jobs for local communities such being drivers and technicians in various sections at the mining complex (FGD).

On the other hand, some participants felt that mining activities have brought no change in the community:

Some participants believed that years after the Base was established, and activities began, there had not been much of a change in the employment options available to the local communities. They had strong opinion that well-paying job opportunities have been taken by foreigners while the local community members get employed in low paying jobs such as cleaners and security guards (FGD).

In the same vein a local senior land activist: Jamal (male) angrily alleged:

The local community was forcefully relocated from the land and there was poor compensation for the land lost. The community was never given clarification on the budget for compensation as well as on the clear mechanisms of sharing benefits between the BTL and the local community.

This demonstrated that interviewees' opinions on the reciprocal balancing of interests and comprehension of shared needs. Abdullah, a young man, emphasized during the interview:

Living in harmony means not having to worry about missing out on or facing discrimination from benefiting from mining activities such jobs opportunities at Base Titanium.

Mwanamkuu, a woman leader, weight in and agreed with this:

Ever since Base Titanium moved into Kwale County, the local men, women, and young people had been given the option of permanent, temporary, or other types of employment. Therefore, raising the residents' income and, consequently, improving their quality of living.

Community Partnership Around Mining Activities

The participants believed that working together helped the community members become more successful at reaching compromises. Participants in the interviews revealed that the Base Titanium Company's ideas and services improved relationships between its operations and community. Furthermore, interviewees emphasized how crucial it is to support one another in order to profit from Kwale County's mining operations.

Female opinion leader Aisha emphatically suggested:

If my neighbor works at Base Titanium and is occupied with work, I feel obligated to assist him or her with household duties. The neighbor can reciprocate by coming over if I ever need food or am ill, demonstrating that we are neighbors who care about one another.

In addition, Noor (male) said:

Community members have organized themselves on how to benefit from the mining activity services. For example, each household is given one slot to identify the needy students who should be supported for education bursaries. This makes it possible for fair distribution of bursaries from Base Titanium. This ensures that all the needy children can attend school and Universities. Some of the students who have benefited from the education bursaries are now employed at Base Titanium complex.

The research results reveal how community members view the advantages of cooperation and reciprocity; as a result, they base their relationships on the understanding that one can only live comfortably with the help of others, and that in turn, others should do the same for them. Peace has beneficial side effects, and if people in the community return the favor, it can continue to grow and possibly even turn into a social norm.

Some participants believe that sharing intangible resources is a necessary aspect of peace. For example, Fatuma, a woman of middle age, said:

I might provide my other community members especially woman advice and information, such as investing in small business from salaries they receive from Base Titanium mining company. I could have given them a thought (idea) that would have changed their life in this way.

Comparably, Mwinyi (male and village elder) also said:

We achieve peace when we share ideas, not just those related to the positive effects of mining on our community, but also more general ones, and offer one another advice. I can help a neighbor who is upset

by anything and change their point of view. Now day's life has many challenges that are affecting women, men, young and the old alike.

The narratives captured above demonstrate how community members gain by sharing with their fellow villagers by contributing to and sharing new ideas. This promotes communal growth on a whole. This is reminiscent of Galtung's theories about fostering fair development in order to bring about enduring peace. This concept of peace encourages cooperation, constructive living, and peaceful interactions among neighbors. Through cooperation and a focus on constructive social responsibilities, these peace dividends might be extended to a wider population. This "maximalist" paradise, according to Barnett (2008), is not always attainable since social structures result in exclusion of some people and competition for jobs and other services. There could be competition for access as well as to benefit from mining activities.

Conflict Resolution

Interviewees claimed that there was animosity amongst those working or benefiting and those not working or benefiting from base titanium mining activities. This sometimes led to the occasional formation of rivalry groups in the community. Since members of various political groups had opposing sides and backed fellow members, the majority of these splits took the shape of political conflicts. From the interviews it reported that members occasionally differed over how to share and distribute profits that accrue from Base Titanium mining activities. For example, on how many educational bursaries to be award per Sub County. Nasra, a single mother to two school-age children, bitterly claimed:

I have been applying for education bursaries for my children for the past four terms, but I have not received any assistance or reply. I don't know the reason why. I feel I am discriminated against because I am divorced.

There could be a misunderstanding in education bursaries meetings and community members hurl harsh and obscene or harsh words to each other. Although no major conflict related or directed to Base Titanium has been reported. However, sometimes community members express their frustrations and grievances through demonstrations. For instance, a local civil society office noted that:

There is ongoing agitations and tensions between the local communities and BTL over sharing of benefits. Most of these tensions take political dimensions during election periods. We have had some demonstrations and confrontations directed to the company (BTL) but they die off quickly.

Conflict resolution on a local level has become more necessary as a result of the reported conflicts. Participants felt that it is necessary to resolve disputes on a broad scale when they include mining activities, which they frequently do. According to Lederach (2015), "conflict within the community is endemic." Participant narratives supported this viewpoint. The potential to "transform relations from a negative state and channel them towards positive perceptions of every member of the community towards each other" (Lederach, 2015) is what matters most, though. In order to promote peace, citizens' rights to take part in social processes and make choices that impact their own lives should be upheld. Woman leader) said:

If some community members feel that they are being unfairly discriminated benefits from mining activities. There is a need to sit down and converse with Base Titanium company community liaison officers without recourse to violence.

Hamza, a village elder, emphasized that conflict resolution occasionally involves the majority of the village's members:

When there are conflicts over benefits from the mining activities, we all sit down. We visit the village chairman and tell him the incident. The Chairman then declares a meeting to be held under Nyumba Kumi Initiative. As a village assembly, we discuss the issue at hand collectively. Then, we collectively decide who is in violation of our laws. The village assembly has the authority to warn those who have broken the law to coexist with others. After that, we shake hands and proclaim the issue resolved.

Discussions

The findings of this article demonstrate how the interviewees viewed peace as harmony, even though they were aware that conflicts existed in the midst of community in the context of study. The findings provide credence to the notion that peace can be achieved via collaboration, reciprocity, and involvement in the extractive mining industry (Hansen, 2016 Agrawal, 2001, 1999). Similarly, Shoko and Naidu's (2020) research and Firchow and Mac Ginty's (2017) comparative study on local-level peace, in rural Zimbabwe and in Botswana and Norway respectively, revealed one of the repeated peace was community interdependence. However, the participants in both studies express a different interdependence and or cooperation than the current study. For instance, interviewees in the current study wanted to profit from extractive mining activities, whereas those in Firchow and Mac Ginty's study wanted collaboration to prevent physical harm. Moreover, Shoko and Naidu's (2020), study were both carried out in rural areas in Kwale County of Kenya and Rural areas in Zimbabwe, nevertheless this study has been conducted in the context of extractive mining sector while Shoko and Naidu's (2020), study focused on water governance.

The participants' perception that peace entails reciprocity through sharing and giving is also demonstrated by this study. These results are consistent with several recommendations made by Alker et al. (1977), according to which resources may be shared cooperatively provided an individual's equality ideals align with those of others. This supports the idea that harmonious relationships can be fostered if a community member is willing to make sacrifices for others rather than normalizing prejudice and harm to them.

The results show that there are common disputes in the study area, but they also show that the local communities can work together to resolve these conflicts resulting from mining operations. The results support recommendations that intentional efforts be made to address frequent disputes using peaceful means that address emerging problems and foster mutual respect among community members (Botes, 2003; van Tongeren, 2011). These findings are consistent with Richmond's (2013) research showing that local communities can stabilize and preserve peace in their neighborhoods with little help from "outsiders." Although these findings are generally consistent with the viewpoints of van Tongeren (2011) and Botes (2003), it runs counter to Hansen's (2016) assertion that settling conflicts is not always achievable.

Conclusion

The aim of the study was to explore the relationship between current mining sector policies and positive peace through a case study of the Base Titanium Limited Company, Kwale County in Kenya. In doing so this study has illustrated: the perceptions in which community members see peace as a state in which people live in harmony while being compelled to work together in order to profit from extractive mining activities.

The second finding is that by promoting the exchange of products and ideas, cooperative activity strengthens relationships. People in the community want to use their local assemblies to resolve issues collectively, even though they are common. Besides the research as affirmed the findings of previous scholars (see for example, Alker et al., 1977; Richmond, 2013). These findings have important ramifications for how peace is conceptualized, particularly in light of the insights into rural communities' perceptions of peace or its risks. Local communities are able to share ideas as well as participate, collaborate and benefit from extractive mining activities. This could ultimately promote peaceful coexistence between extractive mining companies and the local communities. Overall, the study's sample consisted of data from a single case study. The findings may be more broadly applicable with a larger sample size.

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