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**EFFECTS OF CORRUPTION IN GOLD AND
DIAMOND RESOURCES ON RESIDENTS OF
GOLA KONNEH DISTRICT, LIBERIA.**

A thesis submitted to the University of Rwanda in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Award of Master degree of Arts in Peace Studies and Conflict Transformation.

By

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Musanze, June 2019

DECLARATION

I Kendrick Teeky Doe, hereby declare that this research project entitled **“Effects of corruption in Gold and Diamond Resources on Residents of Gola Konneh District, Liberia.”** Is my original researched work and have never been submitted for any academic award in any University or institution of higher learning as Master, or Bachelor degree. However, where works of others have been used, due to acknowledgement, they have been indicated in the bibliography.

Signature _____

Kendricks Teeky Doe

Date: _____

DEDICATION

To Almighty God whose love and cherish is incomparable, who inspired knowledge and intelligence in me to go through this study; I dedicate this work to him.

I also dedicate this work to the Inspector General of the Liberia National Police.

To my beloved family.

The staff and member of the University of Rwanda

To the staff and member of the National Police College (NPC)

To my class mates.

To my supervisor.

I dedicate this work.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ASM:	Artisanal and Small – Scale Mining
BMMC:	Bea Mountain Mining Company
CICO:	Chinese Infrastructures Company
CDA:	Community Development Plan
CRIRSCO:	Committee for Mineral Reserves International Reporting Standards.
CSR:	Corporate Social Responsibility
EIA:	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIS:	Environmental Impact Statement
FGD:	Focus Group Discussion
GNI:	Gross National Income
GOL:	Government of Liberia
IBA:	Impact Benefit Agreement
IMF:	International Monetary Fund
LACC:	Liberia Anti Corruption Commission

LDCs:	Less Developed Countries
LEITI:	Liberia Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative
MDA:	Mining Development Agreement
PMLs:	Primary Mining Licenses
RAP:	Resettlement Action Plan
SBML:	Sable Mining Limited

ABSTRACT.

This study assessed the effects of corruption in Gold and Diamond resources on residents of Gola Konneh District, Liberia. This had created debate leading to conflict in Gola Konneh District, Grand Cape Mount County- Liberia. This study identified the effects of corruption on gold and diamond resources distribution in Gola Konneh District.

The general objective of the study was to assess the effects of corruption on the distribution of gold and diamond resources on the residents of Gola Konneh District, Grand Cape Mount County – Liberia.

The study objectives were achieved using the following research questions: What are the effects of corruption on the distribution of gold and diamond resources on the residents of Gola Konneh District Grand Cape Mount County – Liberia? What was the role of Liberia Anti Corruption Commission in the fight against corruption on the distribution of gold and diamond resources on residents of Gola Konneh District Grand Cape Mount County – Liberia?

The study used the **Corporate Social Responsibility Theory** which links both variables in the study.

The study used the qualitative research design, to collect data from the field. The qualitative techniques such as documents, observations, interviews, and focus group discussions were used to collect data from the field.

The field findings suggest that income generated from the mining sector is not benefitting the people of the district as the result of corruption, which exacerbating conflict in the district.

It is recommended that institutions that are responsible for issues of mineral resources and corruption adequately address mining policies, and fully implement those regulatory frame works, that mineral resources will have positive effects on the district (Gola Konneh).

CHAPTER ONE: GENERAL INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

This study was about the effects of corruption in gold and diamond resources on residents of Gola Konneh District, Liberia. The main objectives of the study were to assess the effects of corruption on the distribution of gold and diamond resources on the residents of Gola Konneh District-Grand Cape Mount County-Liberia.

To also assessed the role of Liberia Anti Corruption Commission in the fight against corruption on the distribution of gold and diamond resources in Gola Konneh District-Grand Cape Mount County-Liberia.

This chapter discussed the background of the study which provided the historical context of the study; give the statement of the problem, the purpose of the study, research objectives, research questions, significance of the study, scope and delimitation of the study.

1.0 Background of the Study

“Corruption is more likely to undermine the long-term economic performance of a country and generate severe consequences for future generations’ well-being if it remains mainly in sectors that are the economic engines or involve some core resources of the country and infrastructure. Corruption, an “economic and political evil,” increases transaction costs, distorts allocation of resources, weakens private investment, and undermines political trust everywhere in the world. To control corruption effectively, it is important to understand the sources of corruption” (Zhu & Wu, 2013:1).

“The world’s population annually consumes about 32 billion tones of mineral resources valued at about \$1,123 billion. All elements that comprise these economic deposits are present in the earth’s crust, most of them in the range of parts per million, some even in percent range. Yet, to produce an element from the earth’s crust economically, a mineral deposit must have undergone natural enrichment process” (Wagner & Wellmer, 2008: 250).

“A mineral deposit is a body, from which by size and concentration a commodity can be mined. Economically it consists of reserves and is largely defined by its grade and its tonnage. Enrichment and concentration processes are greatly influenced by geology. Each element and each commodity has a specific geologic association. This leads to a very uneven distribution of mineral deposits around the world” (Wagner & Wellmer, 2008:250).

“History tells us that natural and mineral resources abundance is not a requirement for economic prosperity. Switzerland is one of the wealthiest countries in the world today, but its path to economic prosperity depended on the financial and manufacturing sectors, not extraction of mineral and natural resources. More recently, Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan developed despite a relative scarcity of mineral and natural resources. Nor does mineral and natural resources abundance guarantee economic prosperity. South Africa and Venezuela possess abundant mineral and natural resources but neither enjoys a high standard of living, as they are plagued by corruption, civil unrest and income inequality. These examples suggest that mineral and natural resources have a negative influence on economic development” (Pendergast., Clarke & Kooten, 2008:1).

“Since reformists within the Chinese Communist Party initiated a program of economic reforms in December 1978, China has been the world’s fastest-growing major economy with consistent growth rates of around 10% over the past thirty years. China is also the largest exporter and second largest importer of goods in the world. At the same time the production of natural and mineral resources has increased sharply.

These natural and mineral resources are not evenly distributed over China: the coal mines are primarily located in eight provinces, all in the North-East and North, while most natural gas reserves can be found in the Mid-West, especially in Sichuan province which accounts for almost 30% of the nation’s production of natural gas. Regions with a high production of natural and mineral resources have generally developed slower than low-producing regions, because of corruptions, a phenomenon which resembles the situation where resource-rich countries perform worse than resource-scarce countries, the so-called ‘curse of resources’ (Ji., Magnus & Wang, 2014: 1-2).

“Solid mineral deposits of economic significance that include gold, iron ore, cassiterite, columbite, wolframite, pyrochlore, monazite, marble, coal, limestone, clays, barites, lead-zinc, etc, occur in the different geologic segments of Nigeria and indeed each of the 36 federating states and the Federal Capital Territory has a fair share of the solid mineral inventory of the nation.

Oil and gas on the other hand occur prolifically in the Niger Delta Basin with opportunities to add to the national reserve asset existing in the other sedimentary basins, namely the Anambra Basin, the Benue Trough, the Chad Basin, the Sokoto Basin, the Bida Basin and the Dahomey Basin. Despite such a huge mineral resources endowment, it is estimated that about 70% of the nation’s population live below the poverty line, defined as living on less than one dollar per day. Abject poverty, violent clashes, kidnapping, extortion, etc, characterize the oil producing communities in the Niger Delta region.

The existing socio-political bureaucratic arrangement gives the political elites, some cartel managers and probably some terrorism sponsors, the access to manipulate the institutions arising as a result of endemic corruption, all of which aggregate to becloud the efficacy of government policies aimed at tackling the mineral “resource curse”. The concept of the “resource curse,” which emerged in the late 1980s alleged that mineral resource abundance leads to a host of negative economic, political, and social outcomes” (Obaje, 2009:3-4).

“Gold and diamond mining in Liberia was carried out largely by alluvial mining of small-scale operations, with estimates of over 100,000 artisanal miners in Liberia. But nearly 14 years of war (1989–2003) destroyed much of the country’s productive infrastructure and brought mining to a virtual halt. Liberia is estimated to hold reserves ranging from between two to five billion metric tons of iron ore and three million ounces of gold” (Boakye, Dessus, Foday&Oppong, 2012:1).

“The major mineral commodities produced in Liberia are iron ore, gold, and diamond. Mining concessions cover an operational area of 113,256 ha” (Ministry of Finance, 2013:1).

“Besides the production of iron ore, gold, and diamond, Liberia remains largely unexplored and has shown other minerals such as beryl, tin, columbite-tantalite, phosphates, zinc, copper, lead, rare earth minerals, nickel, molybdenum, beach sand (zircon, rutile, ilmenite, and monazite), bauxite, kyanite, chromite, uranium, and silica sands. All are characteristically associated with Precambrian/Proterozoic rocks which underlie most of the country” (Boakye et al, 2012:1-2).

“Since the cessation of hostilities, revival of the mining industry has been an explicit government objective in its efforts to reconstruct the country and to underpin growth by leveraging Liberia’s rich mineral resources to the extent of attracting massive foreign investment of USD 7.6 billion and creating about 10,000 jobs” (LEITI, 2016; Ministry of Finance, 2013:2).

Investments comprise, among others, rehabilitation of old and installation of new mining plants, construction of railways, roads, and bridges. As a result, the Government of Liberia has enacted (2003-2006) a legal framework providing for the sustainable use and conservation of mineral resources. However, the adoption of the environmental management tools such as Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and the harnessing of best practices valorizing local knowledge are still lacking. Thus, the pressure on the environment is still heavy (LEITI, 2016).

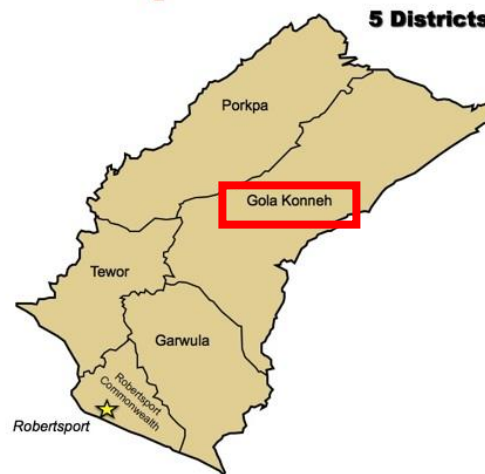
“Statistically, government revenues by sector contribution indicate that the mining sector contributed to 53% (USD 53.38 million) of the total revenues during the FY14/15 and generating about 10,000 jobs. In the same year, the sector faced a drop in demand, production level, investment, and loss of employment as a result of the twin shock-Ebola virus disease and the price of iron ore. The value of the sector production in 2014 was USD 78.85 million (58.3%)” (Wilson, Wang, Kabenge & Qi, 2017:2).

Officials of the government of Liberia and Bea Mountain Mining Company signed an agreement on September 18, 2013, which involves the mining of Diamonds and Gold within Gola Konneh District – Grand Cape Mount County Liberia.

“The overall goals are expressed in terms of broad-based development, growth and poverty reduction, significant improvement in the governance culture of the country. Improvement in social and physical infrastructure, positive impacts on the environment and local communities; the improvement in human infrastructure (skills formation & knowledge creation) and technology transfer and development” (Mineral Policy of Liberia, 2010: 14).

Therefore, this study focused on whether these goals have been achieved or not as a result of corruption.

Grand Cape Mount County



1.2 Statement of the Problem

Benefits from Mineral resources are supposed to be equally distributed within population, in order to harmonize social development (Building Schools, Health Centers, and employments) for social stability (Liberia-Poverty Reduction Strategy, 2011). Since corruption’s roots are grounded in a country’s economic, political, legal, social and cultural structure, it threatens security, damages trust and public confidence in systems which affect people’s daily lives (Ata &Arvas, 2011).

With the inception of the government of Liberia under former President, Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the government established many anti graft institutions which indicated a positive sign of the government readiness to fight corruption. However, in spite of these

positive developments, corruption remains endemic and permeates most sectors of the society (Chêne, 2012). Low public sector salaries, lack of training and capacity, inefficient and cumbersome regulations create both incentives and opportunities for corruption across the public sector.

In addition, Liberia is endowed with vast mineral wealth, some of it possibly untapped, including iron ore, timber, diamonds, gold and rubber, and in spite of the progress made in this area too, mineral resource management continues to face major corruption and governance challenges (Chêne, 2012).

Bad governance tinged with lack of transparency and accountability has characterized exploitation of Liberia's mineral resources. For decades Liberia made a fetish of the secrecy of contracts, and allowed companies and the ruling elites to enjoy much of the proceeds derived from mineral resources (Nah, 2013).

It has been reported that Mining communities remained impoverished while urban elites enjoyed. In mining areas in Liberia such as the cities of Sanniquellie, Tubmanburg, Nimba and Bomi, including Grand Cape Mount respectively are symbolic of how counties are endowed with mineral and natural resources, yet underdeveloped (Nah, 2013).

Unfortunately, institutionalizing transparency and accountability faces numerous challenges. The panorama of greed and corruption that has engulfed mineral resource exploitation in Liberia remains a major challenge (Nah, 2013). Given the paucity of hard evidence because deals are closed under the cloak of darkness, some officials are still consumed with efforts to derail good governance in the mineral and natural resources sectors. Nepotism, patronage and outright theft of public funds allocated to communities persist (Nah, 2013).

In 2016, a grand jury in Liberia indicted top government officials on charges of bribery for conspiring to amend key laws to enable a London-listed company, Sable Mining SBML, to get rights to one of the Liberia's richest iron ore deposits the Wologzi Mountain Range in Lofa County Liberia.

Documents leaked to Global Witness, the international civil society organization that made the exposé, allege that over US\$950,000 was used to pay off top government officials and their relatives (Caripis, 2017).

These and many other times motivated the researcher to evaluate the effects of corruption in gold and diamond resources on residents of Gola Konneh District, Liberia, covering the period of 2013 to 2018.

1.3. Objectives

The general objective of the study was to assess the effects of corruption on the distribution of gold and diamond resources on the residents of Gola Konneh District, Grand Cape Mount County-Liberia and the specific objectives were followed below:

1. To assess the effects of corruption in gold and diamond resources on the residents of Gola Konneh District-Grand Cape mount County-Liberia.
2. To assess the role of Liberia Anti Corruption Commission in the fight against corruption on distribution of gold and diamond resources in Gola Konneh District-Grand Cape Mount County-Liberia.

1.4. Research Questions

The general research question was to assess the effects of corruption on the distribution of gold and diamond resources on the residents of Gola Konneh District, Grand Cape Mount County and the specific questions were followed below:

1. What are the effects of corruption on the distribution of gold and diamond resources on the residents of Gola Konneh District-Grand Cape Mount County-Liberia?

2. What was the role of Liberia Anti Corruption Commission in the fight against corruption on the distribution of gold and diamond resources in Gola Konneh District-Grand Cape Mount County-Liberia?

1.5 Significance of the Study

The significance of the study was to add knowledge on the existing information or facts about the harmfulness of corruption on Mineral Resources distribution in Gola Konneh District- Liberia. Where possible, the research findings may be use by other researchers on the same matter. The research findings can also be use as reference material by policy makers in Liberia.

1.6 Scope and Delimitation of the Study

The effects of Corruption in gold and diamond Resources, is a significant topic in the Social- Economy system of Liberia. However, due to the important nature of the study and time constraint for the presentation of the study, the researcher will narrow the focus of the study on Gola Konneh District, Grand Cape Mount County, Liberia.

Due to the political nature of the study and the fear of reprisal from some of the participants will be selected for the research, the researcher anticipates that there might be some delay in gathering the full data for the study on time.

1.7 Structure of the Study

The study was organized into five chapters. Chapter one of the study comprised of the background of the study which provided the historical context of the study, give the statement of the problem, the purpose of the study, research objectives, research questions, significance of the study, scope and delimitation of the study and the structure of the study.

Chapter two provided the Review of related literatures, conceptual definitions, as well as theory of the study.

Chapter three discussed the research design and research method, whereas chapter four analyzes the data collections and procedures. And chapter five climax with the conclusion and recommendations.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0. Introduction

This chapter is about the literature review, where the researcher makes reference, to works done by other researchers on the same topics.

In this regard, the literature review is presenting and defining key concepts related to the topic under research, reviewed other literatures, and the theoretical framework that guides this research as well as explaining the researcher's stand in relation to those concepts. All definitions and explanations in this chapter have been extracted from various sources being writers' books, journals, and magazines.

Therefore, some contexts in the literature reviews and theories might be similar to the case study of this research and this gives orientation to the above mentioned questions and objectives.

2.1. Definitions of key concepts

This Section deals with the definitions of concepts such as: Corruption, Mineral Resources, Mineral Depletion, Resource Availability, Mineral Reserve, Miners, and Conflict.

2.1.1. Corruptions

“International organizations such as the IMF treat corruption as a major hindrance to economic development. Corrupt deals can create unenforceable contracts that lead to opportunism, especially by the bribe-taking counterparty” (Meon&Weill, 2008:5 & 10).

Corruption At the same time, enhanced power by the elite, which could result in a more limited provision of public goods that boost productivity and growth, and which disproportionately benefit the poor (Bourguignon & Dessus 2009).

2.1.2. Mineral Resources

“Mineral resources are a concentration or occurrence of solid material of economic interest in or on the Earth's crust in such form, grade or quality, and quantity that there are

reasonable prospects for eventual economic extraction. The location, quantity, grade or quality, continuity, and other geological characteristics of a mineral resource are known, estimated, or interpreted from specific geological evidence and knowledge, including sampling” Committee for Mineral Reserves International Reporting Standards (CRIRSCO. 2013) as cited in (Drielsma et al, 2015:89).

2.1.3. Resource Depletion

“Resource depletion is the process of physically reducing the global amount of a specific resource. It refers to the reduction of geological/natural stocks over time—not of an individual mine or ore body. Resource depletion can also be referred to the end point of the process (i.e., complete exhaustion of the Nation resource)” Committee for Mineral Reserves International Reporting Standards (CRIRSCO. 2013) as cited in (Drielsma et al, 2015:90).

2.1.4. Resource Availability

“Resource availability is an economic term that refers to the accessibility, presence, or readiness of a resource for human use” (Drielsma et al, 2015:90) adapted from (Merriam-Webster Dictionary, 2015).

2.1.5. Mineral Reserve

“Mineral reserve is the economically mineable part of a measured and/or indicated mineral resource. It includes diluting materials and allowances for losses, which may occur when the material is mined or extracted and is defined by studies at pre-feasibility or feasibility level as appropriate that include application of modifying factors.

The process of converting resources into reserves, essentially, this process requires a positive evaluation of many modifying factors, including mining, metallurgical, economic, marketing, legal, environmental, infrastructure, social, and governmental considerations.” Committee for Mineral Reserves International Reporting Standards (CRIRSCO. 2013) as cited in (Drielsma et al, 2015:90).

2.1.6. Miners

“Miners are people who are engaged in the active and enduring search for and extraction of minerals” (Bryceson&Jønsson, 2010: 3).

2.1.7 Conflict

“Conflict is a struggle over values and claims to scarce status, power and resources. The efforts to attain desired objectives become more intense in the absence of agreed rules prescribing their equitable allocation. People’s expectations alter in response to a shift in their social and economic environment” Boulding (1973) as cited in (Jeong, 2008:5).

“If governing norms are too rigid to be adjusted to new demands and expectations, such inflexibility breeds resentment utilized for the mobilization of groups that are discontent with the status quo.

In conflict situations, the dynamics of actions and counteractions inevitably engage attempts to control the other’s behavior, often with the intent to injure or destroy. In addition, violence may follow an unconstrained attempt to dominate in a fight over power, prestige, and material interests.

The essential nature of a conflict situation is easily understood in terms of the difficulties involved in meeting everyone’s aspirations simultaneously “Mack &Synder (1957) as cited in (Jeong, 2008:5).

“Goals and activities become incompatible when one’s own interests are threatened by the actions of another”Rubin., Pruitt & Kim (1994) as cited in (Jeong, 2008:5).

2.2.1. Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA)

“ The extent to which impact and benefit agreements (IBAs), agreements between indigenous communities and mining companies that seek to extract resources from their traditional territories— relate to broader processes of neoliberalization in Northern Canada. IBAs might relate to processes of neoliberalization, including their role in removing barriers to accumulation of capital, privatizing the federal duty to consult and to accommodate indigenous peoples in regard to development on their lands, and naturalizing market-based solutions to social suffering.

IBAs are a relatively new component of the northern resource governance regime, having emerged only in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Since then, IBAs have become a standard component of mineral development in the Canadian North; they are a de facto requirement for corporations interested in developing mines within the traditional territories of northern indigenous groups and have been negotiated in relation to every major mine proposed or developed since the late 1990s. For indigenous communities, IBAs typically include provisions for employment quotas, skills training and other educational benefits, contracting and joint venture opportunities, financial compensation, environmental mitigation-related measures, and even culture-related benefits.

Indeed, what distinguishes IBAs from other components of resource governance in the North (such as mining codes, Crown land regulations, environmental impact assessment processes, comprehensive land claim agreements, various forms of licensing, and so on) is their bilateral and private nature: they are typically signed between an industrial proponent and an indigenous government, with no direct involvement by federal or territorial government representatives or agencies, and no public policy framework guiding their negotiation, terms of reference, or implementation”(Cameron & Levitan, 2014: 259-260).

2.2.2. Resource Dependent

“Resource dependence can create grievances among the local population because of the unequal distribution of wealth; income instability owing to price shocks; or negative externalities during extraction such as land expropriation and environmental hazards, which

in turn lead to social conflict and civil war. Mineral and natural resources dependence can lead to bad governance and weak political institutions based on patronage rather than on electoral competition, scrutiny and civil rights. Feeding on resource rents, resource-dependent countries have less need to build socially intrusive and elaborate bureaucracies to raise revenue, and therefore have less capacity to resolve social conflicts. These countries also tend to suffer poor state–society relations.

As the government relies on resource rents rather than taxes from citizens, citizens have less bargaining power over the government, a weaker incentive to monitor government behaviour, and less information about government activity. Thus, the government may have little compulsion to respond to the demands of its citizens. Although certain causal mechanisms have been identified in some empirical cases, they are conditional upon many other economic, social and political factors. So, does the resource dependence exist in China” (Zhan, 2013:84-85).

2.2.3Resource Curse

“The resource curse is the idea that mineral and fuel abundance generates negative developmental outcomes in less developed countries. In particular, it examines the idea that mineral and fuel abundance generates growth-restricting forms of state intervention, extraordinarily large degrees of rent seeking, and corruption, which are generally argued to be negative in terms of the developmental outcomes they generate.

Despite the historically positive association of natural and mineral resources abundance and industrial growth in many now-advanced countries, the literature covering less developed countries (LDCs) since the 1950s has largely drawn the opposite conclusion. Natural and mineral resources, for most poor countries, are deemed to be more of a "curse" than a "blessing.

General thrust of the resource curse arguments are that mineral and natural resources abundance leads to poor economic performance and growth collapses, high levels of corruption and poor governance, and greater political violence”(John, 2011: 167-168).

“Oil, minerals, and agricultural resources can bring great riches to those who possess them. Yet countries that are abundantly endowed with such mineral and natural resources often encounter pitfalls that interfere with the expected superior economic performance. Possibly undesirable side effects include reallocation of production away from the manufacturing sector. The crowding out of manufacturing comes not just via expansion of the natural resource sector itself, but also via expansion of the government and non traded goods sectors.

The artificial inflation of these sectors in turn comes via relative prices (real appreciation of the currency) or government spending, or both. One interpretation is that this phenomenon is cyclical, with the effects reversed when commodity boom turns to commodity bust. Another interpretation is that it can be permanent: countries endowed with mineral and natural resources more often develop social structures in which autocratic or corrupt political elites finance themselves through physical control of these mineral natural resources.

Meanwhile those governments that lack these endowments have no choice but to develop decentralized, democratic and diversified economies with market incentives that are more conducive to the development of manufacturing. Examples of the Natural Resource Curse are plain to see. Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and Hong Kong are rocky islands (or peninsulas) that were endowed with very little in the way of exportable natural resources. Nevertheless, they achieved western level standards of living. Many countries in Africa, the Middle East and Latin America are endowed with oil, minerals, or other natural resources, and yet have experienced much less satisfactory economic performance.

Conspicuously high in growth and low in mineral and natural resources are China, Korea, Japan and some other Asian countries. Conspicuously high in mineral and natural resources and low in growth are Gabon, Liberia, Nigeria, D.R. Congo, Central African Republic, Venezuela and Zambia. The overall relationship on average is slightly negative. The negative correlation is not very strong, masking almost as many resource successes as failures” (Frankel, 2012:2).

2.2.4. Resource Rent

“For many developing countries and most importantly for Sub-Saharan African countries, resource rents constitute a significant source of income. According to the World Bank (2010), resource rents represented on average 11% of Gross National Income (GNI) in 2006. For countries such as the Republic of Congo and Equatorial Guinea, resource rents represented approximately 80% of GNI that year.

Given the economic significance of resource rents and the key role governments play in administering those rents, the consequences of higher resource rents on the level of corruptions are issues of interest in the governance of Sub-Saharan African countries. The mechanisms through which resource rents affect corruption in Sub-Saharan countries are, thus, likely to differ depending on their political systems.

The consequences of the interaction between resource rents and political systems for corruption are internal conflict. Through its emphasis on the interplay between rents and politics” (Arezki&Gylfason, 2013: 553).

Mineral resources rent have become the main source of income for an ever increasing number of developing countries in the past four decades; this has had a tremendous impact on the development of political, economic and social institutions inside these countries (Caselli & Micheals, 2009).

Paradoxically, in many cases this wealth of mineral resources has had an adverse impact on the whole development process in these economies, mineral resources abundance has a negative impact on corruption control (Frankel, 2010).

At the same time, enhanced power by the elite could result in a more limited provision of public goods that boost productivity and growth, and which disproportionately benefit the poor (Bourguignon & Dessus, 2009).

2.2.5 Artisanal Mining

“A growing number of governments and donors are promoting the formalization of artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM). They believe that doing so puts them in a better position to govern the sector, and manage the social and environmental impacts of its activities. Mainstream formalization processes are based on the assumption that clear property rights enable the recipients of these rights to capitalize their possessions. Because of reciprocal obligations, the argument follows that formalized ASM actors then better embrace the social and environmental norms regulating their activity, and promoting their economy” (M. Salo et al, 2016:1058).

“Artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) is an important source of employment and generates significant financial flows. Millions of ASM operators worldwide produce an estimated 400 t of gold annually, representing 17–20% of officially recorded production” Seccatore et al (2014) as cited in (M. Salo et al, 2016: 1058).

“The ASM sector is also commonly associated with high social and environmental costs, including precarious working and living conditions, poor health and safety records, child labor, sexual exploitation tax evasion, deforestation and pollution. These problems have fueled the criticism of ASM, and ultimately its portrayal as a threat to the environment, to local communities, and to vulnerable societies in general” (M. Salo et al, 2016: 1058).

“However, because of its undeniable importance as a source of employment and income, particularly for a large number of marginalized people, ASM has also been claimed to have potential to generate socially inclusive economic growth contributing to poverty reduction” Labonne (2014) as cited in ((M. Salo et al, 2016: 1058).

“In The process of deagrarianization, a number of African national economies have become increasingly reliant on mineral exports, and some of them have afforded small-scale miners Considerable space in prospecting and excavation. Hundreds of thousands of people across the age spectrum are now earning a livelihood in small-scale mining” (Bryceson & Jønsson, 2010: 379).

“Africa has a broad range of mineral-endowed countries, from South Africa where gold mining has been pursued for over a century, to countries like Tanzania, where gold mining as a small-scale mining activity has surged into a mass activity relatively recently through a series of gold strikes. Generally, at the outset of being attracted to gold mining, rural dwellers experiment, as they would in any other nonagrarian income-earning activity, but there are notable differences since gold mining is, first, perceived to have potentially far higher earnings”(Bryceson&Jønsson, 2010: 380).

In Tanzania, while precious mineral discoveries are often made by small-scale miners or local people, the restricted capacity of mining authorities to timely disseminates legislative information on how to acquire Primary Mining Licenses (PMLs) favors large-scale mining companies over small-scale miners. The former secure licenses in mineral-rich areas before the majority of small-scale miners know of the opportunity. Thus, in effect, Tanzanian mining legislation has legitimated foreign companies to acquire land previously worked informally by small-scale miners, making small-scale mining-based livelihoods uncertain relative to foreign mining interests in Tanzania (Fisher, 2007).

“Small-scale mining constitutes a major employer and livelihood support for families throughout Tanzania. The importance of the sector to local communities and the national economy is now officially acknowledged by the National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty, which states that “small-scale mining is increasingly becoming dynamic as it provides alternative economic opportunities to the rural communities” (Tanzania, 2005: 7).

2.2.6. Theory Related to the study: Corporate Social Responsibility Theory

This theory is relevant to the study in that it highlights, and provides understanding of the relationships between the variables in the study, as well as provided vivid explanations in relation to the research problem in context.

The theory is cognizant of the facts that government should play supervisory role and should well control organizations and management in their affairs, and that managements

and institutions must seek the interest of their stakeholders (Community), the theory also highlight the role of institutions such LACC in the fight against corruption thereby, been responsible to regulate every aspect of organization/ Institutions which signed agreements, and are accountable, transparent, and abide by the laws and guidelines.

“Corporate Social Responsibility provides leads to establish harmony between corporate authority and business responsibility. While conceptualising that a company is formed just to amass wealth is one reason, and just as deep thinking reveals other obligations that must be fulfilled, societies should benefit from value created within their environments.

The view that an enterprise function to make profit and produce goods for the market, and its operational presence affects host communities supports the claim that business must embrace the social responsibility and environmental accountability agenda to compensate host communities. Thus, the enterprise responsibility agenda recognises that a business classifies its participants and integrates their values, necessities, and ambitions in the policies, strategies of the organisation” (Kumaza., He &Tettyey, 2018:216).

“Corporate Social Responsibility” states that business establishment is granted by public authority to serve social interest and needs. It further states that social agreement is undergoing metamorphosis, and enterprises are expected to take charge of social responsibilities and to serve wide ranging human values. In its roles, business should contribute substantially to living standards improvement and satisfy public expectations” (Kumaza., He &Tettyey, 2018:217).

“Business desire is to act in an ethical manner and contributes its quota to society by improving the living standards of families and creates sustainable communities. Again, CSR is explained from the following angles: (a) considering and managing business impacts; (b) pursuing and creating opportunities, and (c) promoting an “enlightened self-interest” view and approach to normalise stakeholder interests and needs in corporate governance. Others have related CSR to ethical treatment of stakeholders since social obligations are a business core behavioural issue” (Kumaza., He &Tettyey, 2018:217).

“In earnest, blending social responsibility with sustainability issues, including the environment is good and commendable. It is recognised that corporate commitments in providing potable water, place of convenience, health centres and school building while keeping communities’ water bodies clean and improved air quality in themselves is sustainability.

Moreover, corporate responsibility or citizenship is basically concerned with business sustainable practices, regarding community and environmental resources utilisation to ensure safety and development for local communities” (Kumaza., He &Tettyey, 2018: 204 &205).

“Corporate responsibility is an activity which should be upheld to de-emphasize the construct’s long-standing view as business benevolence, making social undertakings and initiatives mythical for some unheedful corporations” (Kumaza, He &Tettyey, 2018:208).

“Effective resource management via corporate responsibilities should be pursued to generate wealth and to forestall declining biodiversity, ecological footprints, farmlands, forests, and crop production. Mineral and Natural resources judicious utilisation must remain a priority to sustain life and community growth. Thus, corporate responsibility is a means by which business negative consequences, emanating from its operations, can be reduced” (Kumaza., He &Tettyey, 2018:213).

“A thorough reexamination of economic management, governance systems, and institutional capital is needed to fashion out an appropriate regime for mining revenues utilisation (though scanty) that supports physical infrastructure development for economic progress.

The concept of using mining revenue for development is consistent with an emerging consensus that the discussion on resource wealth management be moved from need, careful and measured industrial policy to propositions for independent institutions and investment funds (Frezzolini, et al., 2001) In countries where good institutions and management exist, income from mineral wealth is judiciously utilised to substantially contribute to economic development.

Therefore, emphasizing resource abundance alone cannot bring about prosperity in mineral-rich countries but prudent management combined with environmentally sound production practices and methods, permitting infrastructure and downstream activities, technological know-how utilisation plus effective exploratory management systems are appropriate and enabling ways to incentivise capital formation via the extractive wealth.

It is, therefore, instructing to argue that CSR is an extension of sustainability since it seeks to enforce business sustainable practices which promote improved, friendly environmental operations”Frezzolini, et al (2001) as cited in (Kumaza., He &Tetty, 2018:214).

“The Economist Robert Repetto’s “Natural Capitalism” observes that when nation’s states deplete their mineral wealth, extinct the existing tree population, fish, and wildlife, and cause erosion of the soil and pollute springs and wells for mankind’s immediate gains, business should endeavor to adopt production methods that encourage sustainability of its operating environments” (Abuyuan, Hawken et al., 1999). As cited in (Kumaza., He &Tetty, 2018:215).

Indeed, business governance describes the contours of the supervisory board, the internal system of control, and management (Cadbury, 1992). Generally, enterprises governance system must provide the conduit through which stockholders’ interests are safeguarded and protected (Cadbury, 1999). It is also considered as the conveyer belt for transmitting quality management for profits for shareholders and that which facilitates monitoring efficiency and effectiveness (Yang, McDaniel et al., 2012).

Moreover, others defined the construct as regulating aspects of organisations which embody agreement, accountability, transparency, codes of conduct, laws, and guidelines (MacMillan, et al, 2004).

The failure of ethical responsibilities such as grounds not to enforce governmental legislation, and reduce profits of companies can impose other restraints on the free business operations.

Therefore, Friedman and Carroll are concerned with the same apprehension – that is, reduction in corporate profits. And the absence means of stricter regulations by governmental institutions to control business, social programmes as a result of corruptions

leave the company with no alternatives but the host communities suffer the consequences (Carroll & Friedman, 1991).

Summary of Chapter

The chapter discussed the definition of key concepts, literature review and theoretical framework. The first defines the key concepts and their meaning which are in line with the context of this research. The second part discussed the literature review, and the last evaluates theoretical framework and its application within the context of the research study.

The literature review indicated clearly those issues of corruptions that impede the successful distribution of mineral resources. It is essential, that in order to target corruption in mineral resources, a theoretical perspective is necessary to find out contextual factors which attributed to the problem with the view of finding possible solutions to the problem of corruption in mineral resources.

To conclude this section, the fight against corruption and to ensure resources are equally distributed is by implementing those policies that have been discussed with regards to the corporate social responsibility theory which is in line with this study.

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0. Introduction

This Chapter explains the research methodology used. It discusses the research design and approaches, characteristics of respondents, data collection methods, data analysis methods, quality assurance, challenges and mitigation strategies, critiques of sources and concludes by ethical considerations.

3.1. Research Design and Approaches

The qualitative research is primarily exploratory research. It is used to gain an understanding of underlying reasons, opinions, and motivations.

It provides insights into the problem or helps to develop ideas or hypotheses for potential quantitative research. Qualitative Research is also used to uncover trends in thought and opinions, and dive deeper into the problem (DeFranzo, 2011).

“It is of a great importance for a researcher to know the importance of what his/her research is about and knowing where he or she stands, ontologically and epistemologically speaking” (Jennifer, 2002: 24).

"Once you have formulated your research questions; your research is already set on certain tracks in relation to its design and strategy because you have started to position it ontologically and epistemologically. You are likely already to have begun thinking about what methods you might use to generate data to help you answer your research questions" (Jennifer, 2002:25).

With the above views mentioned, this study on the effects of corruption vis-à-vis in gold and diamond resources has been qualitative as far as what are considered as sources of data are concerned. Therefore, Population, Target population and Sampling was part of the design of this study.

3.1.1 Characteristics of Respondents

The interviewees about this study were composed of people from the following categories:

1. Respondents or inhabitants from Gola Konneh District. 50 including both males and females.
2. Management and staff of Bea Mountain Mining Company. Eight persons (Staff and Management) both males and females.
3. Top and local government officials. Five including both males and female.
4. Anti Graft Institution. 2 commissioners (All male)

3.1.2 Population

Was the total number of individuals the researcher was interested in collecting data. From the population, there were some who were specifically targeted by the same study from whom the sample is selected.

The term population refers to a group of people inhabiting a specified geographical location (Nworgu, 2006).

The population of the study consisted of 500 inhabitants (male and female) within Gola Konneh District. 15 staff including management of Bea Mountain mining Company (male and female), five local government authority, four senior government officials, two officials from Anti graft institution. Therefore, the targeted population of the study will be 526 persons.

3.1.3 Study Area

Grand Cape Mount is a County in the northwestern portion of the West Africa nation of Liberia. One of the 15 counties that constitute the first level administrative county in the nation, it has five districts. Robert sport serves as the capital with the area of the county measuring 5,162 square kilometers (1,993 sq mi). As of the 2008 Census, it had a population of 129,817, making it the eighth most populous county in Liberia.

Gola Konneh District is the biggest district in Grand Cape Mount County with a population of over thirty thousand inhabitants. The district is very rich in Gold and Diamond resources.

3.1.3.1 Sampling

The researcher used the purposive sampling technique to select the sample size for the study. Using this sampling modus operandi, the researcher intentionally or deliberately draws a sample from the population (Khan, 2014). The sample size of 65 will be selected purposively to represent the population of the study. However, results from such sampling technique cannot be generalized (Nworgu, 2006).

In this study the sampling is used to select representative cases of the population, but the purpose is not to generalizing the results, but just wanting to look at the research questions in some cases which the researcher assume represent the population.

It is in the above line of thinking that due to the nature of this study which is qualitative, it has used The Intensify Sampling Method where the researcher selects purposively the sample of individuals whom he judges to be thoughtful, informative and experienced with Bea Mountain Mining Company, Gola Konneh District, Government Officials and Liberia Anti Corruption Commission.

However, because this platform is also suspected and assumed to be wrongly perceived by some people, it has been included in the sample of those who are thought to have a wrong

perception towards mineral resources and corruption by Bea Mountain Mining Company and Gola Konneh District.

3.1.3.2 Data Collection Methods

This research required both primary and secondary data. Primary data is that data that is collected afresh and for the first time and thus, happening to be original while, secondary data is that one already collected by someone else. (Kothari, 1990).

Four methods were been found suitable for data collection process for this particular topic of "Effects of Corruption in gold and diamond resources on residents of Gola Konneh District, Liberia"; due to reasons that are explained in next paragraphs with a consideration of What, Why and How.

Those methods were Documentary to help the researcher answered most of the research questions, Observation to answer the research questions 1-2 and even other questions that arises during data collections processes, Interview which helped to answer all the questions, as well as Focus group Discussion.

3.1.3.3 Documentary

“Documentary is one of the data collection methods which involve conceptualising, using and assessing documents that are relevant to one’s research topic, and the data collected using this method is termed as secondary data. Therefore, documentary provides secondary data and these refer to as the data that a researcher uses which has already been produced by others” (Matthews & Ross, 2010:285).

In this case of the effects of corruption in gold and diamond resources, with a case study of Gola Konneh District; the documentary has been all those scholars’ books related to mineral resources and corruption, academic papers related to mineral resources and corruption, all Liberian Government’s Policies and other relevant papers generally related to home grown solutions in Liberia under which mineral resources and corruption falls in, but particularly those papers related specifically to mineral resources and corruption.

This method has been used simply because it is through this method where we got to know what other scholars, academicians, writers and Liberia Government policy makers say about the variables. Additionally, some data were gotten from these documents to compliment other primary data from the field.

During data collection, the documentary method was used first of all through identification of famous scholars who wrote about corruption and mineral resources. Secondly, identification of other additional sources related to mineral resources and corruption thirdly, reading of all these documents by noting down relevant points to help in the study.

3.1.3.4 Observations

“Observation is the most basic way to collect data where the researcher records what he or she observes. They go further saying that observation is watching things happen. Additionally, observation helps in capturing both verbal and non-verbal communication, surrounding atmosphere as well as the situation” (Matthews & Ross, 2010:2).

Therefore, the above cited definitions for observation as data collection method; make it advantageous in the case of exploring corruption vis-à-vis gold and diamond resources. This is because for example knowing what is taking place with Bea Mountain mining company, the Government of Liberia and Gola Konneh District, no one cannot get to know it unless he/she attends and observes. These observations were considered as the most important during data collection because they helped to visually experience and find out whether corruption in gold and diamond resources are discussed in gola konneh and how they are tackled during this platform’s sessions.

“To successfully collect the data using this method, all research questions were taken to the field and the researcher started watching and recording the findings. During this period, various techniques were also applied to ensure that the collected data is accurate. This was the case for instance of the technique of being a complete participant where the researcher becomes a complete member of the group of people being researched without them knowing” (Matthews & Ross, 2010:255).

3.1.4 Interviews

“This refers to as a data collection method when the interviewer directly communicates with the respondents in accordance with the prepared questions” (Mathews, 2007: 8).

“Interview is a particular type of conversation between two or more people where one asks questions and the other responds” (Matthews & Ross, 2010: 255).

In this study, the interview was useful because it helped in answering the 2 research questions where the researcher was looking for data from local participants, Bea Mountain Mining Company, Liberia Anti Corruption Commission and government officials responsible for mineral resources and corruption. Those questionnaires were used for many reasons, as they are explained in the next paragraph.

To clarify what is stated in the previous paragraph, the interview mainly targeted local people who are at the same time participants and beneficiaries of Bea mountain mining company and Gola Konneh District, these were of a big number (three persons from each Town, including one knowledgeable elder from another town) because they are the ones that know exactly what and how is going on, during discussions while trying to handle mineral resources and corruption in Gola Konneh District.

The interview was selected to be used simply because it was assumed on one hand that these local people could not know how to read and write and the policy makers and implementers (who are the government officials) on the other hand could not have time to sit and answer the questionnaire due to their busy work schedule. Therefore, interview was found to be helpful.

To successfully apply this method, there was a need first of all, for the researcher to create a rapport with a view to increasing the receptiveness of the respondents by making them believe that their opinions were very useful to the study and were going to be a pleasure

rather than an ordeal. Finally, this was again, when ethical considerations were explained to the interviewees.

3.1.5 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

“Focus group discussion (FGD) is a rapid assessment, semi structured data gathering method in which a purposively selected set of participants gather to discuss issues and concerns based on a list of key questions drawn by the researcher/facilitator” (Kumar, 1987: 1-2).

The FGD has become extremely popular because it provides a fast way to learn from the target audience. It is also a cost effective technique for eliciting views and opinions of the target group and it has been also used to obtain insights into target audience’s perceptions for certain practices (Debus 1988; US Department of Health and Human Services 1980).

In the case of the effects of corruption in gold and diamond resources on residents of Gola Konneh District, the FGD was composed of fifty persons from the targeted population, and ten persons were purposively selected from each category in Gola Konneh District, Bea Mountain Mining Company, three senior staff and five local staff, three local government Officials, two senior government officials and two commissioners of the Anti Graft Institution. The FGD has helped in comprehending and fine-tuning the data collected using the other three fore-mentioned techniques.

Before the FGD began, the necessary background information about participants were gathered, and this information was based on how knowledgeable of corruption in gold and diamond resources in Gola Konneh District the participants were, depending on the category he/she falls in.

One may think that the presence of the authorities together with local population selected in that FGDs brought intimidation, but the answer is "No" because the FGDs was convened and carried out in a form of a normal social discussion where every participants felt as if he/she was just sharing experience.

Those minor hindrances slightly observed were immediately handled using various researcher's tactics as they are explained below. The discussion started using the pre-set questions as appeared in the list of appendices and then, the following sequence of steps were also respected:

1. After a brief introduction, the purpose and scope of the discussion was explained;
2. Participants were asked to give their names and short background information about them;
3. The discussion was structured around questions prepared in advance (See them in Annexes).
4. During discussion, all participants were given opportunity to participate by using moderating tactics to facilitate the group. Among these tactics used by the moderator include:
 - a. Stimulating the participants to talk to each other, not necessarily to the moderator.
 - b. Encouraging shy participants to speak.
 - c. Discouraging dominant participants through verbal and nonverbal cues.

3.2 Data Analysis and Interpretation Methods

This section is about the methods used while analyzing the data collected. Data analysis necessarily involves the 'breaking up' of data into manageable themes, patterns, trends and relationships (Mouton, 2001).

The main goal of analyzing data is to draw logical conclusions and to test their validity. In this specific case of corruption in mineral resources, the data collected through interviews, observations, documents and focus group discussion were analysed searching for commonalities, which led to categories and these categories were given codes upon which they were broken down to have themes, where two main themes have been identified and the data were analysed in accordance with those identified themes, which are drawn from the research questions.

According to literatures, while analysis deals with what the data says; the interpretation focuses on what the data collected means. Interpretation refers to the task of drawing inferences from the collected facts after an analytical and or experimental study. In fact, it is a search for broader meaning of research findings.

Interpretation is essential for the simple reason that the usefulness and utility of research findings lie in proper interpretation. It is being considered as a basic component of research process because of various reasons including but not limited to helping the research in grasping the meaning of the data collected as well as arriving at a logical conclusion.

3.3 Quality Assurance

The fact that the data was collected from reliable sources including participants of the Bea Mountain mining company, Gola Konneh Dstrict, local and top government officials and Anti – graft institution, who were rightly and purposively selected consultation with the research supervisor among other sources; there is no doubt that the quality of the data is assured to be worthy. Therefore, these various methods and sources used to supplement one another in the collection of the data has been a way of assuring the validity of this research.

3.4 Challenges and Mitigation Strategies

Challenges and/or risks that had been expected before and during data collection included unethical behaviour as far as conducting a research is concerned, loss or lack of time, involvement of under 18-year people who might be found also participating or attending

the Gola Konneh District sessions; similarly, the vulnerable people like elderly or mentally ill, people with learning difficulties and others. There was also a challenge of participants who did not understand English language while all the research guiding questions were prepared in the English language.

Other challenges that were expected before the research started were the unavailability of participants, where some of them like the ones from administrative entities could not easily be reachable, confidentiality and privacy issues, especially the superintendent from the district was never reached, interview with managers from Bea mountain mining company and the government of Liberia including anti – graft institution, and other challenges to name but a few.

Different mitigation strategies of challenge/risk avoidance, reduction and acceptance had been put in place in order to create flexibility to adapt different situations that could have occurred.

Therefore, flexibility creation is potentially the main mitigation strategy among others. Other strategies included ethical considerations to deal with likely unethical behaviours, used of purposive sampling methods to avoid the involvement of participants who could not be qualified to be respondents.

3.5 Critiques of Sources

Corruption is an issue that is very serious, in which people can get dismiss and even go to jail, so people were very skeptical to provide confidential documents as it relate to corruption. Policies document on mineral resources are not easily to be avail to the public, finding out helpful documentations was and is still an issue for researchers who wish to work on this field. Therefore, there is lack of some sensitive records to provide credible and reliable sources regarding documentary as a source of data.

However, the selected and used data collection methods for this particular study broke this challenge and reliable data was found though it could also be critiqued that finding potential interviewees was also not easy.

3.6 Ethical considerations

Ethical considerations were strictly respected throughout the research. Before an individual or a group of individuals became a subject of the study, they were first notified of the purpose, methods, anticipated benefits and potential hazards of the research. They were also explained of their rights to abstain from participation in the research and the confidential nature of their replies.

There was no individual who became a subject of this study unless he/she provides a freely given consent that he/she agrees to participate. There was no pressure or inducement of any kind applied to encourage anyone to become a subject of this study. The identity of individual from whom information was obtained remained strictly confidential.

In my data analysis, presentation and interpretation, those people who never gave me the permission to use their names during interview, I coded them as A.B.C.D. Any information that could have revealed the identity of individuals who were subjects of the study was automatically destroyed. No information revealing the identity of any individual was considered in the study unless the concerned individual consented in writing.

3.7 Conclusion

This chapter explained in detail the methodology used and the rationale behind it, so as to get reliable and valid data, which also helps us to reach fruitful findings. To recall, data collection methods and rationale behind being selected have explained.

Additionally, data analysis and interpretation methods have also been clarified with a view to helping readers of this study to fully understand the reliability and validity of findings.

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

4.0. Introduction

This chapter is the empirical part of this study. It shows what data analysis revealed, and provides interpretations of such data. In this specific study of the effects of corruption in gold and diamond resources on residents of Gola Konneh District, Liberia. Findings are presented in this chapter after having analysed and interpreted the data collected through documentary, interview, observations and focus group discussions.

This was a qualitative study which gathered individuals' views and perception about the effects of corruption in gold and diamond resources on residents of Gola Konneh District, Liberia. The findings are specifically about the level of corruptions in gold and diamond resources on residents of Gola Konneh District, Liberia. This chapter revealed challenges perceived during the study and strategies in fighting and mitigating corruptions as a result of gold and diamond resources.

4.1. Presentation of findings

This section presents the findings from the field. These findings included the data collected using the four methods which include: documents, observation, interview and focus-group discussions. Generally, these findings addressed the research questions 1 and 2 as they are listed bellowed. While on the field, the two research questions were also broken down into fifteen other questions, (Interview Guided Questions) with a view to collecting as much data as possible. The table here below illustrates the details that have just been explained above:

Table 1: RQs 1, 2 &3 IGQs

S/N^o	Research Questions	Interview guided questions
1	What are the effects	1. How do you understand corruption?

	<p>of corruption on the distribution of gold and diamond resources on the residents of Gola Konneh District-Grand Capemount County-Liberia?</p> <p>2. What was the role of Liberia Anti Corruption Commission in the fight against corruption on the distribution of gold and diamond resources in Gola Konneh District-Grand Capemount County-Liberia?</p>	<p>2. What are the roles of the District inhabitants in the fight against corruption in the district?</p> <p>3. What is the effect of mineral resources (Gold, Diamond) on the inhabitants of Gola Konneh District?</p> <p>4. How do you understand Mineral Resources?</p> <p>5. Does Bea Mountain Mining Company achieves all of its corporate social responsibility as per the agreement?</p> <p>6. What are the challenges encountered by the community dwellers relative to corruption in relations to mineral resources (Gold, Diamond) in the community?</p> <p>7. What are the reasons for these challenges in the District?</p> <p>8. What are the challenges impeding Bea Mountain Mining Company developmental agenda within the District?</p> <p>9. Does inhabitants of Gola Konneh benefitting from employment at Bea Mountain Company?</p> <p>10. Is the District benefitting from Bea Mountain Mining company as the result of the mineral resources it has?</p> <p>11. What are the actual causes of the district (Gola Konneh) been underdeveloped and the people of the district live in an appalling conditions despite mineral resources and a mining company?</p> <p>12. Have issues of corruptions ever been investigated amongst BMMC and GOL as well as the district (Gola Konneh)?</p>
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		<p>13. Does Bea Mountain Mining Company complying with the agreements signed with the government of Liberia?</p> <p>14. How effective are those approaches, mechanisms and tools to manage corruption and mineral resources in Gola Konneh District and the country at large?</p> <p>15. Does corruption the actual factor leading to the district not benefitting?</p>

Source: The researcher’s own source: December- 2018

4.1.2. Gaps identify in the Findings.

According to data gather through documentations, the mineral policy of Liberia (2010:12) “artisanal and small-scale mining (“ASM”) sector has the potential to create employment, generate income and help to reduce poverty in rural areas, many ASM miners require training in business and technical skills, to assist them to mine sustainably, as well as other skills to help them in their alternative economic activities. The Government of Liberia will facilitate the provision of such skills and the modernisation of the sector by giving access to appropriate technologies, such as mercury-free gold processing.

The Government of Liberia will also make available extension services to support ASM operations through technical advice and the facilitation of capital (micro-loans) schemes. Work will be done to identify areas to be designated for ASM support and monitoring. The procedures for licensing ASM are being evaluated with a view to simplifying them and catering for illiterate citizens to enable artisanal and small-scale miners to obtain financial facilities, consideration shall be given to enhance the creditworthiness of their operations and license tenure.”

Through focus group discussion conducted with some officials of government of Liberia, they reveal that according to feasibility studies conducted in the district by experts, it is not

advisable to create the environment for artisanal and small-scale mining (“ASM”) activities within the district, because it has the potential for significant environmental degradation, negative social and health life threatening pollution of bio systems (e.g. mercury from ASM gold recovery).

During focus group discussion conducted with member of the district, they said the information the government provided was false and misleading, including some staff of Bea Mountain Mining company who choice to be anonymous that the government information about the Artisanal small scale mining program is false and misleading, that the government does not want to spend money on artisanal small scale mining program and only intended to deprived the residents of the district (Gola Konneh) from such activities so that the company (Bea Mountain) have all the resources (Gold and Diamond), within the district and also bribe officials of government to discoverage such activities by the locals.

According to the mining development agreement between Bea mountain mining company and the republic of Liberia (2013:25) “company shall endeavor by direct agreement with owners to enter upon and utilize private land, if the company and the owners of private land in the contract areas which the company reasonably requires for operations cannot agree, the government shall assist the company in acquiring the required private land and all improvements thereon from the relevant land owners. And the company shall reimburse the government for all costs paid in connection with such acquisition.”

Through focus group discussion conducted with the company, they have not yet extended its corporate social responsibility as the result of lacked of the availability of sufficient land space which have been own by private individuals (Marvoh). Who does not want to make the land available and also demanding high and unreasonable cost for the land to be used by the company to carry out its corporate social responsibility.

Doing focus group discussion conducted with the district inhabitants, they informed the researcher that the failure by the Liberian government to intervene and ensure that the land is sold/lease to the company for developmental purpose as prescribed in the mining

development agreement (MDA) of 2013, the inhabitants of the district see it as corruption, upon which officials of government received a special package from the company to abandoned its corporate social responsibility by which the government fails to negotiate with the Marvoh land owners.

Through focus group discussion with some relevant officials of government they excerpted that the land owners are demanding very high and unreasonable price for the land, and are not willing compromise which impeding development in the district.

The researcher interviewed the sole proprietor of the Marvoh's 6,125 acres of land, on the issues regarding the land. The followings are his response:

“We told the government of Liberia to pay USD \$2.90C annually per acre, but the superintendent of the district, negotiated that government will pay USD \$1.35c and we generally agreed on that amount, but later the superintendent went to the company management and told them we the land owner agreed for USD \$2.90c.

The management of Bea mountain mining company gave the amount to the superintendent at the rate of USD \$2.90C and the superintendent in returned gave us the rate of USD \$1.35C, so went we got to know from an inside source within the company that the superintendent receive USD \$2.90c and gave us USD \$ 1.35c for the land, immediately we requested for the land and decided to returned the money we received from the superintendent and not to sell the land again.

And if the government or the company wants the land the price now will be not negotiable and we have changed the previous price for the land due to high economy cost in the country.”¹

According to the mining development agreement (MDA) between the government of Liberia and Bea Mountain Mining Company section 12.2 (2013:31) “the company agrees to

¹ . Interview with Mr. A. on January 6, 2019. By the researcher at his Gola Konneh Resident.

provide primary education through high school education free of charge to each dependent. The company may, at its option, build new schools in the concession area or invest in existing local schools to meet the requirement of this section; the company shall provide free transportation to dependents who attend such local schools that are more than five (5) miles from the dependent's homes. The company shall construct new educational facilities in the developed areas for primary school grades and for high school grades, in numbers approved by Ministry of Education. Such educational facilities shall be in conformity with laws, rules, regulations and standards generally applicable to schools in Liberia.”

When contacted the management of the company during focus group discussion they said as the result of land unavailability, they were unable to built more primary and high schools as for the transportations of kids going to school at long distances they are working on that to have the full listing of those students including the schools and distances to know how much to be allocated for such situations.

When contacted the relevant officials of government during focus group discussion, the researcher was told that they are working on the issues of the land and will be resolve the soonest possible time to ensure that the company fulfils its corporate social responsibilities, but the inhabitants of the district believe and told the researcher through focus group discussion that the government is lackadaisical on the company to implement their social responsibility as prescribed by law because of what they are getting from the company monthly.

According to the mining development agreement between the government of Liberia and Bea Mountain Mining Company section 12.2 (2013:32) “employment practices of the company shall conform to applicable labor practices law and other applicable law. The company shall not hire individuals who are not citizens of Liberia for unskilled labor positions. The company shall employ and give preference to the employment of qualified citizens of Liberia for financial, accountant, technical, administrative, supervisory, managerial, executives and other skilled positions. Citizens of Liberia will hold at least 30% of all management positions including ten most senior positions, within the company.”

I interviewed, the human resource director, of Bea Mountain Mining Company. The following are his response:

“The country lacks the requisite (qualified) Liberians to fill such vacancies, which mandated the company to import experts to do the require jobs.”²

But on the contrary some staff of the company who decided to be anonymous and the inhabitants of the district told the researcher during focus group discussion, that the information provided by the company is not true, they further asserted that the few Liberians working within top positions with the company are some top government officials relatives while the foreigners are close relatives and confident of the company management.

They went further by telling the researcher that the company have refused to hire competent Liberians require for these positions to avoid too many expensive as prescribe in the labor law of Liberia which includes allowances, salaries and incentives, so they preferred to bribe few government officials, hire some of their relatives and import the rest of their family member from abroad and place them in strategy management and executive positions, to do the job and pay them what they wish to pay them, because they are not familiar with labor laws and other labor issues and generate more profits.

According to the mining development agreement between the government of Liberia and Bea Mountain Mining Company section 13.3 (2013:32 -33) “training of Liberians, following the grant to the company of a mining license under this agreement, the company must establish capacity development program under which it shall provide on a continue basis of under graduates and graduates training abroad for its Liberian staff and qualified Liberians in order to train them for financial, accounting, supervisory, managerial, executive positions and other skilled positions in the company. The company shall also establish vocational training facilities, provide on the job training and utilize whatever other measures necessary and reasonable to build the capacity and transfer knowledge and skills to Liberian employees to enable them to work in skilled trades and to supervise other

². Interview with Mr. B. On January 3, 2019 by the researcher, at his office in Gola Konneh District.

tradesmen and laborers. The company agreed that it shall continue to hire and train Liberian geologists, including funding their CRIRSCO accreditations as and when they qualify. The company shall further more facilitate applications by its own Liberian geologist employees for accreditation and subsequent registration under CRIRSCO guidelines as gold qualified persons. The company agrees that it shall continue to hire and train Liberian geologists, including funding their CRIRSCO accreditation as and when they are qualify.”

During focus group discussion conducted with the company management, they told the researcher, that they are sending Liberian geologists abroad for studies and since 2013 up to 2018 they have a total of thirteen (13) persons who have graduated in geology, nine (9) undergraduates and four (4) from graduate programs from Nigeria, South Africa, China and India, and those people are currently employed with the company and holding strategy supervisory roles within the company.

And also have additional seven persons upon which five during their undergraduate in China and two is in India during their masters. But the researcher requested to meet these individuals and authenticate the information, but only six persons, five undergraduates and one graduate student were seen physically with copy of their credentials, but the others were to no avail to the researcher on grounds that the others were busy on outside assignments.

But information from a credible inside sources from within the company who decided to be anonymous said during FGD that the company has a total of nine students who have graduated from abroad, seven from china in undergraduate degree program and two from India graduate degrees program, they are working with the company but not in strategy supervisory positions as claimed by the company. And apart from those nine the company has no other employees or students abroad for studies.

To understand the issues of training and capacity building of inhabitants within the district, I interviewed the District Commissioner, and the following were his response:

“I am aware of the company capacity building programs which is ongoing, employees have benefitted and graduated both from the undergraduate and graduate programs but I don’t have the exact figures of those graduated and those attending but the programs are ongoing. And those graduated are employed with the company.”³

The researcher observed, through observation that the company does not have any vocational training school for vocational training programs as prescribed in the agreements, during focus group discussion conducted with the management of the company, they told the researcher no land space provided to build vocational centers for vocational trainings. Doing focus group discussion conducted with inhabitants of the district and through observation by the researcher, they told the researcher that there is no vocational school in the district. The company only has a vacation school program for secondary school children; both the company staff and management including the district dwellers, it was holistically reveal to the researcher that the vacation school program for secondary school children is sustainable and well implemented as per the agreement.

According to data gather through documentations, the mining development agreement between the government of Liberia and Bea Mountain Mining Company section 15.1 (2013:35-36) “Community development fund, the company shall make the following contributions into a fund established for community development purposes:

1. Contract year 1-2, a contribution of US \$ 100,000.00
2. Contract 3 – 4 , a contribution of US \$ 150,000.00
3. Contract 5 – 10, a contribution of US \$ 200,000.00
4. Contract year 11 through the end of the original term, a contributions of 250,000.00.

All such contributions, into the community development fund shall be payable annually to the government in advance on or before February 1ST of the year for the period for which payment is being made. The first payment into the community development fund shall be due for the contract year immediately following the effective date.

³ . Interview with Mr. C. On December 29, 2018 by the researcher, at his office in Gola Konneh District.

All contributions into the community development fund will be with full credit toward such contribution to given for expenses for social services perfumed by the company outside of production area or for benefits conferred on non – employees and their dependents, subject to approval by the government of the eligibility of such social services and benefits for such credit. For the benefit of doubt expenses incurred by the company to fulfill its obligations under this agreement, including expenses related to the provision of housing, education, medical care and other social services, shall not be deducted from the community development plan or reduce the company’s contributions to the community development fund. Contributions to the community development plan shall be tax deductible and such deductions maybe carried forward for an indefinite period during the term.

The community shall be administered by a committee consisting of not more than ten members, half of whom shall be nominated and selected by the surrounding community and government, and half by the company. The company shall pay US \$ 5,000.00 annually as committee contribution.

Funds held by the community development fund shall be placed in an interest bearing depository account reasonable acceptable to government. The budget for and the actual disbursements from the segregated account shall be public and shall be subject to the same audit procedures provided for expenditures by government and as may be further provided by law.”

Doing Focus group discussion with the management of Bea mountain mining company, they reveal and provided documents for on sight verification that they had provided so far from 2013 -2018 the total sum of \$350,000.00 USD to the government of Liberia as part of its community development fund, excluding all other amount spent on all developmental projects and other financial programs within the district, as per the community development agreement.

When the researcher contacted the relevant officials of government of Liberia, during FGD, they acknowledge received of said amount from Bea Mountain Company. When the

researcher contacted the district through focus group discussion, the inhabitants of the district told the researcher that the government of Liberia had not undertake a single project in the district as require under the law of the community development fund, all the projects in the district were undertaken by Bea Mountain mining company. During focus group discussion with the inhabitants of the district, they further told the researcher that the government had not undertaking any social services in the district, especially for non – employees and their dependents.

They went further by telling the researcher during focus group discussion that the committee consisting of ten members on the community development fund, they have only one person from the community on said committee who does not even advocate on their behalf, because he had been manipulated and “brain watch” by some officials of government, they further told the researcher that according to the community development fund section 15.1 half of the committee member suppose to be nominated from the surrounding communities within the district and government half and also half from the company, but only one person was selected from the district and the government provided the remaining individuals.

During FGD with the management of Bea Mountain Mining Company. They provided information and receipts for on sight verification to the researcher that they also provide USD \$ 5,000.00 annually as committee contribution to the ten member committee as prescribe in the agreement.”

When contacted the inhabitants of the district through focus group discussion they told the researcher, that they are not aware of such amount been paid to the government and they are not seeing any tangibles regarding that amount. When the researcher contacted some relevant officials of government during FGD they confirmed the 5,000.00 been paid annually by Bea Mountain Mining Company to the committee member consisting of ten persons.

According to government officials, through FGD the committee comprises of ten persons in which half came from the community which is two persons, half should come from the

government which is three persons and the remaining half from the company which is five persons, they told the researcher that the community have two persons representing the district, and are also benefitting from the USD \$ 5,000.00 provided annually by the company as committee contribution, as prescribed in the agreement, and that the committee controlling the funds, officials of government have no part to play with such amount.

The officials of government also told the researcher through focus group discussion that the government of Liberia had contracted a Chinese company called CICO and had signed a contract in collaborations with Bea Mountain Mining company upon which the government of Liberia will make available 40% of the community development fund and Bea Mountain mining company will make available 60% to underwrite the cost of a 60 kilometers path road leading to the district, and that the government also have over 60% of the youth on scholarships both local and internationally as part of the community development fund, both in vocational and formal education.

Missive plans are on the way to improve the social economic conditions of the people of Gola Konneh District through small scale loans for businesses, the building of radio and television stations, recreation centers and undertake other projects in the soonest possible time, through the community development fund.

When the researcher contacted the district inhabitants, during focus group discussion they told the researcher that the government provided scholarships for some youth of the community but they are very few, and only five persons from the entire district on international scholarships, and very few not more than thirty persons from the district benefitting from the government local scholarships scheme.

During focus group discussion, the inhabitants of the district told the researcher that the government is not keeping them abreast with the amount in the community development fund account, and that no audit had been conducted by the anti graft institutions about said amount which shall be public and shall be subject to audit procedures provided for expenditures by the government as provided by law.

In order to understand the role of Liberia Anti Corruption Commission, in the fight against corruption in the district (Gola Konneh), the commissioner of Liberia Anti Corruption Commission (LACC), at his central office in Monrovia, during face to face interview provided the following useful information:

“It is widely recognized that corruption has a negative and weakening effect on national development politically, economically and socially.

Politically, corruption undermines the confidence of the people in public institutions, erodes the capacity and legitimacy of the state and makes a myth of the rule of law. Corruption exacerbates social inequalities and increases social tensions in society, in light of the consequences mentioned above, the Liberia Anti Corruption Commission put in place mechanisms to mitigate and to fight corruption.

The Anti – corruption legal framework is considered very strong in Liberia, with legislation criminalizing attempted corruption, extortion, passive and active bribery, bribery of government officials and money laundering. Any act leading to the accumulation of property without legal justification, and the misuse of authority for personal gain it is term as plague which is not only contagious but if not controlled spreads like fire in a jungle.

Having said that, there have been incidences of publicly exposing corrupt officials and recommending their dismissal on grounds of corruption, and the most common forms of corruption in Liberia are: public funds embezzlement, fraudulent procurement practices, nepotism, abuse of office and power. We have put in place measures to tackle the issues of corruption such as: the adoption of a code of conduct and rules of disclosure for public officials, asset declaration for politicians and civil servants in Liberia, requiring public officials to declare their wealth before taking public offices, and that the commission adopted strong stance in this regard declaring that those who do not comply would face prosecution.

There are penalties on the book for people who are caught in acts of corruptions which include from six months to ten years of imprisonment depending on the gravity of the crime (corruption) committed, combined with a fine double to the value of the illicit profit, including the freezing of assets. With these penalties that are set, corruption is still prevailing in Liberia due to different challenges.

The lack of a robust regulatory framework often raises corruption, and there is a distinct lack of training and capacity building in the anti – corruption arena. Poorly trained employees are unaware of the best way to tackle corruption scenarios. Handling corruption cases is very difficult because there is limited evidence to the extent of the nature of the case; this has a negative impact in the fight against corruption as some of the offenders are set free. The deterrent function of a sentence is not fulfilled, more to that when the corruption offenders are sentenced no clear defined mechanisms of recovering the embezzled public assets, and this affects the national economy as some individuals enrich themselves to the expense of the majority.”⁴

During FGD, with the commissioners of the Liberia Anti Corruption Commission. They told the researcher that the commission faces a challenge of investigation tools and techniques that would help to have hard and concrete evidences on corruption cases. The lack of anti corruption special courts in Liberia is a hindrance in the fight against corruption. They told the researcher that corruption cases need to be handle in a fast and expeditious manner, but due to the number of cases in the court system, this has proven to be impossible, the end result is that, there might be disappearance of evidences incriminating the offenders.

During focus group discussion with the commissioners of LACC, they told the researcher that corruption is one of the most difficult crimes to investigate, there is often no crime scene, no finger print, no eye – witness, it is by nature a very secretive crime and involve

⁴ . Interview with Mr. D. On January 4, 2019 by the researcher at his office in Monrovia.

two satisfied parties. Over the years LACC have investigated a wide range of organized crimes facilitated by corruption. Some top government officials were investigated charge and were forwarded to court for accepting bribe to amend the mining laws of the country.

Lastly, the commissioners of the Liberia Anti Corruption Commission (LACC) told the researcher during FGD that they have a written complaint from the people of Gola Konneh District about issues of corruptions, and they are systematically investigating properly to ascertain the merits of corruptions and make public the report and prosecute all those involve in such act of corruptions according to the laws, against the district including Bea Mining Mountain Company. They told the researcher that audit was also conducted on local and top government officials in connections with the company and the district, but the report cannot be reveal to me as an individual but the audit report will be out soon in the public but no definite time was given to the researcher.

According to data gathered through observations in the district (Gola Konneh), it was observed that Bea Mounting Mining Company actually constructed three hundred and two (302) housing units as the result of the resettlement action plan (RAP) and Community Development Plan (CDP) and according to the Mineral Development Agreement (MDA).

Whilst the remaining twenty housing units are under construction, future beneficiaries each receive US \$ 30.00 dollars monthly as rental compensation until full completion of their units; this was reveal to the researcher through focus group discussion and face to face interview that was conducted separately with both the district and the company.

The followings were data collected through observation. As part of the agreement, that were implemented by Bea Mountain Mining Company: Ten bed rooms and six bathrooms health facility, named the Kinjor community clinic, as one of the commitments under the corporate social responsibility (CSR) that was completed in 2017. One (1) mosque, one (1) church, one market house, one big town hall for occasions, with offices and toilet facilities attached, one elementary school (Primary), public latrines and seventeen hand pumps, a mini concrete bridge connecting Afghanistan and Chocolate city Communities in Kinjor, second division soccer team as part of its social responsibilities, Police barrack and depot.

According to data gathered through observations, in Gola Konneh District, the following were not implemented as indicated in the community Development Plan and Mineral Development Agreement (MDA) which include: No Vocational schools for skills training, the lack of agriculture projects, no logistics and agriculture products for planting.

No junior and senior high schools (Secondary), no polytechnic, no electricity been provided by the mining company, poor sanitation condition, the roads are in deplorable conditions not path, no cold storage for storing perishable food over a longer period example, fish, no community pharmacy to purchase drugs to ease fever, headache etc. No sports bar and Restaurant for public entertainment, no community guest house for public accommodation, no radio and television stations, no ambulance to quickly transfer sick person/s. It was also observed by the researcher through observation, that the impact of the mineral resources (Gold, Diamond) in the district as it relate to corporate social responsibility is not impressive.

Generally according to the data collected from interviews and FGDs, including observation, the company (Bea Mountain Mining Company) employed the total of one thousand four hundred Liberians, within the one thousand four hundred Liberians, ten percent are from the district (Gola Konneh).

When the researcher contacted the company, during FGD, they told the researcher that the country lacks qualified Liberians to do the necessary jobs required, when the researcher also contacted officials of government doing FGD, they told the researcher that the country does not have the competent individuals with the required skills as those foreign national that the company hire.

When the researcher contacted the district inhabitants, doing FGD, they told the researcher, that the company is not willing to train people from the district to take over positions in the company.

Through data collected from the district (GolaKonneh) during focus group discussion, it shows that the company did not provided small enterprise business loans for women of the

district as was prescribed in the Community Development Plan(CDP). When the researcher contacted the company management through FGD, they told the researcher that such initiatives are supposed to be in charge of the government of Liberia, it is their responsibility through the community development funds that the company had provided every year to the government.

When the researcher contacted the government of Liberia, doing FGD, they told the researcher that such initiatives started, but there were other women who are not residents of the district were coming in abundant which causes the government to go beyond expenditures, as the result of that, the government put stop to the program to do a bio metric check and for accountability proposes, after cleaning the system and have the require women of the district the program will kick start, in which direct beneficiary will be people of the district.

According to focus group discussion conducted with the people of Gola Konneh District, the district (Gola Konneh) nominated an individual from within the district to served as coordinator (Liaison) between the inhabitants of the district and the company, but it was rejected by the government of Liberia who impose on the company on behalf of the community an individual from outside of the district, which brought about conflict, but still the government vehemently insisted and resisted the district choice and the individual remind the coordinator until now.

When the researcher contacted the government of Liberia, during focus group discussion, they told the researcher, they have appointed Mr. Sando Wayne because he has the technical know- how and the ability, he is the person suitable for the position than the person the community nominated, they said the community nominees lacked the requisite credentials and don't have the experience to serve in such position.

During focus group discussion, with inhabitants of the district and Bea Mountain Mining Company, it was reveal that in February 2018, a group of citizens and petitioners from Gola Konneh district and its surrounding communities brought Bea Mountain Mining Company operations under siege. The mission of the demonstrators were to identify areas where

delivering corporate social responsibilities have been unmet expectations by people of the district by the mining company, and to bring to the state's responsibility to protect agreements between its people and institutions.

During focus group discussion, with Bea Mountain Mining Company and people of Gola Konneh District it was also discussed, that in April 2018 there was also a missive demonstration and conflict between Bea Mountain Mining Company and inhabitants of the affected Gola Konneh District, the underlying forces of corruptions, poverty, inequity and unmet expectations, as causes being widely acknowledge as well.

These forces drive the impact they have on the people residing in the affected communities, thus which shattered the peace and compare the inspector general of police to move in the district with huge team of riot officers to settle the disputes.

The efforts of the police to intervened and settle the disputes remained fruitless for three days, until the representative of the district Honorable Mambu Sonii, the traditional council of Liberia led by its chairman of the council, chief Zanzan Karwor, and the inspector general police.

A resolution ending the conflict amongst three parties: Marvoh landowners, the resettle community of Gola Konneh and Bea Mountain Mining Company were signed on June 25, 2018 to prevent instability and conflict within the district and the mining company.

The following presents those findings and analysis from the data collected through documents, interview, observation, and focus group discussion, from the above categories of respondents, on mineral resources and corruption in Liberia specifically Gola Konneh District.

4.1.3 Thematic Analysis, Discussions and Interpretations of the findings.

The analysis, discussion and interpretation of these findings were concerned primarily with connecting them to the theoretical framework. Findings were presented from views and opinions of respondents and were associated with the study's objectives.

This section translate the documentary, interview, observation as well as FGDs, and the used of excerpts from the transcript to support the qualitative data that was reported. According to the findings after collecting the data using the four methods mentioned, two themes regarding to Corruption in Gold and Diamond Resources have been identified. And these themes are:

- a. The effects of corruption on Gold and Diamond Resources.**
- b. Lacked of commitment in the fight against Corruption by LACC**

4.1.4 The Effects of Corruption on Gold and Diamond Resources.

The first theme does a holistic analysis on the effects of corruption on gold and diamond resources. The researcher had analyzed that the government both local and top officials has no comprehensive plan to address problems associated with Artisanal small scale mining sector within the district. Many ASM miners require training in technical skills, to assist them to mine sustainably. The Government of Liberia does not want to invest in the facilities, capability and the provision of equipments for such skills, and the modernisation of the sector by giving access to appropriate technologies, such as mercury-free gold processing, to facilitate ASM miners, because the government will spend more money on these activities and realize little. As the result of that, they discourage the activities of ASM.

The issue of the Marvoh's land is as the result of an alleged corruption on the part of the superintendent, resulting to the refusal of the land owner not to sell the land, and the missive increment in the price of the land which is impeding the company developmental agendas and corporate social responsibilities.

Findings collected from interview and observation, showed that the administration of the company is committed to fulfilling its corporate social responsibility to the district, further findings collected from observation within the surrounding communities in the district showed that Bea Mountain mining company has considerably tried to provide a number of social activities ranging from a ten bed rooms and six bathrooms health facility, named the Kinjor Community Clinic, completed in 2017, three hundred and two (302) housing units One (1) mosque, one (1) church, one market house, one big town hall for occasions, with offices and toilet facilities attached, one elementary school (Primary), public latrines and seventeen hand pumps, a mini concrete bridge, second division soccer team as part of its social responsibilities, Police barrack and depot.

Researcher findings collected from FGD and observation revealed that the entire district has only one primary school and no transportations were provided by dependents kids who attend local schools that are more than five miles, as provided by the policy, no high schools been constructed and the only primary school is overcrowded because it is the only school in the district.

Findings collected from interviews and focus group discussion suggests that more Liberians lacked the technical skills to operate modern mining equipments, which gives ground to Bea Mountain mining company to hire foreigners to operate these mining equipments.

Findings collected from FGDs and interviews showed that these foreigners, are also in managerial, administrative, and even supervisory positions, but the management of Bea Mountain Mining company said Liberians need to be supervised in these areas before subsequently taking over , which the researcher analysed as violation of the mining development agreement policy as a result of corruption on the part of the government of

Liberia to deprived it citizens jobs while taking bribes and allowing foreigners to take over the labor markets of Liberia.

Finding collected from focus group discussion and interviews, shows that the company (BMMC) does not have any vocational training program as prescribed in the mining development agreement. The researcher has realized and analysed that vocational training programs for Liberians in different technical areas will empower them and capacitate them to take up various technical positions within the company, which have been occupied by foreigners, doing interview conducted with the company, they told the researcher that they lacked land space to built vocational facilities to conduct vocational trainings, but the researcher realized and analysed that the town hall can be used as alternative means during the week to conduct vocational training programs, even the elementary school in the district can also be used on Saturdays where the kids don't go to school or during the evening hours where the kids are off the campus to conduct the vocational training programs.

Finally the researcher have come to the realization and analysed that the company does not want to train Liberians and make them qualify to take over positions in the company, so they are reluctant to open vocational training programs to train Liberians and make them qualify.

Findings collected from interview by the researcher showed that Bea Mountain Mining Company had provided USD \$ 350,000. 00 to the government of Liberia from 2013 – 2018 as part of its community development fund.

Findings by the researcher collected from observation and FGD had also showed that the government of Liberia had not undertaken any project in the district, it was also realized by the researcher findings from observation, that the government did not undertake most of its social services in the district, most especially for non- employees and their dependents as prescribed in the agreement.

Findings by the researcher, collected from FGD also showed that the district have only one representative of the ten member committee on the community development fund, and the

individual does not seek the interest of the district, and he only follow direct instructions from officials of government.

Findings by the researcher collected from interview had showed that the government had some youths of the district on both local and international scholarships as part of the community development funds.

Findings by the researcher collected from observation and FGD had confirmed that Bea Mountain Mining Company had constructed three hundred and two (302) housing units as the result of the resettlement action plan (RAP). Whilst the remaining twenty housing units are under construction, future beneficiaries each receive US \$ 30.00 dollars monthly as rental compensation until full completion of their units.

The researcher findings collected from observation and FGD showed that the following were not implemented as indicated in the community Development Plan and Mineral Development Agreement (MDA) which include: No Vocational schools for skills training lacked agriculture projects, no logistics and agriculture products for planting. No junior and senior high school (Secondary), no polytechnic, no electricity been provided by the mining company, poor sanitation condition, the roads are in deplorable conditions not path, no cold storage for storing perishable food over a longer period example, fish, no community pharmacy to purchase drugs to ease fever, headache etc. No sports bar and Restaurant for public entertainment, no community guest house for public accommodation, no radio and television stations, no ambulance to quickly transfer sick person/s.

It was also observed by the researcher from observation, that the impact of mineral resources (Gold, Diamond) in the district as it relate to corporate social responsibility is not impressive.

The findings collected from interview showed that the company (Bea Mountain Mining Company) employed the total of one thousand four hundred Liberians, and within the one thousand four hundred Liberians employees ten percent are from the district (Gola Konneh).

The findings collected from FGD showed that the company initiated a vacation school programs for secondary school children, to work in various areas within the company when

the school year come to an end to enable them get job experience and earn wages at the end of the vacation programs.

The findings collected from FGD showed that the company or the government did not provide small enterprise business loans for women of the district as prescribed in the Community Development Plan(CDP).

Findings from interview and focus group discussion revealed that the district (Gola Konneh) nominated an individual from within the district to served as coordinator (Liaison) between the inhabitants of the district and the company, but it was rejected by the government of Liberia who impose on the company on behalf of the community an individual from outside of the district, which one could term as bias and corruption.

Findings collected from FGD confirmed that in February 2018, a group of citizens and petitioners from Gola Konneh district and its surrounding communities brought Bea Mountain Mining Company operations under siege. The mission of the demonstrators was to identify areas where delivering corporate social responsibilities have been unmet, expectations by people of the district by the mining company, and to bring to the state's responsibility to protect agreements between its people and institutions.

Findings from FGD also confirmed that in April 2018 there was also a missive demonstration and conflict between Bea Mountain Mining Company and inhabitants of the affected Gola Konneh District, the underlying forces of corruptions, poverty, inequity and unmet expectations, as causes being widely acknowledged as well. These forces drive the impact they have on the people residing in the affected communities, thus which shattered the peace and compare the inspector general of police to move in the district with huge team of riot officers to settle the disputes.

But the efforts of the police to intervened and settle the disputes remained fruitless for three days, until the representative of the district Honorable Mambu Sonii, the traditional council of Liberia led by its chairman of the council, chief Zanzan Karwor, and the inspector general police, a resolution ending the conflict amongst three parties: Marvoh landowners,

the resettle community of Gola Konneh and Bea Mountain Mining Company was signed on June 25,2018 to prevent instability and conflict within the district and the mining company.

4.1.5 Lacked of commitment in the fight against Corruption by LACC

Findings collected from interview, from the Liberia Anti Corruption Commission (LACC) had showed that there are mechanisms, approaches and strong laws on the book to mitigate corruptions. And there are legislations to prosecute corrupt officials.

Findings by the researcher, showed that the Liberia Anti Corruption Commission have exposed corrupt government officials and make several recommendations for dismissal of people investigated of corruptions.

Findings collected from FGD by the researcher had also showed that the Liberia Anti Corruption Commission (LACC) had put in place measures to tackle corruptions but the Anti – Graft institution had so many challenges ranging from the lacked of direct prosecuting power, to prosecute people they believed and have overwhelming evidence are involved in corruption, poorly trained staff with the capacity to detect and prevent corruptions, as is the situation in Bea Mountain Mining Company in Gola Konneh District. The lacked of investigation tools and techniques, the issues of no special courts in Liberia to prosecute corrupt cases expeditiously to avoid delay.

Findings by the researcher collected from FGD had confirmed that the Liberia Anti Corruption Commission had a written complaint from the district on issues of corruptions and is investigating. The researcher had realized that LACC is not proactive in the fight against corruptions, within the district.

To conclude this section about the analysis of the findings about corruption in mineral resources, it was generally realized in the study that corruption exists in the district as the result of resources. This is evidenced on the grounds that the corporate social responsibility of the company such as good and path roads connectivity, electricity, quality health services, schools, Ambulance, employments, small business loans etc does not have positive impact on the inhabitants of the district as the results of corruption.

Failure of the Liberia Anti corruption commission to regulate aspects of the company and government officials which embody agreements, accountability, transparency, codes of conduct, laws, and guidelines makes their role ineffective, inefficient and not proactive in the fight against corruptions in Gola Konneh District.

4.2 Conclusion

This is the chapter that has presented the findings collected from the field using documents, interview, observation and FGDs; and from various literatures used documentary as data collection methods.

Being a qualitative study which gathered individuals' views and perception about the effects of corruption in gold and diamond resources on residents of Gola Konneh District Grand Cape Mount County Liberia. Documents, interview, observation and FGDs, were used to collect data that helped in responding to research questions in order to achieve the objectives of the research.

The Represented data in this chapter were divided into two main categories namely characteristics of respondents, data related to the characteristics of respondents and data related to the objectives of the study. It also discussed on the connection of the theories that are discussed in chapter two of this study to the interpretation of the study's findings. Findings were presented from views and opinions of respondents and were associated with the study's objectives. This chapter also reveals some of the challenges perceived in the study.

The next chapter will present the general conclusion and recommendations that clearly shows the reasons behind mineral resources and corruption.

CHAPTER FIVE: GENERAL CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter summarizes the findings, and presents recommendations. The research was conducted with the overall objective to assess the effects of corruption on the distribution of gold and diamond resources on the residents of Gola Konneh District, Grand Capemount County - Liberia.

And the role of Liberia Anti corruption commission in the fight against corruptions on the distribution of gold and diamond resources in Gola Konneh District Grand Cape Mount County – Liberia, with a view to recommend workable solutions to those identified problems.

5.1. General Conclusion

This study intended to assess the effects of corruption on the distribution of gold and diamond resources on the residents of Gola Konneh District Liberia, and the role of the Liberia Anti corruption Commission in the fight against corruption in Gola Konneh District Liberia. The study was carried out on sixty five respondents including 50 inhabitants from Gola Konneh District, eight staff from Bea Mountain Mining Company, 3 Local government officials, 2 top government officials and 2 senior staff from the Liberia Anti Corruption Commission (LACC).

This served as the target population of this study, due to the location of Gola Konneh District Grand Cape Mount County, which is far from the capital city of Monrovia, where the researcher lives, and the short time allocated for data collection as well as financial constraints to the researcher, and to also deploy data collection clerks.

5.2 Summary of Findings

The field findings confirmed that there was existing corruption between the government and some staff of Bea Mountain Mining Company that occurred from 2013 – 2018 in the mining areas. The field findings furthermore showed that income generated from the mining sector is not benefitting the people of the district as the result of corruption, which exacerbating conflict in the district.

The research findings revealed that the total staffs recruited from the district to work within the company are very low which amounted to ten percent of its entire work force. Finding revealed to the researcher that the two individuals in persons of Mr. Sando Wayne and Mr. Debar Allen serving as public relations officer and country manager respectively are not from the district, and according to the agreement signed these are positions intended for individuals from the district, to served as liaison especially the public relations officer between the company and the district.

The minerals sector needs to be fully integrated into poverty reduction and other national development strategies in order to achieve holistic growth and development. This was not realized through missive observations conducted by the researcher.

As a result of corruptions on the part of the government of Liberia not ensuring that the company fully implement its corporate social responsibility as prescribe in the mineral development agreement and other agreements signed, the district (Gola Konneh) is under developed and the people of the district live in an appalling conditions, despite the district rich in mineral resources.

Research findings have revealed that Bea Mountain Mining Company did not achieves all of its corporate social responsibility as per the agreements that have been signed, as the results of government poor monitoring and ensuring the full implementations of these agreements due to corruption, and the issue of land dispute between the Marvoh land owners, local government officials and the district inhabitants.

Researcher findings revealed that the wealth generating from the mining income such as taxes, revenues and most especially the community development fund imposed on the mining company (Bea Mountain Mining Company) have cause serious debate, majority of the inhabitants of the district, considered that both the income and mining revenue, especially the community development funds generating from the mining sector has neither enhanced economy, and social development nor alleviate poverty among the inhabitants of the district, which creates serious debates and tensions between the district inhabitants, local government officials and the company (Bea Mountain Mining Company), viewing the natural resources in their district as a curse rather than being a blessing.

The research findings revealed that the Liberia Anti Corruption Commission had played major role in the fight against corruption in the country, there were many cases handled by the commission due to its effort in combating corruption.

Liberia Anti Corruption Commission plays big role in the fight against corruption, but corruption continues to persist and exist in the country due to many different challenges, and one of the major challenges is the act that created the Liberia Anti Corruption Commission, it did not provide the commission with direct prosecuting power to prosecute people, institutions, and organizations they found overwhelming evidence to be involved with corruptions. They only forward the evidence along with the party involves in corruption to the ministry of Justice for prosecution.

Therefore, the challenges that have been found are mainly prospective barriers in fighting against corruption, which include: poorly trained staff with the capacity to detect and prevent corruptions, as is the situation in Bea Mountain Mining Company in Gola Konneh District.

The lacked of investigation tools and techniques, the issues of no special courts in Liberia to prosecute corrupt cases expeditiously to avoid delay.

Research findings revealed that investigations have just started in the corruption case involving some officials of government and Bea Mountain Mining Company, with regards

to Gola Konneh District, base on a communication received from the chair- person of the district .

To conclusively conclude, it is well known that corruption and injustice are contributing factors to grievances and conflicts which may escalate into large scale violence, fighting corruption and injustices contribute to sustainable peace, development and security. It is essential the government of Liberia adequately address these issues of corruption and injustices to avoid conflicts and violent in the district.

5.3. Recommendations

This chapter responds to the challenges raised by the Liberia Anti- Corruption Commission in the fight against corruptions. This chapter also compares the research questions and the field findings and thereafter recommends various courses of actions.

Based on the findings on the field the following are recommended:

The study recommends that the government (Ministry of Lands Mines and Energy, National Investment Commission) put in place written provisions and properly implement those provisions, that will ensures small scale miners are entitled to be offer both financial and technical assistance, to enable them carry- out Artisanal small scale mining processes to empower them financially.

The study views that laws and agreements signed between the company (Bea Mountain Mining Company) and the government of Liberia are not seriously enforced, the study recommends enforcing the existing agreements and mining legislations, by the government of Liberia will help to improve the livelihood of the district inhabitants.

The study views that the land compensation issue with the Marvoh land owner is a serious impediment to development in the district, the study recommend that such issue should be amicably resolved by the government of Liberia for a lasting solution. That the company will carry out its corporate social responsibilities as claimed.

It is also recommended that the company train people from the district in different professional and technical areas that will qualified them to take up positions within the company, which will empower them economically and improve their living standards.

The study recommend that the district should appoint or nominate individuals on the ten member committee on the community development funds and the require individuals should be appointed without government intervention.

The study recommends that the government utilize the community development funds for its intended purpose so as to alleviate some economy and social constraints the district is faced with.

The study recommends that a robust regulatory framework to fight corruption without any compromise, be initiated by the Liberia Anti Corruption Commission.

There should be periodic training and capacity building in Anti – Corruption studies, such as: detection, prevention, and investigation of corruptions, and investigation techniques and the used of investigations tools, by Liberia Anti Corruption Commission.

The study recommend that properties and wealth acquire through corruptions should be confiscated to serve as deterrence, by the Liberia Anti Corruption Commission.

The study recommends that the Liberia Anti Corruption Commission (LACC) should be giving direct prosecuting power, by the legislatures to prosecute those involve in corruption.

The study also recommend that a special courts be establish by the government, to trial only corrupt cases, that cases of corruptions will expeditiously be trial.

The study recommends that LACC be proactive in lunching investigations into allegations of corruptions and should not wait for written communication before it act.

The study recommends the company to provide small enterprise business loans to business people in the district to empower them.

The study recommends that liaison between the company and the district is appointed or nominated by the district inhabitants, so as to directly and amicably represent the interest of the district.

5.4. Suggested areas for further research

This study provided some insight on the effects of corruption in gold and diamond resources on residents of Gola Konneh District, Grand Cape Mount County Liberia. However, further research is required to provide a more comprehensive view of these relationships. The limitations of the study helped determine the effectiveness of the research about the effects of corruption in mineral resources, much research still needs to be conducted in the future.

To validate the full theoretical model that underlies the relationships between corruption in gold and diamond resources an in – depth study must be undertaken. The study must use a large sample, one that is representative of the general research population.

However, the researcher had realized that there are various areas that could be suggested for further researches.

Such areas may include other mining companies within Liberia, both the rural and urban areas but not limited to the comparison of this research study where it might be assumed that corruption exist.

Finally, it is a very interesting area of research which may interest many people to research on it since it is still a new one.

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ANNEXES

INTERVIEW AND ITS GUIDED QUESTIONS

Introduction

My research is on "Corruption and Mineral Resources: A Case of Gola Konneh District, Grand Cape Mount County – Liberia. And four methods of data collection will be used to gather data, which include: Documentary, Observation, Interview, and Focus Group Discussions. However, the aim of my research is to discuss about the Interview with a view to highlighting main questions that will guide my interviews during data collection process.

Types of Interview to be carried out

My interview will consist of both In-depth Interview and Group Discussion Interview. The former will be carried out between me, as the researcher and one (1) purposively selected respondent while the latter will focus on several (10-15) respondents or participants simultaneously. The purpose of using these two types of interview is to crosscheck the reliability of the data collected from the two types.

Nature of the interview to be carried out

The two types of interview to be used will be either structured using open-ended questions, semi-structured or unstructured interviews. This variety will depend mainly on various kinds of respondents (literate and illiterate, normal citizens and local leaders, etc.); but it will also depend on the responses given because, one response to the structured question may sometimes rise another question which was not thought of before.

Language of the interview and guided questions

Majority of my respondents are English language speakers, therefore, the interview will be conducted in English and the research questions and interview guided questions are drafted in English Language.

Conclusion

The next section shows clearly **the interview guided questions** and how they have been issued to the various categories of respondents, in relations to the study objectives.

INTERVIEW GUIDED QUESTIONS

S/N ^o	Research Questions	Interview guided questions
1	What are the impacts of corruption on the distribution of gold and diamond resources on the residents of Gola Konneh District-Grand Capemount County-Liberia?	1. How do you understand corruption? 2. What are the roles of the District inhabitants in the fight against corruption in the district? 3. What is the impact of mineral resources (Gold, Diamond) on the inhabitants of Gola Konneh District? 4. How do you understand Mineral Resources? 5. Does Bea Mountain Mining Company achieves all of its corporate social responsibility as per the agreement?
2.	What is the role of anti-graft institution in the fight against corruption on the distribution of gold and diamond resources in Gola Konneh District-Grand Capemount County-Liberia?	6. What are the challenges encountered by the community dwellers relative to corruption in relations to mineral resources (Gold, Diamond) in the community? 7. What are the reasons for these challenges in the District? 8. What are the challenges impeding Bea Mountain Mining Company developmental agenda within the District? 9. Does inhabitants of Gola Konneh benefitting from employment at Bea Mountain Company? 10. Is the District benefitting from Bea Mountain Mining company as the result of the mineral resources it has? 11. What are the actual causes of the district (Gola Konneh) been underdeveloped and the people of the district live in an appalling conditions despite mineral resources and a mining

		<p>company?</p> <p>12. Have issues of corruptions ever been investigated amongst BMMC and GOL as well as the district (Gola Konneh)?</p> <p>13. Does Bea Mountain Mining Company complying with the agreements signed with the government of Liberia?</p> <p>14. How effective are those approaches, mechanisms and tools to manage corruption and mineral resources in Gola Konneh District and the country at large?</p> <p>15. Does corruption the actual factor leading to the district not benefitting?</p>