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**Social and Economic Implications of Mining Induced Resettlements:
The case of Wassa West District in Ghana**

Mining, considered as one of the oldest professions, is an industry in the primary sector of the economy involved in the extraction of minerals from the earth. It is considered as a big opportunity for any country, where minerals are found, especially developing ones, to provide the much needed revenue for development. In Ghana, currently, mining is a major backbone of the economy being the highest foreign exchange earner. The argument as to whether countries are really benefiting from mining activities has been the subject of recent discussions. Those who argue in favour of mining claim that it serves as an origin for cluster of growth, brings technology and innovation to countries and that the argument should be “not what you do, but how you do it”. Arguments advanced by opponents are that it results in resource alienation, misguides investment and serves as a source of financing conflicts.

The industry is indeed known to have several impacts on areas of operation, with the immediate vicinity bearing the greater part of it. Despite the positive sides in terms of revenue generation, employment, infrastructure and incomes, it has its negative aspects including the displacement of people, pollution of water sources and the environment, loss of agricultural land among others. The truth therefore remains that no matter the arguments advanced; mining leaves its “footprint” where it

occurs. With the improvement in technology and increasing ways of reducing cost, surface mining has increasingly become the main method of extraction. Unfortunately, this has also resulted in the removal of whole communities from their land thereby depriving them of their habitats and sources of livelihoods.

The study critically analyzed the social and economic implications of such mining induced resettlements on communities by looking at some resettled communities in Ghana and the changes that have occurred to the people in particular and the communities at large as a result of their movement with the aim of offering suggestions and recommendations to solve identified problems and improve the process.

Findings from the study revealed that though mining may provide income and revenue to governments, this is only a fraction of total income generated from mining. Improvement in infrastructure in communities have not been significant enough to generate the needed growth in economic activities. Resettled communities have suffered from the loss of livelihoods due to land use competition, abuse of land use rights, poor planning and management of projects, absence of livelihood restoration projects, weak laws and policies, weak institutions resulting in poor monitoring and evaluation, the pressure on local resources from global trends and the absence of sharing project benefits with affected communities among others.

Based on these findings, recommendations made include the following: emphasis on alternative livelihood restoration programs, sharing of benefits with communities, changing of laws and policies and pursuing a vigorous rural development agenda taking note of landless people.

Key words: Surface mining, displacement, resettlements, rural development, District Assemblies, communities, Ghana