

BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF PEACE AND GOVERNANCE



DESSERTATION TITLE:

An Assessment of the Chinese Mining Investments Induced Conflicts in Zimbabwe: A Case of Mutoko Area

By

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A Dissertation Submitted to the Department of Peace and Governance in partial fulfilment for the requirements for the Master of Science Degree in International Relation

Supervisor: Professor Dodo

Bindura, Zimbabwe

2022

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DEDICATION

This study is in honour of my supporting husband, whom I treasure and love. Thank you for the continued support and all the sacrifices.

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I thank the Almighty God for giving me grace, health, knowledge and wisdom during my study.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

NGOs Non-Governmental Organizations

FOCAC Forum on China-African Cooperation

NDS1 National Development Strategy 1

EMA Environmental Management Agency

ZELA Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association

ZDAMWU Zimbabwe Diamonds and Allied Workers Union

WHO World Health Organization

UNICEF United Nations Children's Emergency Fund

ABSTRACT

The research is qualitative in nature with an exploratory case study research design. Its purpose was to look at the Chinese mining investments induced conflicts in Mutoko District Zimbabwe, impacts of these conflicts as well as crafting possible solutions. Economic nationalism theory was used which involves the pursuit of national interests by economic means. Participants of this study were chosen using purposive sampling and were chosen based on their location and their conflict experiences with the Chinese mining institutions. Semi-structured interviews were used to collect data. Data were analysed using thematic content analysis which involved the transcription of interviews and notes, followed by open coding and finally making explanations of the summarized written notes. The study established that Chinese mining operations have impacted the lives of local residents in Mutoko through; forced relocations, disrupted livelihoods and destructed environments among others. It also showed that there are conflicts occurring between local residents and the Chinese mining companies over resource control and cultural values. Temporary measures that can be taken to mitigate the noted constraints includes, compensated relocations, Profit sharing arrangements as well as environmental rehabilitation programs. In light with the argument proffered in this dissertation, the researcher suggested that further study be done in assessing the policies of other SADC countries in relation to Chinese mining interest and translate or adopt them for the local context.

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CHAPTER ONE

1.0 Introduction

The research sought to assess the mining induce conflict from the Chinese mining investments in Zimbabwe. It also tried to generate possible solutions to these problems. The study was carried out

in Mutoko district area. Mutoko district area has for a long time been experiencing these Chinese mining challenges and they became so rampant that at once NGOs had to intervene. The research also brought out an understanding on why these conflicts have become so rampant and generate possible solutions to these challenges. This chapter generally offers the background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives, research questions, and significance of the study, limitations, delimitations as well as definition of terms.

1.1 Background to the Study

China's growing economy is thirsty for a bearable supply of mineral resources. Despite being the number one mining nation in the world, according to Basov (2015), China is facing a rapid depletion of its local mineral resources. To overcome the scarcity of essential mineral commodities, as well as to secure long-term sustainable supplies for its economic development strategy, the Government of China empowered and encouraged several domestic state-owned and private companies to actively pursue mining deals throughout the world. Basov (2015) states that, since this strategy, also known as "Two Resources, Two Markets", launched in 2006, Africa quickly became the most desirable region for China and Hong Kong-based companies hunting for mining deals globally. Zimbabwe, being also in Africa is not left out, the Chinese have also made their way into Zimbabwe and engaged in mining activities.

However, the research's focus was on understanding why conflicts between the Chinese miners and the local people become widespread in Zimbabwe as well as the nature of these conflicts, the case of Mukoto District. This research area is more interesting to look at because these Chinese miners' and locals' conflicts had become the day-to-day talk in the communities, drawing the attention of the researchers. There were cases of human rights abuses coming out day in and day out, and it became a question of interest why such acts are happening. Thus, all these stories and

such worrisome thoughts pushed one to look at this area of study as well as try generation possible solutions to this particular crisis that might help the Human Rights Advocators and the nation as a whole.

1.2 Purpose of the Study

The goal of this study was to assess the impacts of the conflicts coming from Chinese mining investments in Mutoko, as well as generating resolutions that can help in lowering and eliminating these conflicts.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

Chinese mining investments in Zimbabwe have impacted the lives of the local residents negatively and positively. In a negative way, these investments have forced some residents to relocate from their former settlements to other locations. They have disrupted the lives of many for instance the famers, small scale miners among. There are also cases of human right abuse within the working environments. All these have led to a number of conflicts between the local residents and the Chinese. Hence, this study focused on assessing these mining induced conflicts and craft some temporary solutions, since possible effects can be, damaged relations between the Chinese and the Zimbabweans.

1.4 Research Objectives

- ❖ To have an assessment on the conflicts associated with Chinese mining investments in Zimbabwe.
- ❖ To examine the nature and the sources of these conflicts from Chinese mining investments in Mutoko area, Zimbabwe.

- ❖ To explore how these mining induced conflicts from the Chinese mining investments can be solved

1.5 Research Questions

- ❖ What are the constraints or conflicts associated with Chinese mining investments in Zimbabwe?
- ❖ What are the conflicts and the sources of conflicts from Chinese mining investments in Mutoko area, Zimbabwe?
- ❖ What can be done in order to mitigate these mining induced conflicts between the local residents and the Chinese?

1.6 Assumptions of the Study

- ❖ Chinese mining investments in Zimbabwe are negatively impacting the local residents than they do positively.
- ❖ There are human rights abuses within some of these Chinese mining institutions.
- ❖ The local community is benefiting less or nothing from these Chinese mining activities.

1.7 Significance of the Study

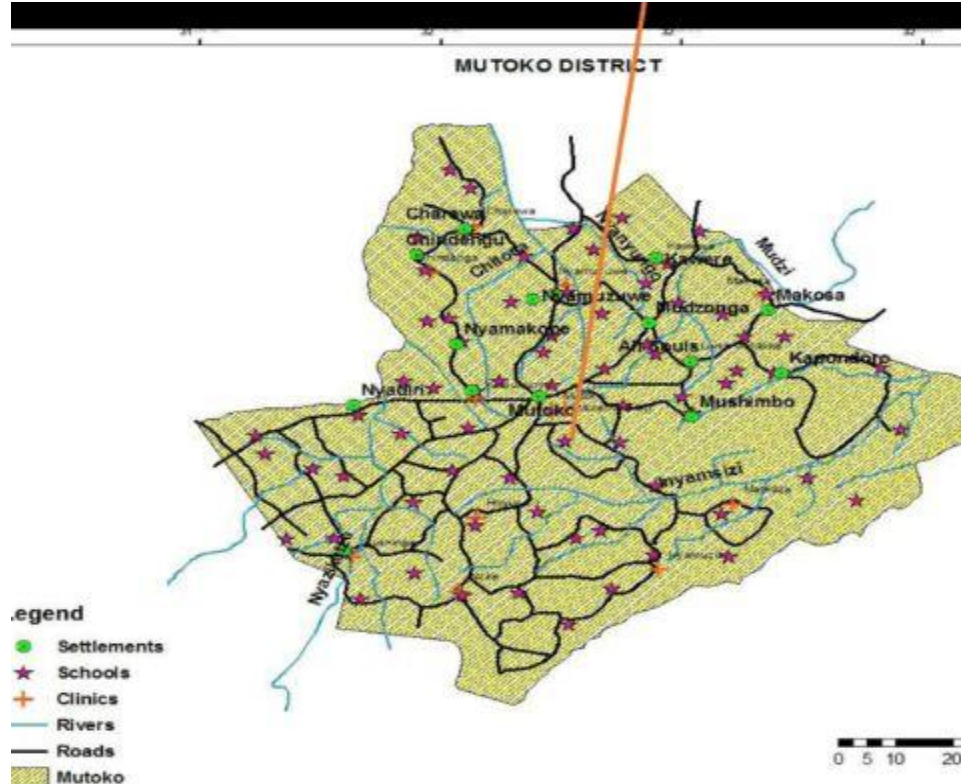
This study is significant as it benefits the Mutoko community, Scholars who are interested in this area of study, the Ministry of Minerals and Mining as well as the Human Rights Advocators. The findings of the study will enlighten the government of Zimbabwe on the Chinese mining interests are affecting the lives of the local residents. Temporary solutions can assist in mitigating some of the conflicts caused by the Chinese mining investments in Zimbabwe. The Ministry of Minerals and Mining will be aware of the situation which is at the ground in these local communities and proper responses will be made. The Chinese embassy will be aware of the actions of some of their mining investors in the country and this can help them to correct their wrongdoings before relations

with Zimbabweans are made sour. Scholars can make use of the study to improve or add new views to their areas of study.

1.8 Delimitations

The study looked at the assessment of the Chinese mining investments induced conflicts in Zimbabwe, a case of the Mutoko district area. As illustrated in the research topic, the study covered the conflicts in Mutoko district area. The collection of data was delimited to only two villages in Mutoko as these had experienced these mining induced conflicts with the Chinese. The analysis of the study was within the confines of economic nationalism, since the policies of China can be said were established on the basis of economic nationalism framework (the pursuit of national interests by economic means).

The Following Map Shows the Location of the Mutoko Area.



By Tirivangasi (2020)

1.9 Limitations

Given the nature of the research, some participants might have intentionally omitted, over exaggerated or downplayed certain issues, affecting the accuracy of the study. While this was a problem that arises with any social science research, information was gathered not only from the local settlers of Mutoko district, and members of the Mutoko district council but also documents collected. There was a lack of cooperation from the participant but the researchers worked with the leading personnel of the community, for example, the village heads, and members of the community council, as well as approval from the Ministry of Mines. The research also failed to reach some of the areas due to distance, thus, the researcher had to work with accessible areas.

1.10 Definition of Terms

FOCAC: it is the Forum on China-African Cooperation which was launched by the African governments and China, which made the relationship between Africa and China official.

NATIONAL INTERESTS: these can simply be described as the aspirations and goals of sovereign entities or member states in the international arena.

ECONOMIC NATIONALISM: are a set of practices designed to create, bolster and protect national economies in the context of world markets.

CHINESE MINING INTERESTS: these can be described as Chinese aspirations and goals in the mining sector.

1.11 Dissertation Outline

Chapter 1 – **INTRODUCTION** – shall give the outline of the research background, purpose of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the dissertation, research questions, assumptions, significance of the study, delimitations, limitations, definition of key terms and the dissertation outline.

Chapter 2 – **LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK** – shall explore economic nationalism theory which informs the construction of construction of China policies especially in relations with other nations. The Chapter shall also focus on the relevant literature regarding to the Chinese mining interests world widely, case studies to assist in understanding that the induced conflicts from Chinese mining investments are also affecting other nations. Lastly the chapter covered the relevant literature regarding Chinese mining induced conflict in general and Mutoko conflict in particular.

Chapter 3 – **RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY** – shall give an overview of the methodology of the study. It shall therefore examine the research philosophy, approach, design, sampling procedures, data collection tools, data analysis and some ethical considerations.

Chapter 4 – **DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS** – shall analyse the findings of the study in relation to Chinese mining induced conflicts in Mutoko, centered on research objectives.

Chapter 5 – **SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND AREAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH** – shall conclude the dissertation by discussing the implications of themes that emerged from the study, addressing the research question and making some assessments emanating from the study. It shall also identify some areas for further research study.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter broadly discussed relevant literature to this study. This part of the research presents a review of scholarly work that has been conducted already in Zimbabwe and globally concerning the Chinese mining investments and impacts of the conflicts arising from Chinese mining activities. The chapter has incorporated theoretical framework as well as accompanying subtitles crafted from research objectives. Critiques of these researches are also highlighted. The chapter concludes with a summary.

2.1 Theoretical Framework

The research utilized the economic nationalism theory which was brought forward by O' Brien and Williams (2016). Economic Nationalism theory is closely related to Realism theory, in the sense that, it focuses on foreign policy which covers diplomatic interests of nations particularly the super powers. Thus, this paper draws from Economic Nationalism as its characteristics best fit China's (economic) foreign policy character particularly mining interests in Africa.

Economic Nationalism involves the pursuit of national interests by economic means. Pryke (2012) defines Economic Nationalism as "a set of practices designed to create, bolster and protect national economies in the context of world markets". O'Brien and Williams (2016) argue that, wealth and power have a reciprocal relationship that is economic development leads to political power, and vice versa. On Realists' point of view, power can be defined in terms of economic, military, and cultural

power (Burchill, 2005). Burchill went on to say that, nation states are motivated to become great powers as this will allow them to be supreme than other states. Hence, with great power states can pursue effectively their national interests.

Furthermore, the accumulation of wealth, and subsequent power increase, is the central objective of nationalistic economic policies (Rizopoulos, 2020). Helleiner and Wang (2018) state that, China has a nationalistic economy; this is evidenced by the way it creates and protects its national economies in the world. Economic Nationalists, just as Realists do, appoint states as the holders of economic power and consider domestic economic sovereignty crucial (O'Brien and Williams, 2016). Gerth (2012) made it clear how China's economy illustrates Economic Nationalism by saying that China has helped domestic brands to improve their international image, to gain traction abroad and improve the "Made in China" image. Likewise, China's mining interests in Africa can be best understood from this theory's perspective if one considers the fact that China is dominating its mining interests across the continent, its pursuit of interest leading the world's economy at the expense of the believed interests of developing its African friend states like Zimbabwe. Thus, the Economic nationalism theory will best inform the research under study.

2.2 REVIEW LITERATURE

2.2.1 China's interests in Africa

As a means to understand Chinese mining investments induced conflicts, China's interests outside have to be looked at particularly in Africa. These interests can be the cause of the conflicts in the mining sector as interests are more valued by nations states than anything else be it the benefits of other nation states or the safety and rights of those other states. There is more agreement among scholars on the value of Africa to China. Broich (2017) argues that China's interests in Africa have

shifted from more political and ideological interest under Mao Zedong to more economically-orientated interests since the arrival of Deng Xiaoping. According to Lisimba and Parashar (2020), China's economic interests are the search for natural resources, markets and politically search for support in multilateral institutions. Lisimba and Parashar further argue that, Africa's resources are crucial to China's economic production and geopolitical independence. Of almost all resource-rich African countries, China is the largest importer of their natural resources (Dahir, 2019). Dahir further argues that the second prominent economic interest of China in Africa is less driven by the continent's natural characteristics and more by its demographic and economic developments.

Furthermore, as argued by Jiang (2009), the single most striking character of China-Africa relations in recent years is the fast-growing Chinese appetite for the continent's energy and natural resources. China not only needs classical resources like oil, but other African resources just as well. According to Gulley et al. (2019), many of the resources that drive the modern economy, such as cobalt, lithium tantalum, copper, coltan and manganese, are indispensable in China's production process of telecoms, electric vehicles, aviation production or high-quality infrastructure. Based on this, the first hypothesis about China's interests in Africa is formulated: China seeks lasting and stable access to Africa's strategic resources, as these are indispensable for its economic development and geopolitical stability (Broich, 2017). Emerging consumer markets and growing labour markets offer China valuable opportunities to sell its industrial products to Africa, and to relocate value chain activities (Broich, 2017). Thus, China's interests in Africa are more driven by economic benefits which are in the continent.

2.3 Country Experiences and Chinese Mining Operations.

The following case studies were used in order to assess the Chinese mining operations in other nation states and how these operations have impacted the local residents in those particular nation states.

2.3.1 Ecuador: Chinese Mining and Indigenous Resistance.

Studies were undertaken which highlight the Chinese mining in Ecuador and indigenous resistance they faced. Quiliconi and Vasco (2021), argue that, mining industry has been gaining relevance in China's international development strategy, most notably in Africa and Latin America. Vila (2017) states that, Chinese mining conglomerates sought to adapt to local conditions by forging alliances with the Ecuadorian national government. However, this divided Indigenous opposition in unsustainable ways that have backfired. Nathanson (2017) argues that, China exports its developmental model and imposes it on other countries. But Chinese players also extend their influence by working through local actors and institutions while adapting and assimilating local and traditional forms, norms, and practices.

In support of the above, the story of Mirador is not one of a Chinese consortium's ignoring local leaders but one of dividing the local and poor Ecuadorian community against itself by working only with local supporters to overcome local opponents (Aguilar, 2017). The reality, however, is that the majority of the local population never abandoned its opposition and resistance to this mining venture and its harmful environmental practices (Aguilar, 2017). Nathanson (2017) states that, the forced displacement of the residents of San Marcos in Tundayme occurred due to a Chinese strategy of enlisting the support of both segments of the local population and the Ecuadorian state itself.

Consequently, Quiliconi and Vasco (2021) state that, Ecuadorian civil society organizations reported that the vast majority of the population withdrew from San Marcos by 2010 due to land grabs, potentially illegal purchases of land, threats of eviction, and environmental contamination.

To protect their territory, the residents of San Marcos founded an Indigenous rights organization called the Amazon Community of Social Action in Cordillera del Cóndor (CASCOMI), which has been recognized, by the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (Villa, 2017). According to Nathanson (2017), by February 2016, the former residents of San Marcos had become a displaced population inside the Cordillera del Cóndor when the state offered Ecuacorriente SA the support of the security forces and the institutional power of the state to evict the local population with virtual impunity.

2.3.2 DRC: Mining Operations

In DRC there was a disaster due to Chinese mining interests. According to Kativu (2020), in many cases, the mines in DRC are run with little to no regard for the safety or health of the workers. Amwanga (2022) argues that, health and safety issues are the main concerns for workers. Health risks and accidents could be reduced by providing workers with decent protective equipment (e.g., boots, mask, gloves, clothing, hard hats, etc.), which should of course be regularly replaced (Amwanga, 2022).

Similarly, Kativu (2020) argue that, workers handling unprocessed copper and cobalt are exposed to radioactive elements but in most cases, they work with their bare hands, without a mask. According to Basov (2015), local workers are often forced to work long in dangerous conditions, underground in carelessly constructed and poorly ventilated passageways, or near smelters without protective clothing. The Amnesty International (2013) confirmed that there are frequent injuries and some fatal accidents as a result of landslides, falling boulders or asphyxiation due to a lack of adequate ventilation. Amwanga (2022) argues that, the DRC's enforcement of safety standards is weak while, Chinese mining companies operate in what are considered a haphazard fashion even by local standards.

Furthermore, it is argued that due to corruption and bribes, the Chinese companies nor managers themselves are held accountable for worker-abuse or human rights violations (Basov, 2015). According to the report compiled by a DRC-based United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the utilization of child labour in extremely dangerous conditions is another problematic aspect of Chinese mining operations in the DRC. For instance, in Katanga province alone it was estimated that, 40,000 children under the age of 16 years were believed to be working on mine sites in Kolwezi, Kipushi and Likasi (Walther, 2012).

Environmental damages are also issues of concern in DRC. According to Inamuco (2022), Chinese mining companies have a very poor environmental record, which is also in evidence in Africa. Considering the high degree to which Chinese-owned extractive industries are involved in the DRC, there is a dearth of information regarding pollution and environmental damage (Kativu, 2020). Kativu went on to say that, mining operations contribute to deforestation, which in turn leads to erosion during the rainy season, which lasts for several months at a time and trees are being cleared for roads to transport the extracted material, and for easements leading into the mines

2.4 Governing Mineral Resources in Zimbabwe

This area assisted in understanding mining law act and Land acquisition act in the institution of Zimbabwe. This enabled one to answer some of the answered questions like why local people in Mutoko were forced to move from their former residential areas despite all the investments in the area all in the name of caring out mining activities. Zimbabwe is divided into ten provinces, which are further divided into districts and districts are further divided into wards, wards into villages (World Atlas, 2021). Running in parallel to these political administrative divisions, constituencies exist in which wards close together are combined to form units for representation in the country's

parliament (Zimbabwe Situation, 2014). These have the name of the district plus a direction on the map for example Mutoko North which is the only one among its counterparts East and South where black granite is mined. Dixon (2022) argues that, the subdivisions of the country help to ensure that there are structures for governance down to the local level. These include Provincial Members of Parliament, Local Members of Parliament (for constituencies), the District Administrator, Ward councillors. The traditional leadership includes chiefs at district level and headmen at village levels (Dixon, 2022).

Concurrently, the Zimbabwe Legal Information Institute (2016) states that, mining committees are also formed to concert efforts and voices from the many stakeholders involved or affected by mining. In the capital, Harare, the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development is the governing body whose power formally supersedes all other officials. The Minerals and Mines Act of 1961 consolidates power for the president and the state. All mines and mineral resources in Zimbabwe are governed by the Mines and Minerals Act [Chapter 21:05] which in short confers the control of all mineral resources to the president of the country on behalf of the state (Zimbabwe Legal Information Institute, 2016).

Closely connected to the mining law is the Communal Lands Act [Chapter 20:4] as well as the Land Acquisition Act [Chapter 20:10]. According to Madya and Muzaza the Communal Land Act alters and regulates the occupation and use of communal land and affects the manner in which mining rights are acquired. The Land Acquisition Act empowers the President and authorities to acquire land and other immovable property compulsorily in certain circumstances, as well as to make special provision for the compensation payable for agricultural land required for resettlement purposes (Madya and Muzaza, 2022). A closer look to the Land Acquisition Act shows that the mineral has power over everything that sits on it. This means that anything sitting on a mineral in Zimbabwe, be it agriculture or homestead can be forced to move in order to obtain the minerals in that particular area.

2.5 Chinese Mining in Zimbabwe

2.5.1 Chinese Mining in Midlands Province

Indigenous communities in Zimbabwe struggle to hold Chinese-owned mining companies accountable for mining Gold, environmental damage and injustices, water pollution as well as indigenous rights. According to Mavhudzi (2021), Chinese-owned mining operations in the Midlands Province of Zimbabwe continue to defy environmental regulations and violate the rights of local communities. Mavhudzi goes on to say that, communities in the mineral-rich Great Dyke which forms part of the Midlands Province in Zimbabwe have expressed concern about increasing environmental and infrastructure degradation in the region, leaving trails of open pits which are now death traps for human and livestock.

In addition, Chinembiri (2020) envisages that, while mining has been identified as a key sector for the attainment of National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1) goals, the impact of some mining operations in the Midlands Province has become a cause for concern. The Zimbabwean government recently availed Statutory Instrument 104 of 2021 Environmental Management (Control of Alluvial Mining) (Amendment) Regulations, 2021 (No. 2) which regulates the mining operations in the country (Veritas Zim, 2021). Yet, a Chinese mining company continues to defy the government ban on alluvial gold mining, despite efforts by the Environmental Management Agency (EMA) to stop operations in line with a national government directive (Mavhudzi, 2021).

2.5.2 Chinese Operations in Dohwe Mberengwa

A recent visit to Mberengwa proved its sorry state. According to the published news by the Inside-Over Paper (2022), communities living downstream of the mine are concerned about mercury pollution in the water. Mavhudzi (2021) states that, White ASB Gold Mine, operating along the Dohwe river near Mberengwa Rural Service Centre, is licensed to undertake rubble, open-cast and

reef mining. Yet, it has now encroached into the Dohwe River catchment with the use of heavy equipment such as excavators, front-end loaders and tipper trucks, resulting in massive environmental destruction.

In addition, Chinembiri (2020) postulates that, communities living in the downstream area along Dohwe river expressed concern about their health and safety considering the use of mercury in the mining activities. According to Zhou (2021), Chinese mining has destabilized peoples' way of life because they have been very dependent on the river for their livelihoods but due to water pollution they now fear for their lives and that of their livestock. Mapanzure (2018) noted that another resident in Zvishavane said she was forced to relocate from Mberengwa after she lost her son last year, who drowned in one of the open pits left by transnational miners in Neta, Mberengwa. Bhulabhula (2021) admitted that, the council is crippled when it comes to controlling the mining operations in their jurisdiction, because when the companies arrive at the site, all their paperwork would have been completed in Harare.

Chinese operations in the country have a track record of non-compliance with environmental regulations. Bhasera (2021) said several efforts to stop the Chinese miner from committing environmental crimes over the past two months have not been fruitful. He goes on to say that, the miner is wilfully disregarding the law as stipulated in sections 6, 7 and 8 of the Statutory Instrument, which disregard the use of mechanical equipment when carrying out alluvial mining unless authority has been granted and consequence for such actions. Matumba (2021) argued that communities are now pinning their hopes on the current amendment of the mining laws so that they may fully benefit from their own mineral resources.

2.5.3 Chinese Mining in Shurugwi

The Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association ZELA identified three important aspects highlighting the effects of mining in Shurugwi, a town in Midlands Province in Zimbabwe. These aspects include; the failure by mining companies to implement their corporate social responsibilities, environmental degradation, and the distress and human rights violations caused to communities (ZELA, 2020). Magaya (2020) revealed that, large companies exploiting mineral resources in Shurugwi are making minimal efforts to plough benefits back into communities. She goes on to say that, this is largely attributed to the lack of a legal framework that obligates mining companies to practice corporate social responsibility in Zimbabwe. According to ZELA (2020), the trend in Shurugwi is that disused open shafts and pits are left unrehabilitated and this is largely ascribed to a lack of constant monitoring by the Environmental Management Agency due to limited resources. Hence, as a result, there is unabated loss of life (human and livestock), land degradation, air pollution, poisoning of rivers and streams.

Similarly, Mavhudzi (2021) agrees that, communities hosting mining companies and employees were experiencing untold suffering from mining companies and this violates principles laid out by the International Council on Mining and Metals instructing mining companies to “uphold fundamental human rights and respect cultures, customs and values in dealings with employees and other people”. The socializing of costs is evident through forced evictions and relocations of communities from their traditional homelands without prior informed consent to pave way for mining activities (Mavhudzi, 2021). This has led to communities suffering from loss of agricultural and grazing land thereby affecting their food security and sources of income.”

2.5.4 Chinese Mining in Mutoko

Moving on to the Chinese operations in Mutoko, Kanokanga (2021) states that, a group of Chinese miners left Mutoko community in shock after visiting Katsukunya ward and produced a letter which gives them permission to take 178 hectares of land to conduct black granite mining. Kanokanga goes on to say that, there are rumours circulating and it has been argued that the affected villagers were to be relocated to Mudzi District, a development which many were likely to reject. According to the Masenyama (2022), the Chinese black granite mining company operating in Mutoko has threatened to take legal action against the media for exposing its operations, after it was reported to have displaced some villagers in the district. Mugwara et.al. (2022) states that, fifty families in Nyamakope village in Mutoko District have been told by a Chinese mining company that they will have to leave their homes and land.

Residents in Mutoko believed to be in constant fear that they will, anytime, be removed from the land they have lived on and tilled for scores of decades due to the Chinese mining activities in the region (Khumalo, 2022). Local people in Mutoko area in 2019 also claim that they were not benefiting much from these mining activities being done in their regions by the Chinese. For example, in 2009, Mutoko District produced 121 000 metric tons of black granite which was estimated to be worth USD12,1 million. Mutoko Rural area only received \$18 000 (Business Reporter, 2019).

2.5.5 Problems of Chinese mining in Zimbabwe

Chinese mining in Zimbabwe has not been that welcomed activity by the local citizens as the mining comes with quite a number of challenges. Ngoro (2022) states that, the Chinese mining companies in Zimbabwe have always been under fire for labour abuses. Ngoro further notes that, on 20 September 2022, the Zimbabwe Diamonds and Allied Workers Union (ZDAMWU), an organization

representing local people working at Chinese mines, wrote to the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare accusing the Asian nationals of abusing workers and disregarding laws.

The Zhong Xin Coal Mining Group and Afro-chine Smelting were granted permission by the government to begin environmental impact assessments for drilling, land clearance, road building and geological surveys at two proposed sites inside the Hwange National Park (Watts, 2020). Watts goes on to say that, conservationists warn that this idea on a mine in the national park will shrink and disturb the habitat of many rare species including black rhino, pangolin and painted dogs, as well as devastates safari tourism which is a vital source of income for local people.

The Zimbabwe federal government claimed that, it consulted Dinde residents before granting the Beifa Investment permission to invest in the area. However, the Dinde residents in Hwange protested against the planned coal mining (Reyes, 2021). Reyes further notes that, the residents of Dinde argued that the activity would negatively affect Dinde's unique ecology, pour pollutants into a local water source and possibly displace over six hundred villagers. Due to serious problems in Zimbabwe as a result of Chinese mining, the country reviewed mining laws and policies to ensure that communities benefit from their resources and to improve transparency (The Inside-Over, 2022). This might be a move which is likely to save many from the challenges that are being faced as a result of Chinese mining in the country.

2.6 Sources of conflicts from Chinese mining Interests in Africa.

Chinese mining investment induced conflicts are as a result of different factor which may be related to mining and health issues, cultural and traditional indifferences among other factors. Gualnam (2008) is of the view that, although it has been argued that mining can be a vital economic propellant for most countries especially the developing ones because it can facilitate industrialization along with the promises of wealth and jobs, on the contrary, it can also be a source of social discontent, civil

unrest and other high social cost. Gualnam goes on to say that, there is no doubt that mining appropriates land belonging to the local communities, impacts health, change social relationship, destruct the forms of community sustenance, cause social disintegration by radical and abrupt changes in regional cultures as well as displace other present or future local economic.

2.6.1 Mining and Health

Health problems arise from a variety of man's activities including industrialization, farming, mining and migration. According to Stephen and Ahern (2001), mining remains one of the most perilous occupations in the world, both in terms of short-term injuries and fatalities, but also due to long term impacts such as cancers and respiratory conditions for instance, silicosis, asbestosis and pneumoconiosis.

Consequently, it is argued that underground mines produce severe harms for employees in terms of their risks of high blood pressure; heat exhaustion; myocardial infarction and nervous system disorders (Michaud, 2016). Surface mining on the other hand is more related to respiratory diseases. Stephen and Ahern (2001) are of the view that, in all levels of mining health risks occur with dust exposure and respiratory impacts are the most studied impacts when it comes to health in mining activities. The Herald in (2015) published that, mining is an occupation fraught with many dangers and this is particularly the case where mining operations take place underground, which in some cases may be several kilometres underground. An example published is that of the Wankie Number Two Colliery disaster of 1972 where a total of 423 remained buried in the collapsed mine, died after a series of underground explosions occurred (the Herald, 2015).

2.6.2 Mining, Cultural and Tradition Values

Some research has been done on effects of mining activities on the culture and traditional values of the local people. Chimonyo, et al. (2012) on their research on the social and economic implications of mining pointed how mining can affect culture. They argue that the opening up of the Ushonje Range for mining disrupted the social and cultural value of Chiadzwa with a long-lasting imprint. The sacredness of the Ushonje Range is demonstrated by many mysteries that take place in the mountain (Katsaura, 2010). Katsaura further argued that, traditionally there are many activities that culture and tradition forbid to take place in that mountain. For example, the use of foul language to describe fruits and other observations is forbidden. Sexual misconduct and cutting down of trees that are deemed sacred were classified as forms of spiritual disobedience (ZELA, 2019).

Perpetrators of these misconducts would be punished and their families receiving a curse. Stephen and Ahern (2001) in their study captured the views of the local community in respect of their implications on their culture and traditions. Both villagers and the traditional leaders pointed out that they were aware of the wealth in the Ushonje Range. Through the local spirit medium they were meant to understand that the wealth was for the Chiadzwa community only. The influx of illegal miners and dealers was a violation of cultural belief. (Chimonyo et al., 2012). Also, in Hwange according to the Matabeleland North Correspondent (2021), the local community has petitioned Beifa Investments, a Chinese owned mining company, exploring for coal in Dinde area to stop forthwith any mining activities as doing so violates the culture and heritage of the Nambya people.

2.6.3 Breakdown in Family Structures and Values

Studies have also been carried out to establish how mining operations in communities have impacted on the family structures and values. Chimonyo, et al. (2012) pointed out that the immediate effect of diamond mining was changing family wealth and welfare as shown by the improved food supply

situation and asset acquisition. The illegal diamond mining transformed Chiadzwa from an unknown poverty-stricken village to a village that was connected to Mutare with commuter transport and a large number of locals owning their own vehicles (Katsaura, 2010). Katsaura goes on to say that, Diamond mining had established new set of family chores that were dictated by mining activities and the need to, share in the income that the diamonds were bringing to households.

The study by the ZELA (2019) further revealed that household power relations in most families shifted in favour of children and women whose earnings from panning were higher. This was particularly in cases where wives remained in the village and husbands were employed in the city, the women now commanded a higher income. As a result, the husband's authority in the family was undermined as the wives became decision makers and championed more family development issues (Chimonyo, et al., 2012).

2.6.4 The Enforced Displacement

Enforced displacement has been one of the major impacts of Chinese mining interests. According to Inamuco (2022), as a result of the onset of new mining operations, communities often face relocation to pave way for mining activities. In Zimbabwe several studies were carried to reveal how relocations affected the way of life for the affected communities. Scholars like, Kusena (2015) looked at how the standard of living of the local communities were affected as a result of being moved out of mining areas. Gukurume and Nhodo (2020) argued that formalization of mining in Chiadzwa meant that the whole area had to have a single land use that is diamond mining. They went on to say that, this meant that all families residing in the diamond mining area and indeed close to the diamond fields had to be relocated for security reasons and families were going to be resettled on Arda Transau Farm at Odzi.

In support of the above, Mandishekwa and Mutenheri (2021) state that, the relocation of the villagers brought with it a plethora of challenges. These included food security, loss of livelihood, disruption of education, inadequate pasture. Chimonyo (2012) is of the view that, while families were happy

with the accommodation provided, the families registered their reservation with the absence of a compensation scheme for their displacement. Also, in Mutoko area, people were forced to relocate in order to pay way for mining (Mugwara, 2022).

2.7 Mining and the Environment

The adverse environmental impact of mining activities is well documented. Particular attention has been directed towards the impacts of large scale and small-scale gold mining activities on environmental contamination (Heath et.al, 1994). According to Yelapaala (2004), while the land degradation caused by the gold mining is pronounced, chemical contamination from the gold extraction process imposes a double burden on the environment, with harmful health implications for mining communities and people residing in close proximity to such activities. Chinese mining activities are said to have caused heavy damages on the environment in the Latin America and the Caribbean. According to Ommati (2022), the region has maintained its role as a provider of natural resources to China at a high cost to its ecology and local communities. Ommati further states that, Chinese mining and infrastructure projects create lasting environmental damages. Drasch et al. (2001) carried out a study which reviewed that, in one site in the Philippines proved that many people were affected environmentally due to mining activities. In Zimbabwe several studies, researches and surveys in mining communities have revealed that environmental problems such as land degradation, pollution and others are associated with mining activities. Some of these are enumerated below;

2.7.1 Deforestation

In 2019, the PELUM-ZWE published that, deforestation is becoming a serious problem in many parts of Zimbabwe for example in Shamva District and the major causes are unsustainable farming and mining. According to Chimonyo, et al. (2012) in their study of deforestation in Chiadzwa pointed out that extensive areas of land and vegetation in Chiadzwa have been cleared to make way for surface

mining activities. Firstly, there was an increased use of fuel wood because of the influx of people into the area with no other source of energy. According to Mandishekwa and Mutenheri (2020), the miners especially needed a lot of fire wood since they lived in rudimentary shelters. Secondly the need for fuel wood for cooking increased as a large number of people became involved in food vending to feed the miners and there was also establishment of new homes as people speculated on the future (Mandishekwa and Mutenheri, 2020).

2.7.2 Land degradation

In 2007, Manica Post published that, the Deputy Minister of Environment visited Chiadzwa and observed that the state of the environment was disturbing (Makoni, 2015). He argued that the environment had being ruined and something had to be done as the country would not afford to ignore the environmental damages caused by mining in Chiadzwa. According to Mambondiyani (2019), the environmental impacts by some Chinese companies operating in Zimbabwe can only be described as catastrophic. As mentioned by Maguwu in 2019, Chinese companies do not have proper licenses to operate in Zimbabwe, and as such, these companies are leaving trails of immense environmental degradation across the country, particularly those in extractive sectors such as gold, diamond and chrome mining (Mambondiyani, 2019).

2.7.3 Water Pollution

Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association (2012), looked at how mining activities contribute to water pollution. According to Michaud (2016), many underground mines have an active programme to reduce the water table or divert major watercourses away from the mines and this exercise has disruptive outcomes for the quality and availability of surface and ground water. According to Inamuco (2022), the Democratic Republic of Congo's environment minister suspended the operations of a Chinese company for Polluting a major Congo River in Tshopo

province, while the Xiang Jiang Mining is also accused of polluting the Aruwimi River. Mombia (2022) states that, there has been an increase in cases of diarrhoea in the Tshopo Province in Congo. He goes on to say that, “dead fish are floating in the river and, unfortunately, people are eating them,” and as a result of this, unending conflicts are being recorded in DRC between the Chinese and the local residents. There was also an influx of illegal Chinese miners in Ghana, being attracted by the abundance of gold. According to Spaul (2016), Chinese mining in Ghana has caused environmental devastation and social unrest.

ZELA (2012) postulate that, diamond mining, especially for alluvial diamonds, thrives along old river channels and the concentration of mining operations in Chiadzwa has been a chief cause of both surface and groundwater pollution. The studies carried out in Chiadzwa by Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association (2012) also looked at how communities’ programs were affected by mining activities. Communities in the Marange/Odzi region of Manicaland (Chimanimani, Marange, Buhera and Chipinge) have for long relied on the Odzi and Save Rivers for potable water, domestic chores, bathing, fishing and other ecosystem services such as reeds used for the basket making industry (ZELA, 2012).

2.7.4 Air, Noise and Vibration

Air pollution, noise and vibrations are also among the sources of conflicts from Chinese mining interest. Boulanger and Gorman (2004) pointed out that mercury emitted as air pollution can travel hundreds, even thousands of miles in the air while, mining activities and mining support companies discharge particulate matter into the ambient. Boulanger and Gorman go on to say that, the grievances of the affected communities on air quality have been the airborne particulate matter, emissions of black smoke, noise and vibration. The sources of noise and vibration in the area comprise mobile equipment, air blasts and vibration from blasting and other machinery (Cape &

Schwob, 2016). According to Akabzaa and Darimani (2001), the impact of high-pitched and other noises is known to include damage to the auditory system, cracks in buildings, stress and discomfort. Chimonyo et al. (2012) argue that, these noises can also terrify animals, hinder their mating processes and also cause abortions, therefore adversely affecting the animal population.

2.8 Summary

The chapter looked at the interests and the operations of the Chinese in the mining sector in some parts of the world. It looked at these mining interests from an international perspective, regional as well as national perspective, bringing out the conflicts arising from the Chinese mining interests. The literature also covered the problems associated with Chinese mining in Zimbabwe as well as circumstances leading to conflicts.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

The methodology section is one of the most crucial parts within an academic study. The purpose of this chapter is to present the components that made this research practical and doable. It gives an in-depth account of the research design, methodology, population, sampling methods, data collection, validity, reliability, data presentation, analysis, pilot testing and the ethical aspects that were tied together to come up with a well-structured study.

3.1 Research Design

The research adopted an exploratory case study research design. According to EduBirdie (2022), an exploratory case study answers the how and why questions. This research design is more suitable for the research because it allows one to obtain an in-depth understanding of the impacts of the Chinese mining investment induced conflicts in Mutoko and Zimbabwe as a whole. The design gives an in-depth analysis of the topic under study. It is these advantages that made the researcher adopt exploratory case study design for this study.

3.2 Research Methodology

The study is qualitative research. Cresswell (2013) submits that, qualitative research involves collecting and analysing non-numerical data including text, video or audio to understand concepts, opinions or experiences. Thus, the methodology becomes suitable for the study because the focus is on understanding the impacts of the Chinese mining investment induced conflicts in Mutoko.

According to Cresswell (2013), qualitative research is historically known for generating in-depth insights into the research problem, which is the goal of this study.

3.3 Population and sample

Qualitative research studies involving human participants must have a predefined study population that takes part in the designed research. The population chosen should have the right characteristics and attributes that allow the study to attain their intended goals. Reid (2002) states that, “a research population is also known as a well-defined collection of individuals known to have similar characteristics.” The research must tick all the boxes within the inclusion criteria before taking an individual in as a participant. For the purposes of this research the population was composed of people who had first hand conflict experiences with Chinese mining institutions and these are the local residents of Nyamaropa and Nyamakope villages in Mutoko. A sample size of 30 participants with characteristics similar to the primary group was chosen to participate in the study.

3.4 Sampling methods

A sample is a group of participants selected carefully according to the purposes of the study (Mercer, 2010). This research used non-probability sampling procedures which is the purposive sampling. Participants were chosen considering the fact that they were located in areas where the Chinese were carrying out their mining activities. They also had experienced impacts of Chinese mining investments. Thus, they became relevant population sample for the study.

3.5 Data Collection Procedures

In the data were collected through semi structured interviews. They are a data collection method that rely on asking questions within a predefined thematic framework (Creswell, 2013). Semi structured interviews are often open ended allowing for maximum flexibility during the data collection process. The questions for the interviews were constructed on the bases of the research questions and objectives.

3.6 Reliability and Validity

Qualitative research is often attacked in the academic space because it does not hold the same credibility aligned with quantitative research (Logan, 2010). To ensure that the results of the research are reliable and therefore repeatable the research made use of external audits and brought in an expert familiar with the research subject to assess and verify the accuracy and quality of data against the objectives of the study. Bringing an external individual to stress test the accuracy of the study has greatly added to the study's dependability and reliability.

3.7 Data presentation and analysis

There are different ways of analysing data withing the qualitative research framework. However, for the purposes of this research the thematic content analysis which is a brunch of inductive approach to data processing was chosen. This approach involves analysing data with little or no predetermined theory and uses the actual data to structure the analysis and explain results (Barnes & Grove, 1993). Thematic content analysis begins with the transcription of the interviews and making notes next to the phrases derived from the interviews. Having done this the researcher proceeds to conduct open coding an activity that involves writing short phrases to summarizes what is being said by the text. The third stage consists of finding similarities between different ideas and grouping similar ideas together into buckets or themes. (Logan, 2010). The last stage of

the process involves analysing data from each theme or bucket and then developing explanations for each theme.

3.10 Chapter Summary

This chapter provided an account of the research design, methodology, population, sampling methods, data collection, validity and reliability, as well as data presentation analysis.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presented, analysed and discussed the findings that were obtained from data collection. It started by outlining the demographic characteristics of the participants highlighting the number of people who participated in the study, their age groups as well as the gender. The presentation and discussion of the findings in relation to the literature that was reviewed in the previous chapters was also done.

4.1 Demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of the participants

The sample of the study was composed of thirty people who have experienced direct or indirect conflict with Chinese mining companies operating in their constituency. Of the thirty, twelve were women (female) making up 40% of the total and eighteen were men (male) constituting the remaining percentage of the sample. In this research sample sixteen of the participants indicated that they were born and raised in Mutoko, eight were not born in Mutoko but have lived in there for more than twenty years and the remaining were also not born in Mutoko, however they have spent more than fifteen years living in that jurisdiction.

In terms of education twenty-two indicated that their highest level of education was Ordinary Level (O' level), six indicated that they progressed to Advanced Level (A' level) and only two attained a university degree or other form of certification from a tertiary institution. The main spoken language was Shona, the semi-structured interview questions that were primarily written in English were translated to that language after feedback from the participants indicated that this was the

language that the majority of the participants were most comfortable with. In order to capture the actual responses of the participants the research presented their words verbatim in Shona and then provides an English translation in parenthesis.

An Analysis of the Participants of the Study:

Demographic Characteristics	Total
Age group	
21 – 31	8
31 – 40	10
41 – 55	12
Sex	
Male	18
Female	12
Level of Education	
Ordinary Level	22
Advanced Level	6
University Degree or other Tertiary Education Certification	2
Spoken Languages	
Shona only	23
Shona and English	7

In addition, eight key informants were recruited for participation in the study on the basis of their social and professional positions that made them extremely knowledgeable on the subject under study. Their professional positions ranged from a local headman, four government workers and

three businessmen operating their ventures in Mutoko. Key informants were comfortable with English and their responses are presented in that language without additional translations.

4. 2 Nature of conflicts arising from Chinese mining interests in Mutoko

Data collected from research participants through semi-structured and key informant interviews established that there is a multiplicity of conflicts between Chinese mining companies and the residents of Nyamaropa and Nyamakope villages in Mutoko. The types of conflicts are presented, analysed and discussed in reference to existing literature that was reviewed in the previous chapters of this write-up.

4.2.1 Psychical Conflicts

Data from this research indicated that there are several types of conflicts existing between Chinese mining companies and the residents of Nyamaropa and Nyamakope villages in Mutoko, for instance psychical conflicts. Research participants reported of a violent confrontation between residents and a local Chinese mining company that occurred in the year 2020. In the incident about thirty residents armed with iron bars, machetes, sticks and stones, chanting war songs confronted Chinese mining company bosses over being sealed off from a gold mining area that they used to get gold from before the Chinese took over the area and notified them that they could no longer carry out mining activities in it. A participant (X1) with knowledge of the incident stated,

Pakauya varume vaive kuma-thirty vakapfeka mamask vaine mabhembra, simbi, mipinyi uye matombo, vaiimba nziyo dzhondo vachida kurwisa machaina anga ari pamine yavaisimbochera kare. Mining yakatombomira pakatozofonerwa mapurisa akauya nepfuti kuti vazovabvisa. (There was a group of men who were masked, armed with machetes, iron bars, sticks and stones, singing war songs

with the intention of fighting the Chinese who are now operating mining activities where these men used to work. There was a shutdown of mining activities. Armed police had to be called to disperse them).

Another participant (X2) also highlighted that people would have died on this particular day if the police were not summoned to disperse these people who had stormed the mine to confront the Chinese who are preventing them from carrying out their mining activities here.

These responses testify that there is indeed physical conflict at play between the two parties. Before the Chinese came in Mutoko, local residents were making a living through informal mining activities in this mining area. With the coming of the Chinese mining companies, local residents were prohibited to conducting mining activities in these areas and doing so means that they can be prosecuted by law. Consequently, local residents believe that they were dispossessed of a lucrative economic asset and are now harbouring negative feelings against the Chinese mining operators resulting in psychological conflicts such as this one. While the research findings concur with existing literature that there are clashes between local people and Chinese mining companies operating in Shurugwi (Magaya, 2020) as well as in Mberengwa (Zhou, 2021), there is a divergence in that these studies do not specifically indicate the existence of this type of conflict in the areas they conducted their studies in.

4.2.2 Cultural value conflicts

There is also conflict of values between local residents and Chinese mining company operators. Conflicts go beyond violent confrontation such as the one mentioned above and they also involve clashes of interests, ideologies and values. The later type of conflict has been established by this

research to be at play between local residents and Chinese mining companies. One participant (X3) offered insight into this by saying, the Chinese are telling them to relocate elsewhere so that they can carry out their mining activities yet these local residents have buried their relatives in the area whom they cannot leave by.

A participant (X4) with a similar view stated, it is not allowed in their culture to leave the relatives they have buried and go elsewhere. These responses testify to the fact that there is indeed a cultural value conflict between the two groups. Residents of Nyamakope village value the cultural aspect of remaining in the same space with their buried relatives while Chinese mining companies value mineral exploration and wealth creation. While living in close proximity to one's dead relatives is of cultural significance to local residents, the Chinese do not understand such. They regard this as mere superstitious thinking and therefore are trying their level best to have the locals removed from mineral rich areas so that they can pursue their mining activities.

These different perspectives on cultural issues are in itself a form of conflict. Although other researches such as Boulanger and Gorman (2004) and Mavhudzi (2021) uncovered different types of conflicts between Chinese mining companies and the people living in communities that they operate in, they did not specifically point to this type of conflict. This gap might be due to the fact that their investigations were not interested in this component or type of conflict.

4.2.3 Resource control conflicts

The research further indicated that Chinese mining companies and residents of Mutoko are entangled in resource control conflicts. Before the Chinese started mining in Mutoko, residents had control over resources such as granite that they used for quarrying, tombstones and construction work, forest resources, which they used for beekeeping and fuel as well as gold rich areas which they carried out informal mining activities. The Chinese have since been allocated

some of these areas to pursue their mining activities thus taking away control of these resources from local residents. The Chinese claim that they have legal control over such resources and have government documents to back their claims. While local residents are of the view that they have a cultural right to access those resources since they are natives in the area where these resources are found.

Note a response from a participant (X5) below,

Chinondishamisa ndechekuti maChina aya anoti matombo aya ndeawo.

Vakaawanepi, pane here munhu akambouya nematombo kubva kuChina

akasvikoriti apa dzii? Matombo akangogara aripo aya muno maMutoko.

(What surprises me is that Chinese mining operators are claiming ownership of this granite. Where did they get them? Is there any Chinese person who brought granite and transplanted it here? This granite has been here in Mutoko all along).

This expression indicates a conflict over resource control between local residents and Chinese mining companies operating in Mutoko. Before the Chinese set their operations the locals had a monopoly over natural resources such as granite, forestry and gold deposits. However, since the arrival of the Chinese this monopoly has been challenged with the later claiming that they have been legally allowed to take control of such resources by the government.

Consequently, local people are against this, have developed resentment and grudges leading to other forms of friction such as physical conflict that was alluded to earlier. The studies conducted by Katsaura (2010), Mandishekwa and Mutenheri (2021) and Mugwara (2022) concur with the findings of this research by broadly acknowledging that there are conflicts between mining

companies and local residents. However, their findings diverge with those of this research in that they focused on conflicts caused by factors such as enforced relocations and environmental degradation and left out this specific type of disagreement between mining companies and local people.

4.3 Bases of the conflicts between Chinese mining companies and local people

Research data indicate that there are different factors that are leading to conflicts between Chinese mining companies and the residents of Mutoko. These factors are presented, analysed and discussed below.

4.3.1 Forced relocations aimed at paving way for Chinese mining activities

It was made clear by the research that one of the primary causes of value conflict between Chinese mining companies and local residents particularly those living in Nyamakope village is that the later are being forced by the former to vacate their homesteads where they have been living for decades in-order to pave way for Chinese mining activities.

Another participant (X6) expressed that they were born in the area and had their lives and kids in that particular area, thus they cannot be forced to relocate. These responses show that local residents value staying in the homesteads that they have inhabited for long periods of time and have invested a lot of financial and material resources in developing. In the African context home ownership is a sign of progress, prosperity and represents upward social mobility. Relocating and starting afresh means an erasure of years of progress and slipping rungs down the social mobility ladder. The Chinese on the other hand value mineral exploration and profit making. Participants in the 40-55 age group indicated that they are heavily invested in their homesteads and cannot afford to relocate elsewhere without some form of compensation or financial aid which Chinese

mining companies are not willing to provide. The Rural District Council, local councillors and headmen are being blamed for working with the Chinese instead of standing with local residents.

These results converge with the findings of Mavhudzi (2021) who established that people who live in communities that interface with Chinese mining activities are constantly exposed to the risk factor of forced relocations and this often results in heated conflict between the two groups. The socializing of costs is evident through forced evictions and relocations of communities from their traditional homelands without prior consent to pave way for mining activities (Mavhudzi, 2021). The similarity between the findings of this research and that done by Mavhudzi (2021) proves beyond reasonable doubt that indeed forced relocations are a primary cause of conflict between Chinese mining companies and the local people.

4.3.2 Environmental degradation due to increased mining activities

Data generated by the study indicates that environmental degradation due to incessant mining activity is a determinant of value conflict between the people living in Mutoko and Chinese mining enterprises. A key informant (X1) of this research said,

My perspective is that we are custodians entrusted with keeping this environment healthy for future generations in the same way that the previous generations kept it safe for us. We are enjoying this beautiful, serene and wonderful environment because our fathers, mothers and our grandparents before that made sure that the environment was well protected. Going back in time you could see that there were local knowledge systems that notified people that some places were sacred and mustn't be tempered with. That was done to protect the environment. Fast

forward to this day things has changed and the Chinese are blasting rocks, chopping trees at will and digging open pits as they please. So, there is friction, on the one hand we feel that we are custodians of the environment and at the same time the Chinese are marching full steam ahead and destroying the very environment that we are supposed to protect in order for them to make a profit.

From the above responses it can be argued that the Chinese mining companies appear to be valuing profits while the local residents value a beautiful and well-maintained environment. These diverging values are responsible for creating a rift between the two groups. The Chinese are being blamed by local people especially those in Nyamaropa and Nyamakope villages for carrying out unsustainable mining practices that have both short- and long-term negative impacts on the environment. With the inception of mining operations, the environment is constantly polluted with thick smoke, blasting noises, and pits that have been dug and abandoned without being closed.

Even though the mining companies are benefiting from the resources that they are mining they are not contributing much towards rehabilitating, restoring and maintaining the environment, angering a lot of local residents. Magaya (2020) made similar findings in Shurugwi, she established that mining companies in that area are exploiting the environment and at the same time are making little efforts to rehabilitate it. Whilst the time and spaces of these two studies are different, they concur that Chinese mining companies are causing environmental degradation in their pursuit for profit. Whilst these companies are making lots of money, local residents are getting a degraded environment and resulting in conflict between the two groups.

4.3.3 Disruption of local livelihoods

There is conflict of interests between Chinese mining companies and the residents of Mutoko when it comes to the economic activities that they are oriented to. Local residents prioritize agriculture related activities such as farming, cattle rearing and beekeeping, whereas the Chinese prioritize mining. They are highly dependent of environmental elements such as land, pasture and forest resources. Chinese mining activities are therefore not only destroying the environment but also the livelihoods dependent on environmental elements within this jurisdiction. A participant (X7) shared that before the Chinese ventured into mining he was in beekeeping and would sell honey to people within their community. Since the beginning of Chinese mining activities his project has been destroyed and no longer making any profit.

Local residents and Chinese mining companies have conflicting economic values, the former is interested in pursuing agricultural related ventures whilst the Chinese are interested in mineral exploration. While the end goal for both is profit making, the activities of Chinese mining companies are disadvantaging and disrupting the economic activities of the local people. Hence, people whose livelihoods have been destroyed now harbour feelings of bitterness and resentment.

These findings are related to those of Zhou (2021) who observed that mining activities in Mberengwa are destabilizing people's livelihoods due to water pollution which is now compromising the health of their livestock. The Government of Zimbabwe has always encouraged people living in rural areas to concentrate and build their livelihoods around agricultural activities such as crop cultivation, animal husbandry, fishing and beekeeping. A degradation of environmental resources due to mining activities such as what is being witnessed in Mutoko and Mberengwa naturally results in the erosion of people's incomes. There is also a strong connection between the findings of this study and that of Magaya (2022) which established that in Shurugwi

mining companies are doing little to rehabilitate the environment after degrading it. This degradation is then negatively impacting the different livelihoods that are directly dependent on the environment in one way or the other.

4.3.4 Constant exposure to health risks

Another factor that is fuelling value conflict between the local residents of Mutoko and Chinese mining companies operating there is that the Chinese activities are perceived to be both a short- and long-term risk factor for negative health and different diseases. A key informant (X2) who participated in this study stated that, Chinese mining activities in this country are a risk factor to people's health in both the short- and long-term future. Due to this, it is the right of the local citizens to stand-up against these irresponsible mining activities.

This response indicate that the local people and Chinese mining companies have conflicting values with the local people putting emphasis on a cleaner environment that minimizes exposure to different diseases. Chinese mining companies are considered hostile as they are always pushing their profit agenda ahead of the health needs of local people. Their mining practices are arguably unsafe for the greater population as indicated by another participant who stated that they had to take their child to the clinic and the diagnosis was that the disease was a result of breathing contaminated air. A study done by Boulanger and Gorman (2004) established that mining activities are a constant threat to human health. Their study outlined that, air pollution, noise and vibrations caused by mining activities are a risk to human health.

While these studies were done in different locations and times with different populations their commonality is that they both uncovered that Chinese mining activities are a threat to human health. In addition, the findings of this study also converge with the outcomes of a study that was conducted by Akabzaa and Darimani (2004) who opined that the noises produced by mining

activities are a risk factor for the damage of the human auditory system. Although this study mainly uncovered that the primary risk factor was lung related diseases due to the constant inhalation of smoke and other pollutants used in the mining process, the study of Akazbaa and Daramani (2004) concentrated on health problems related to the human auditory system due to constant exposure to the loud sounds produced by mining activities they share a unifying theme which is that mining activities are a danger to human health.

4.4 Proposed solutions for the highlighted conflicts

It is necessary to develop solutions that are geared towards eliminating the friction between the Chinese mining companies and the residents of Mutoko in-order for both groups to have a cordial co-existence. Participants shared different solutions that they think if implemented well can reduce the hostility and friction between the two groups. Traditionally conflicts have been addressed using a top-down approach in which a solution to a problem is designed somewhere and handed to people on the ground for implementation. However, the problem with this approach is that people designing the solutions do not have a proper context and appreciation of the practical realities on the ground. Because of that they often deliver the wrong solution. Implementing solutions suggested by local people in this case can help reduce tensions between them and Chinese mining companies faster than other approaches available.

4.4.1 Compensated relocations

Eighteen participants of this research were of the opinion that compensated relocations rather than forced ones could go a long way in easing the tensions between the local people and Chinese mining companies. In addition, engaging and seeking the consent of local people instead of forcibly removing them from the areas that they are living in was also identified as a solution to

the problem. A participant (X8) remarking on a potential solution to the conflict between the Chinese and the local residents stated that,

Toziva kuti mining ndeimwe yema-economic activities akabata hupfumi hwenyika ino pamwe chete ne-agriculture uye tourism. Zvichireva kuti kuwandawo kwezvatinochera ndiko kukurawo kwebudiriro yenyika yedu. Saka mining yakakosha. Asi zvinodiwa ndezvekuti panzvimbo pekudzanganisa vanhu munzvimbo dzavanogara, vane macompany emining aya vanofanira kuti kombansetawo kuti tigwana pekutangira kwatinenge taenda. Zvikadaro chete dambudziko rinobva rapera. (We definitely know that mining is one of the anchors of this economy along with Agriculture and Tourism, meaning that the more activity and output that we have in the mining sector the more economic progress we make as a country. However instead of forcibly evicting people from our homelands these mining companies should provide financial compensation to those that have been relocated so that they can have a starting point once they get there. This is my proposed solution to this problem).

Another participant (X9) shared a similar sentiment by saying that, people do support the development of the country and would want vision 2020 to be realized. However, if it were possible, houses would be constructed for those who have been relocated and at the same time some form of financial assistance should be made available to these people.

These responses are clearly pointing to the fact that if people are compensated in a way that they perceive as just and fair they will make way for the Chinese mining companies. The participants

of this study indicated that they do not want to be on the losing side of the deal or being handed the short side of the stick. For the Chinese mining companies to operate in these communities without much resistance or pressure from the locals they have to forget about profit maximization which seem to be a common driver in their business endeavours. Instead of forcibly evacuating people from their homesteads they need to rightfully compensate them in a just and fair manner. Local people are generally in favour of national economic progress and are prepared to make some concessions and sacrifices to make that happen, including moving from their own homesteads. However, they have to be some form of compensation that incentives them to relocate without putting in much resistance. It is imperative for these Chinese companies to have deal makers on their payroll whose full-time job is to persuade people to relocate in a just and fair manner.

Although the scholars of the literature that was reviewed in chapter two did their own researches in line with this topic, they tended to focus more on the problem space without proposing solutions that would ease the conflict. This research has gone a step further than conventional researches in that it has gone further to explore potential solutions geared at ending the conflict between Chinese mining companies and local residents.

4.4.2 Profit sharing arrangements

An analysis of the responses of the people who participated in the research indicated that economic conflict between Chinese mining companies and local residents can be eased by creating profit sharing arrangements that brings a win-win element into the play. The current sentiment is that the Chinese are benefiting from the mineral wealth more than the residence of Mutoko and this has led to resentment, grudges and feelings of disgruntlement. Profit sharing arrangements can reverse these perceptions.

These responses show that the residents of Mutoko are suggesting profit sharing programs as a solution geared towards addressing economic conflicts existing between them and Chinese mining companies. There is a need to create corporate social responsibility (CSR) departments whose sole job is to find ways of giving back to the community through programs such as infrastructure development, school and clinic construction as well as providing assistance to people in need. This would go a long way in alerting local people that they are also benefiting from the exploration of minerals in their area by the Chinese mining companies.

Reviews made by Magaya shows that mining companies operating in Shurugwi are also making minimal efforts to plough benefits back into the community (Magaya, 2020). Her findings are consistent with the revelations made by this study. This failure to plough back resources into the community by the mining companies seems to be happening across all the areas that the Chinese mining companies are working in. Arguably they are concerned with maximizing the profits that they are extracting from these communities. In their haste to make money they are antagonizing the people living in the communities that they are mining in. In her study however, Magaya (2020) did not further provide the solutions that are necessary to put an end to these conflicts.

4.4.3 Environmental rehabilitation programs

Research participants highlighted that Chinese mining activities are causing a lot of environmental degradation in their communities. The degradation was said to be in the form of air pollution, open pits and deforestation. Chinese mining companies have generally taken an 'exploit and go' approach in their mining. Their priority is to just extract the minerals, vacate and then go in search of other places to exploit, leaving a destroyed environment behind them. This has angered some locals who have always views themselves as custodians of the environment. This anger can be quelled by implementing environmental rehabilitation programs. These programs would go a long

way not only in protecting the environment but also in showing the local residents care about their communities beyond the resources that they are extracting.

Residents of Nyamakope and Nyamaropa villages that participated in this study showed frustration due to environmental degradation being done by Chinese mining companies and the absence of programs to address the issue. A way to reduce this value conflict between the two groups it was suggested that Chinese mining companies deploy environmental rehabilitation programs. Instead of leaving pits open they should be closed. Instead of chopping off trees and leave it at that state, they should have tree planting initiatives that even involve the local people themselves. The study conducted by Magaya (2020) concurs that indeed mining activities are causing massive environmental degradation. The fact that this study along with that of Magaya made similar findings prove beyond doubt that there is environmental degradation due to Chinese mining activities. However, like the previous studies mentioned earlier, Magaya (2020) focused only on the problems space and did not go further to offer solutions to conflicts between Chinese mining companies and the people living in the communities that they work in as this study sought to do.

4.5 Summary

In summary, this chapter presented, analysed and discussed the findings of the study. It began by outlining the demographic characteristics of the participants, followed by presenting the findings and discusses them in relation to the literature that was reviewed in the previous sections of the write-up.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the summary of the research that was aimed at understanding conflicts induced by Chinese mining companies operating in Mutoko. The chapter also contains an overview of all chapters that were covered in the research. Furthermore, it also presents the theoretical and practical contributions of the study. In this regard the findings of the research confirm and are consistent with the theory of Economic Nationalism that guided this study. Moreover, presented here are conclusions from the study, recommendations as well as areas that were not covered by this study for further research.

5.2 Summary of the Study

The first chapter contained the introduction and background to the study. It sought to outline why the topic “An Impact Assessment of the Chinese Mining Investments Induced Conflicts in Mutoko, Zimbabwe” is of interest. Conflicts between Chinese mining companies and local people have become part of the day to day talk in different communities in addition they make regular appearances in different newspapers and social media platforms. These stories nudged the researcher towards researching this phenomenon using academic research tools. The chapter also presented the purpose of the study, the statement of the problem, research objectives, research questions, assumptions of the study as well as the significance of the study. The chapter additionally covered the delimitations of the study which focused on what was covered by the study, in terms of time-frame, area, and content among others. Limitations to the study are also covered in the chapter, the definition of key terms which are found in the study as well as ethical principles that guided this research.

Chapter two focused on reviewing the literature documenting the conflicts induced by Chinese mining interests across different geographical locations and time horizons. The research looked at these mining interests from an international perspective, regional as well as national perspective, bringing out the conflicts arising from the Chinese mining interests, circumstances leading to these conflicts as well as adopting country experiences of Ecuador and DRC. The reviewed literature indicated that Chinese mining initiatives around the world were problematic and often led to different forms of conflict between the Chinese and the local people living in areas that these institutions operate in. The chapter also presented the research gap that the study aimed to fill. Although literature indicated that Chinese mining activities around the world were causing a series of conflicts there was limited content and research done on Chinese mining interests and conflicts caused in Zimbabwe particularly rural Zimbabwe is concerned.

Chapter three covered the methodology that was used to carry out the study. The research adopted a descriptive research design since it proved to be well aligned with the aims and objectives of the research compared to other design types. The research was carried out using qualitative research. Also included in the chapter are the population of the study and the sample size that was adopted by the researcher as they carried out the study. The chapter also contained the sampling method that was used in the study, purposive sampling, a sub-branch of non-probability sampling. Also included in chapter three were the data collection techniques that were utilized by the researcher to draw data from participants which were semi-structured and key informant interviews. To add on the chapter contained the issues of reliability and validity and how they were applied in the context of this study. The data presentation and analysis techniques that were used in the study were presented in this chapter. Lastly the chapter contained the ethical principles that guided the researcher during the course of the study.

Chapter four presented, analyzed and discussed the findings of the study. The chapter started by outlining the demographic characteristics of the participants followed by a presentation and discussion of findings in relation to the literature that was reviewed in chapter two. The chapter also covered the nature of conflicts that were caused by Chinese mining interests and activities in Mutoko which are psychological, value, resource control and economic conflicts. In addition, the chapter presented the causes of conflicts between these two groups which are forced relocations aimed at paving way for Chinese mining activities in Mutoko, environmental degradation due to increased mining activities, disruption of local livelihoods and constant exposure to health risks. These factors are regarded in a negative light by the locals thus generating feelings of anger, resentment and hostility towards Chinese mining companies. The chapter also contained proposed solutions aimed at reducing friction between the two groups. The solutions that were presented are compensated relocations, profit sharing arrangements and environmental rehabilitation programs.

Chapter five presented the summary of the research that was aimed at understanding conflicts induced by Chinese mining companies operating in Mutoko. In addition, the chapter contained the theoretical and practical contributions of the study. The study's findings are consistent and confirm the theory of Economic Nationalism that guided the research. Moreover, chapter five contained the conclusions of the study, offered recommendations and areas that were not covered by this study for further research.

5.3 Theoretical and Practical Contributions of the Study

The findings of the study confirm and are consistent with the theory of Economic Nationalism that guided this research. The basic premise of the theory is that countries craft practices and policies designed to create, bolster and advance their national economies in the context of the world market. The activities of the Chinese mining companies in Mutoko characterized by self-interest, profit

maximization, extracting of economic value ahead of local people as well as limited re-investment into local communities are designed to bolster and advance the Chinese economy in the world market ahead of Zimbabwe which is serving as the host country. Minerals are exported to China in their raw state without any value addition. The Chinese are getting the minerals at low cost. After adding value and distributing value added products to the world, the Chinese are earning multiples of amount that they initially invested thereby advancing themselves in the world economy.

The government of Zimbabwe has opened its mineral supplies to Chinese mining companies. In doing so, the country is acting contrary to the basic premise of Economic Nationalism as its actions are weakening its economic stature. This is due to the fact that, the Chinese mining companies are extracting more economic value from local mineral wealth and remunerating the proceeds to their country while the host country itself is not benefiting much from its own mineral wealth. Consequently, the behaviour exhibited by the government of Zimbabwe thus far can be said to be going against the principles of the theory of Economic Nationalism.

5.4 Conclusions from the Study

Basing on the findings of the research the study concludes that Chinese mining activities are seen as problematic by local people thereby resulting in a multiplicity of conflicts including psychological, value and resource conflicts.

Another conclusion is that Chinese mining activities in Mutoko are driven by self-interest and profit making without regarding the welfare of the local people or the sustainability of the environment. This approach has stimulated feelings of anger and resentment in local people resulting in them regarding Chinese mining institutions in a negative way.

In addition, Chinese mining companies are benefiting more from the mineral wealth in Mutoko compared to local people. This goes against the government's thesis of putting the economy into the hands of the locals in the bid to indigenize and empower Zimbabweans. The government appears to be contradicting itself by putting Chinese economic interests ahead of the interests of the local people in Mutoko.

5.5 Recommendations

The aim of this section is to present recommendations in line with the conclusions of the study.

- * Chinese or any company from other countries must be mandated to remunerating a certain percentage of their mining profits to be used towards local development initiatives such as infrastructure, school and hospital construction.
- * The government must incubate indigenous mining companies made up of local people and provide them with seed funding, machinery and technical support in-order to empower local people allowing them to benefit from the mineral deposits in their areas.

5.6 Further Research Areas

This study recommends the following areas for further research;

- * There is a need to study the solutions to conflicts caused by Chinese mining companies in other countries and adopt them to the domestic context.
- * There is a need to study the policies of other SADC countries in relation to Chinese mining interests and translate or adopt them for the local context.

5.7 Summary

The chapter presented the summary of the research that was aimed at understanding the conflicts induced by Chinese mining companies operating in Mutoko. The chapter contained the overview of all chapters that were covered in the study. It also contains the theoretical and practical contributions of the study. In this context the findings of the study confirm and are aligned with the theory of Economic Nationalism that guides this research. Furthermore, the chapter presented the conclusions, recommendations as well as areas not covered by the study for further research.

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APPENDIX 1

Interview Guide

My name [], a student at Bindura University of Science Education and I am doing Masters of Science Degree in International Relations. I am conducting a study titled, **An Impact Assessment of the Chinese Mining Investments Induced Conflicts in Mutoko District, Zimbabwe**. The purpose of this research is to understand the conflicts that are rising from the Chinese mining interests in Zimbabwe and to find ways to resolve these conflicts since they are having negative impacts on workers and the constituencies in which they occur.

I kindly request to conduct an interview with you. This research is mainly for academic purposes. The information will be kept private and confidential. Your responses and participation will be greatly appreciated.

Data collection

Data in the context of this study will be generated through two data collection instruments namely semi structured interviews and key informant interviews. The questions contained in these instruments for presentation to research participants are outlined below.

No.	Question
1a,	Do you understand what is meant by conflict?
B	Have you ever experienced any conflict with any Chinese Mining company in your constituency?
2	What were the causes of this conflict?
3	What were the impacts of this conflict on [1] you and [2] in your constituency?

4	Was the conflict resolved or is it still ongoing?
5	If the conflict was resolved, how was it resolved?
6	Were you and your constituency satisfied with the terms of the resolution?
7	How might conflicts like these be prevented from occurring in your constituency in the future?