



**TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL
SIERRA LEONE**



**SURVEY REPORT
ON
THE CULTURAL AND TRADITIONAL PRACTICES THAT NEGATE
EFFECTIVE GENDER PARTICIPATION IN MINING RELATED DECISION-
MAKING PROCESSES IN SIERRA LEONE**

MARCH, 2021

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CDA	- Community Development Agreement
CMC	- Chiefdom Mining Committee
DADC	- Diamond Area Development Committee
DACDF	- Diamond Area Community Development Fund
EPA	- Environment Protection Agency
GIZ	- Germany International Cooperation
NMA	- National Minerals Agency
MMMR	- Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources
STIs	- Sexually Transmitted Infections
STDs	- Sexually Transmitted Diseases
TVET	- Technical Vocational Education and Training

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1.0. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This study was commissioned by Transparency International Sierra Leone with support from its partners to investigate the cultural and traditional practices that negate effective gender participation in mining decision making processes in Sierra Leone. Three mining host communities were selected as study locations for this study. They include Tongo Fields in the Kenema District, Sierra Rutile in the Bonthe District and Koidu in the Kono district, all of which are situated in the southern and eastern provinces of the country.

Series of relevant literatures relating to the study were reviewed to ascertain the social, cultural, traditional and economic conditions that either facilitate or deter women's participation at community level in general and mining in particular.

The Sierra Leone Chieftaincy Act of 2009 for instance makes provision for women to be allowed to participate in chieftaincy elections provided the customs and traditions of that chiefdom so established. In Sierra Leone particularly in the Northern, North-West and some parts of Southern and Eastern Provinces it is unacceptable for a woman to become a paramount chief regardless of whether she is a member of a ruling house / family or not. This law speaks against the spirit of universality as a fundamental principle of human rights in the first instance and also limits women participation in mining decision making processes wherein the institution of chieftaincy is key. The chiefs are the custodian of lands in the rural areas which practices a lease-hold land tenure system.

Survey questionnaires administered to respondents in study locations revealed a strongly held perception amongst them that men and husbands are heads of the homes and whatever they do is presumably in the best interest of the family. This perception largely underpins most of the responses provided by respondents.

Further still, focus group discussions held in one the study locations Koidu town reveals that women are sparsely represented in local structures that constitute major stakeholders in the mining sector that participate in mining decision making processes. Examples of these local structures are: Chiefdom Mining Committee and Diamond Area Development Committee. These local structures have executive committees whose male members far outnumbered women. Suffice it to say it is the men that decide what should happen to the mineral resources of their communities. Worth noting however is that women are becoming conscious and aware of their rights to effective participation and they are eagerly demanding their space in these local structures.

2.0. TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL SIERRA LEONE

Transparency International Sierra Leone is member of a Transparency International global anti-corruption network that project and promote accountability and transparency in the governance through evidence-based research and action.

2.1. Vision Statement: TISL's vision is to have a country in which the Government, the business community, private sector, civil society and the daily lives of the people are free from corruption and its negative effects.

2.2. Mission Statement: To empower the citizenry of Sierra Leone through education, participation and opportunities to demand accountability and transparency in governance and promote the culture of personal integrity, ethics and anti-corruption in national and human development.

2.3. Core Values

- Integrity
- Accountability
- Transparency
- Commitment
- Comportment
- Impartiality
- Courage

2.3.1. Organizational Objectives: TISL is an independent Non-Governmental Organization with a focus on promoting integrity, ethics and anti-corruption values in personal and national development efforts

- a. Educate and raise public awareness of key stakeholders in Sierra Leone to understand corruption issues and their negative impact on the society.
- b. Build/strengthen the capacity of public officials, the private sector, civil society, the media and general public to understand the dynamics of corruption issues to enable them take appropriate measures to resist/curb it
- c. Provide adequate and credible evidence on corruption issues within the public and private sector.
- d. Develop advocacy tools for the elimination of the factors that lead to corruption impropriety and injustice.
- e. Facilitate opportunities for specific vulnerable groups/victims of corruption to overcome their predicament.
- f. Foster linkage and partnership with national, sub regional and intergovernmental stakeholders whose aims and objectives are inconsonance with those of the Transparency International Sierra Leone and the Transparency International Movement.

2.4. Core Program Areas

- Research and Surveys
- Public Education, Awareness Raising
- Monitoring
- Institutional Capacity Building

2.4.1. **Research and Surveys:** Through Research and Surveys, TISL, seek to develop into issues of concern related to corruption to discern the factors responsible for problems/challenges encountered

2.4.2. **Public Education, Awareness Raising:** Through Public Education and Awareness Raising, TISL seek to provide general information to the public especially all relevant stakeholders on the cause and effect of corruption. Specific information on policies and processes geared to promoting good governance national and international instruments to curb corrupt practices.

2.4.3. **Monitoring:** Through Monitoring, TISL aims to follow up closely on national development processes geared towards promoting good governance by ensuring transparency, accountability and integrity in their implementation.

2.4.4. **Institutional Capacity Building:** Through Coalition and Institutional Capacity Building, TISL seek to create and foster linkage and alliances, work in cooperation and partnership with likeminded agencies and organizations, strengthen their capacity and that TISL to promote Transparency Accountability and Integrity with one voice, nationally sub-regionally and internationally.

3.0. OVERVIEW OF THE STUDY

The idea of gender consideration in the implementation of the Mining for Sustainable Development Project, now Sustainable Mining Project came about during the second phase of the implementation as a result of a survey that was conducted to ascertain the level of Transparency International Sierra Leone's gender consideration in the project implementation. The outcome of the survey revealed that chapters need to do more to ensure gender consideration in their project implementation.

In view of this TI-SL has been working very hard to be more gender focus in the planning and implementation of project activities. One key focus area in our project implementation is to ensure effective community consultation and participation in mining related decision-making processes. To successfully and effectively do this one has to consider the gender ramifications and dynamics in these mining communities as there are certain traditional practices that debar women from taking part in such decision-making processes. This sometimes affects TISL's work as these practices differ from one mining community to another. And there is no existing study in this area that will help bring out better understand this. Thus, it has been our idea and thought to conduct a study on the traditional practices and implications on effective gender participation in mining related decision-making processes.

This study therefore seeks to make available a well-researched scientific data that could be referenced in planning TISL's advocacy interventions to ensure that men and women effectively participate in mining related decision-making processes to promote transparency and accountability and reduce corruption in the award and implementation of mining licenses.

The outcome of this study would help Transparency International Sierra Leone in sourcing additional funding support to sustain some of the gains the organization have made in these communities under the Accountable Mining Project.

4.0. METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

4.1. Study Design

This study adopted a descriptive design to investigate the state of affairs with regards the cultural and traditional practices that negate effective gender participation in decision making processes in mining host communities like: Kono, Tongo and Rutile. The study design was planned firstly by making preliminary visits to the Study Area, where some observations and personal interviews were made to familiarize with respondents and to present the enumerators to the field staff of TI-SL and other relevant stakeholders.

4.2. Study Locations / Area

The study area was selected by TI-SL as follows: Kono District in the Eastern Province; Tongo Fields also in the Eastern Province and Rutile in the Southern Province of Sierra Leone. The study area was explored in two ways; firstly, to ascertain the mining activities carried out; and secondly to underscore the prevailing socio-economic indicators for growth and development such as: population size, major economic and livelihood activities; dormant cultural and traditional practices and perceived role of women amongst others that the study revealed.

4.3. Study Population and Sample

4.3.1 Study Population

The population of this study shall include but not limited to affected Indigenous Land Owners; Crops & Cattle Farmers; CSOs; Women's Groups; Former Employees of mining Company(ies); Community Leaders (traditional, Political); Central Government Reps. (NMA; EPA, MMMR; NRA; and Others.

4.3.2 Sample

A sample of two hundred and ten (210) selected respondents were targeted and randomly drawn from the study population as stated above.

4.4 Sampling Procedures

Due to the nature of this research (which looked at three different heterogeneous communities which constitute the study area) the simple random sampling technique was used to select the target respondents for this study. Since the technique is one of the commonest and most-simple sampling methods used in selecting respondents or target populations in most studies. The method was considered very useful given that it provides equal chances or opportunities to every

member of the study population described above to be selected at will and without prejudice.

Table 1: Proposed Respondent's Selection plan

Study Area	Category of Respondents	No. of Respondents
Koidu	- Indigenous Land Owners	10
	- Crops & Cattle Farmers	10
	- CSOs	10
	- Women's Groups	10
	- Former Employees of mining Company(ies)	05
	- Community Leaders (traditional, Political)	10
	- Central Government Reps. (NMA; EPA, MMMR; NRA;	10
	- Others	05
Rutile	- Indigenous Land Owners	10
	- Crops & Cattle Farmers	10
	- CSOs	10
	- Women's Groups	10
	- Former Employees of mining Company(ies)	05
	- Community Leaders (traditional, Political)	10
	- Central Government Reps. (NMA; EPA, MMMR; NRA;	10
	- Others	05
Tongo	- Indigenous Land Owners	10
	- Crops & Cattle Farmers	10
	- CSOs	10
	- Women's Groups	10
	- Former Employees of mining Company(ies)	05
	- Community Leaders (traditional, Political)	10
	- Central Government Reps. (NMA; EPA, MMMR; NRA;	10
	- Others	05
TOTAL		210

Source: Researcher's Construct, 2021

4.5. Research Instruments

The following research instruments were used in collecting data for this study:

4.5.1. Structured Questionnaire

Survey Questionnaires was the main instrument used in this study to collect primary data. In order to effectively solicit data for this study, two sets of Survey questionnaires were developed and used for this study. One set was developed for

community leaders and central government representatives and the other set will be developed for CSOs, Women groups and employees or former employees of mining company (ies).

4.5.2. *Personal Interviews*

Interviews are usually face-to-face interrogations with persons under study in trying to collect data for a particular study, and this study also use this instrument in order to get a quality and reliable data. Before and during the process of administering questionnaires for this study, the consultant through the trained enumerators conduct some simple interviews informally with community stakeholders; particularly indigenous land owners; crop farmers and cattle farmer as well as field staff of TI-SL in the study area.

4.5.3. *Focus Group Discussion*

Focus Group Discussion sessions were held in order to qualify and match up responses derived from selected respondents based on personal interviews and survey questionnaire. A simple checklist was developed by the consultant related to the research questions and objectives of the study.

4.6. *Data Management*

Establish processes for managing data during the cause of this study, including storing and organising data, and cleaning data. Further still, keen attention shall be paid to Data quality; Validity; Completeness, Precision, Integrity, Availability; and timeliness.

4.7. *Data Collection Procedures*

Structured survey questionnaires, personal interviews and focus group discussion were used to collect data from the selected respondents in the sample. Data collection process commences from 14th January and end on the 28th February, 2021. Primary data was obtained from the responses of selected respondents made from questions on the survey questionnaires. Primary data was also collected qualitatively from personal interviews and focus group discussion made by the researcher. Secondary data was also collected from adequate literature related to study reviews made on related documents, desks, files, publications, etc.

4.8. *Methods of Data Analysis*

Data collected from the responses of respondents using structured survey questionnaires was presented and reduced using mathematical and statistical measures with respect to the research objectives. Analyzing collected data started immediately after the data collection process and data collected from selected

persons using structured survey questionnaires were represented on a spreadsheet and coded for simple analysis.

Data related to the study was collected from the various respondents of the study using survey questionnaires, it was presented on a spread sheet in order to simply determine the results of the study. Each question on the survey questionnaire was represented on the spread sheet and it was later presented on tables and charts for simple analysis of the results. The analysis on the spread sheet was sectioned according to the research questions and objectives and each of the questions in the questionnaire provided a score or value. Simple statistics were employed and data presented in frequencies tables, pie charts, and bar charts, to describe and analyze the data. In each of the tables, the frequencies of the respondents were calculated into percentages. Comparison of the various sources of data was made so as to arrive at a more logical conclusion. Data collected was also analyzed technically using simple descriptive techniques. Descriptive analysis was employed using measures of central tendency to compare variables and results of the study, using a 5% error and 95% significance on qualitative data. Qualitative data (personal interviews and focus group discussion) that was collected, watched or balanced technically in analyzing qualitative data based on their level of accuracy and biasness.

5.0. LITERATURE AND KEY INSIGHT

Concerns over women's marginalization and invisibility in Africa policy-making, remains a fervent international discourse. These concerns are likely due to restrictive laws, cultural diversities and practices, institutional barriers, as well as disproportionate access to quality education, healthcare, and resources (land). Reversing these discriminatory practices is not impossible, and can be achieved by implementing the right mechanisms across the continent. The process toward increasing the visibility of women in decision-making across the continent requires an understanding of the progress made so far, the challenges faced and the way forward.

Women play an indispensable role in farming and in improving the quality of life in rural areas. Also rural women play a key role in agricultural sector production by working with full passion in production of crops right from the soil preparation till post-harvest and food security activities in developing countries. In addition, for reaching development and progress goals of developing countries such as Sierra Leone, considering women's participation in decision making processes are vital. Thus, the purpose of this study was to identify barriers that limit effective women's participation in mining related decision-making processes given their integral role in developing the local economy vis-à-vis their contributions to agricultural productivity coupled with their productive and reproductive roles in the homes as mothers, sisters and daughters.

Eventhough different groups experience the economic, socio-cultural, and socio-environmental impacts of mining differently (Eftimie et al., 2009). It is well documented that women in Indigenous communities have often borne the brunt of the adverse effects of mining (Radcliff et al., 2004). Women, in particular, are also disproportionately and negatively impacted by mining (Jenkins, 2014). The focus of this report is on the gendered dimensions of mining. Some negative impacts that can be observed from a general cultural and traditional perspective about women rights include political violence, human rights violations, land dispossession, economic insecurity, denial of ethnic and cultural rights, health issues, and breakdown of traditional social structures, among other concerns (Ulloa, 2016; Jenkins, 2014; Bermúdez et al, 2011). Given such concerns, Indigenous groups frequently resist mining operations and practices, with demands for environmental, climate, and territorial justice (Ulloa, 2016).

It is no gainsaying to state that Sierra Leone's extractive industry have the potential to promote economic growth and improve the well-being of people in natural resource rich communities like Tongo, Kono and Rutile. Unfortunately, the people in natural resources rich communities like the study locations represent the poorest of the poor.

6.0. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

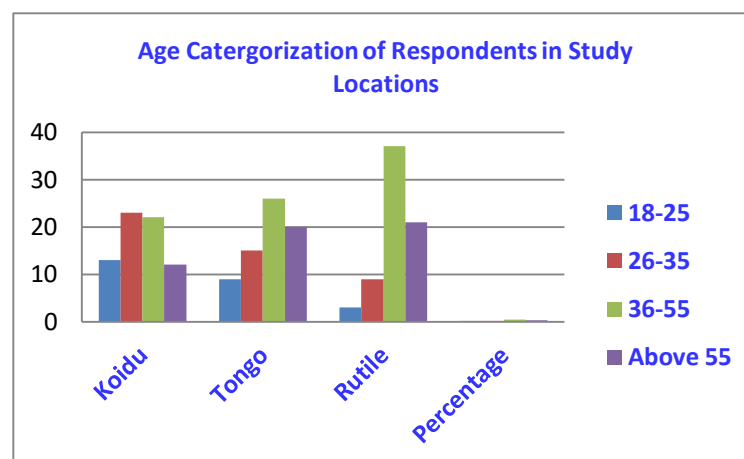
6.1. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

1. Respondents were required to choose from the list of age categorization provided in the

Age Categorization of Respondents in Study Locations	Koidu	Tongo	Rutile	Percentage
18-25	13	9	3	12%
26-35	23	15	9	22%
36-55	22	26	37	40%
Above 55	12	20	21	25%

Table 1: Age Categorization of Respondents in Study Locations

12% of respondents from the three study locations were between the age category of 18-25 years, 22% were between



12% of respondents from the

the age category of 26-35 years, 40% were between the age category of 36-55, and 25% were the age 55 years respectively.

Figure 1: Age Categorization of Respondents in Study Locations

2. The study revealed that 45% of the respondents in the three study locations were male,

Sex of Respondents in Study Locations	Koidu	Tongo	Rutile	Percentage
Male	34	31	29	45%
Female	35	37	40	53%
Variance	1	2	1	2%

Table 2: Sex of Respondents in Study Locations

whiles 53% were female. It was also noted that 2% which was referred to as a variance did not indicator their sex. This result is

indicative of a greater level of

women's participation in the study than men which is a positive pointer. This finding has been presented in table 2 and illustrated in figure 2 respectively, for ease of understanding.

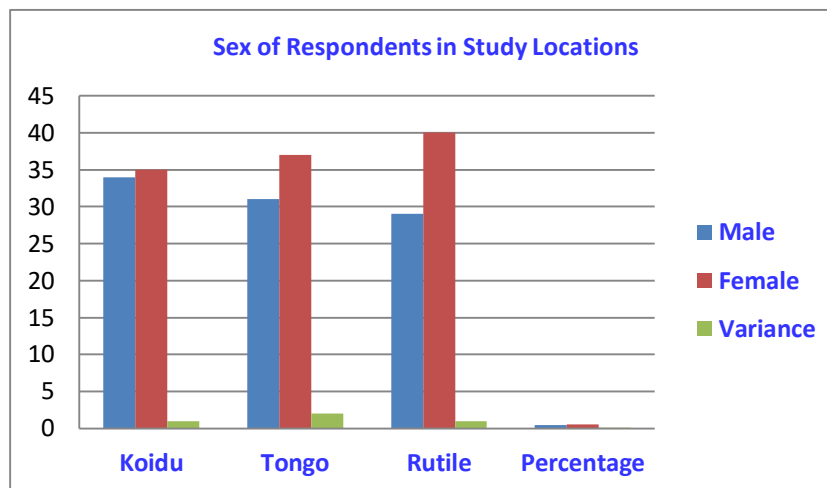


Figure 2: Sex of Respondents in Study Locations

3. The study also gauge respondents' educational levels, the findings revealed that 15% of

Educational Qualification of Respondents in Study Locations	Koidu	Tongo	Rutile	Percentage
Completed Primary School	11	15	5	15%
Completed Secondary School	23	19	34	36%
Completed College / Tech. Voc. Education	12	0	8	10%
Completed University Education	5	2	3	5%
Never Being to School	18	34	7	28%
Variance	1	0	13	7%

respondents in all study locations indicated that they have at least completed primary school education; 36% of respondents indicated that they

Table 3: Educational Qualification of Respondents in Study Locations

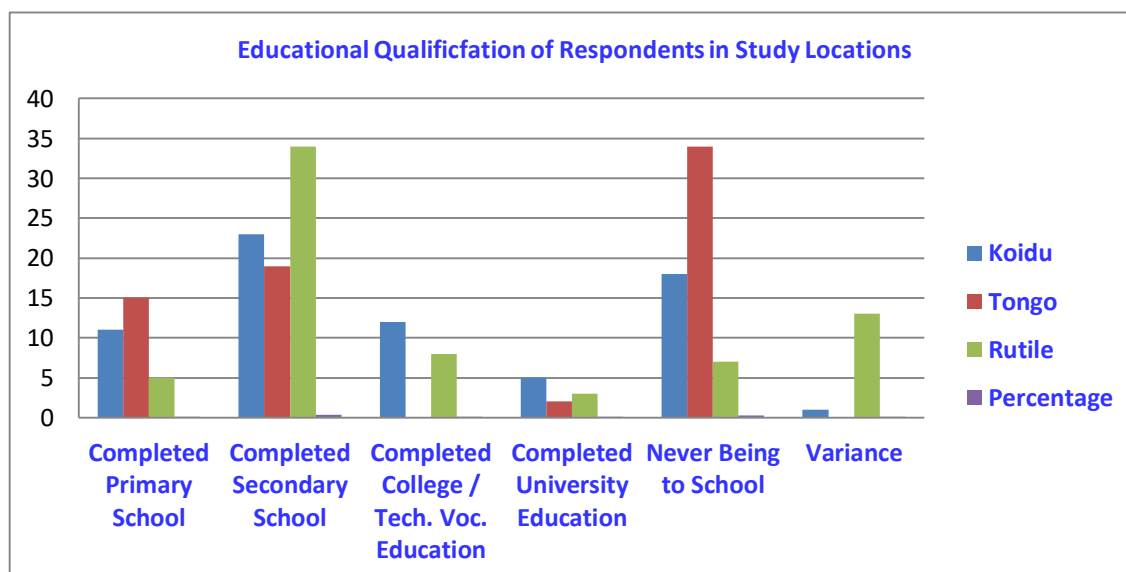


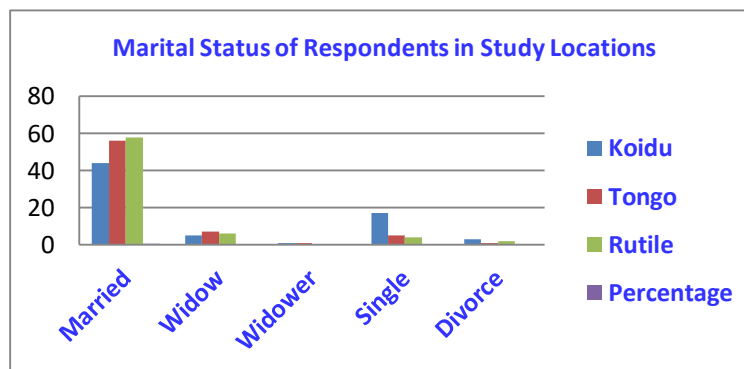
Figure 3: Educational Qualification of Respondents have at least completed secondary school education, 10% of respondents indicated that they have atleast completed college education or have acquired some form of Technical Vocation Education and Training, 5% of respondents indicated that they have at least completed university

education, 28% of respondents indicated that they have never been to school, while 7% of respondents did not indicate any of the options provided in the data collection instrument and as such were considered a variance. This finding has been summarily presented in Table 3 and illustrated in Figure 3 respectively.

4. The study also investigated the marital status of respondents, the results revealed that

Marital Status of Respondents in Study Location	Koidu	Tongo	Rutile	Percentage
Married	44	56	58	75%
Widow	5	7	6	9%
Widower	1	1	0	1%
Single	17	5	4	12%
Divorce	3	1	2	3%

Table 4: Marital Status of Respondents in study



75% of the respondents indicated that they are married; 9% of the respondents indicated that they are widow; 1% of the respondents indicated that

they are widower, 12% of the respondents indicated that they are single, 3% of the respondents indicated that they have divorced.

Figure 4: Marital Status of Respondents in study

5. The study also revealed the status of respondents in the three study locations as follows:

Position of Respondents in the Study Locations	Koidu	Tongo	Rutile	Percentage
Traditional Leader	8	18	1	13%
Religious Leader	9	5	2	8%
Local politician	5	1		3%
Community Member	21	39	41	48%
CSO Activist	7	0	2	4%
Mines Worker	4	0	11	7%
Former Mines Worker	3	0	7	5%
Other	13	7	6	12%

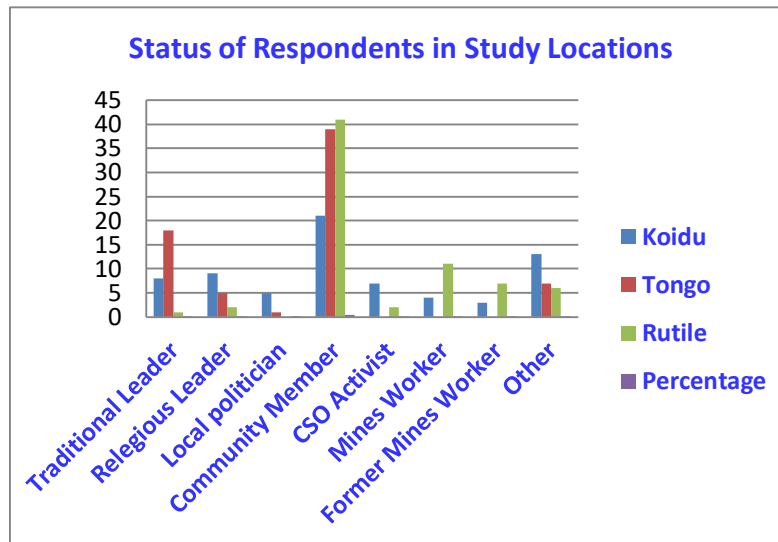
13% of the respondents indicated their status as traditional leaders;

Figure 5: Status of Respondents in Study Locations

while 8% of the respondents indicated that they are religious leaders, 3% of the respondents indicated that they are local politicians, 48% of the respondents indicated that they

are community members, 4% of the respondents indicated that they are CSO

Figure 5: Status of Respondents in Study Locations



Activists; 7% of the respondents indicated that they are mines workers, 5% of the respondents indicated that they are former mines workers, 12% of the respondents indicated other status such as teachers and

petty traders. This is summarily presented in table 5 and illustrated in figure 5 respectively.

6.2. INFORMATION FLOW AT COMMUNITY LEVEL

The study investigated information flow at community level given its significant role in effective gender participation in mining decision-making processes. It became evidently clear from the study that the level of information flow as well as the quality of information respondents have access to largely determines the nature of the responses provided to the enumerators.

6. When respondents were asked about their awareness of mining activities going on in

Respondents' Knowledge about Mining Activity in Study Locations	Koidu	Tongo	Rutile	Percentage
Yes	66	69	67	96%
No	3	1	0	2%
Variance	1	0	3	2%

their communities, their responses vary depending on their level of knowledge and

Table 6: Respondents' Knowledge about Mining activities in Study Locations

awareness. The result revealed

that 97% of the respondents indicated that they are aware about the activities of mining companies in their communities, while 2% of the respondent indicated that they are not aware, another 2% of the respondents did not indicate any of the options provided in the data collection instruments and as such was indicated as a variance.

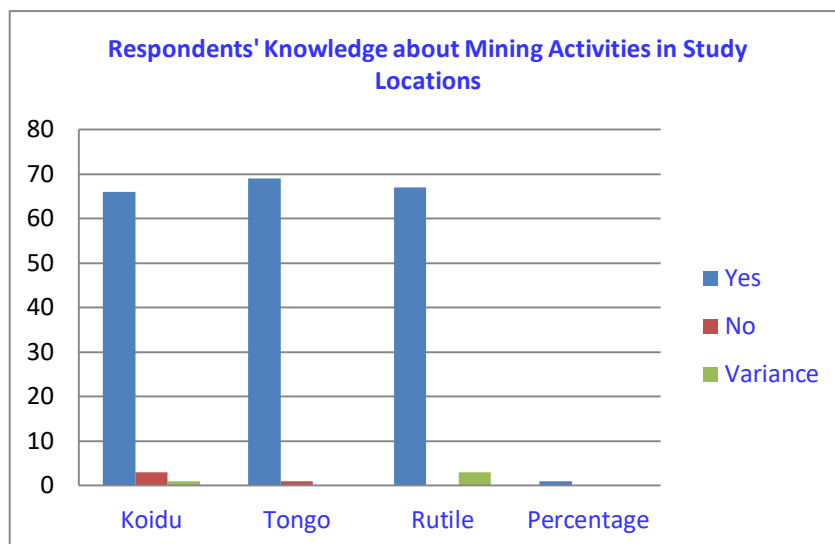


Figure 6: Respondents Knowledge about Mining Activities in Study Locations

7. The study also revealed that community people rely on certain sources which could

Community Information Outlets in Study Locations	Koidu	Rutile	Tongo	Percentage
Local Chief	19	18	15	25%
Member of Parliament	2	1	8	5%
Company's Rep.	4	10	10	11%
Govt. Reps. (MMMR, EPA, NMA)	7	1	2	5%
Spouse (Husband/Wife)	5	2	4	5%
Radio Announcement	32	35	29	46%
Variance	1	3	2	3%

either be people in authority or authorized institutions in order to obtain information about mining companies'

Table 7: Sources of Information in study Locations

activities in the study

locations. About 25% of respondents indicated that they rely on local chiefs for information on mining companies' operations, 5% rely on their members of parliament; 11% of respondents indicated that they rely on companies' authorities, another 5% of

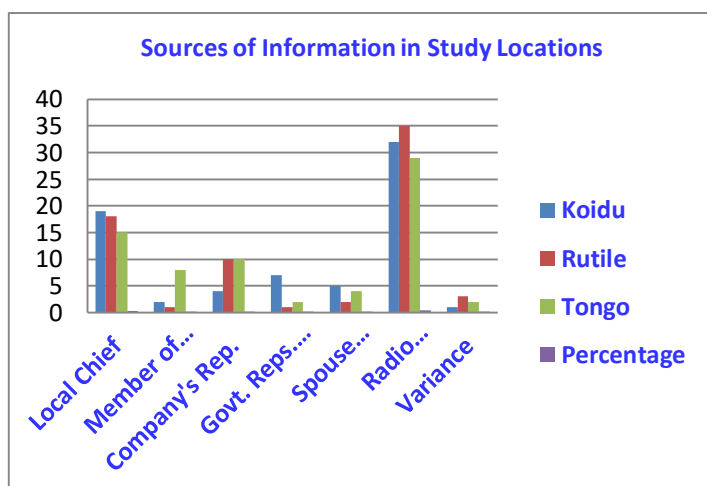


Figure7: Sources of Information in study Locations

majority of the respondent which is 46% indicated that they rely on radio announcement for information about mining

companies' operations in their communities. However, 3% were unsure and did not indicate any of the options provided in the data collection instrument thus it was recorded and interpreted as a variance.

8. Respondents revealed the types of minerals being mined at each of the three study

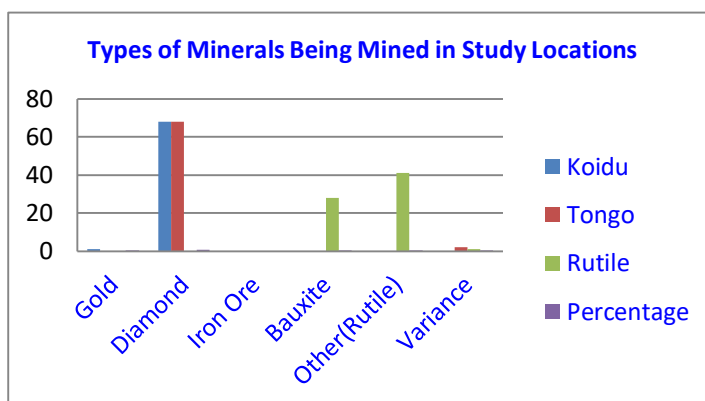
Types of Minerals Mined in Study Locations	Koidu	Tongo	Rutile	Percentage
Gold	1	0	0	0%
Diamond	68	68	0	65%
Iron Ore	0	0	0	0%
Bauxite	0	0	28	13%
Other(Rutile)	0	0	41	20%
Variance	0	2	1	1%

locations of Koidu, Tongo and Rutile. Diamond mining accounted for 65% of

Figure 8: Types of Minerals mined in Study Locations

respondents' views this is due to the fact that this type of

mining is predominantly done in Tongo and Koidu respectively. Bauxite accounted for 13% and Rutile 20% both minerals are being mined in the Rutile Town only. Gold and Iron



Ore though indicated on the data collection instrument, yet accounted for 0% of respondents' views. A variance of 1% was recorded given that some

Figure 8: Types of Minerals mined in Study Locations

respondents failed to indicate any of the options provided in the data collection instrument.

9. The study also investigated the frequency of information flow from the mining

Frequency of Information Flow from Mining Companies in Study Locations to Community People	Koidu	Tongo	Rutile	Percentage
Once	12	27	2	20%
Frequently	32	13	55	48%
Yearly	13	10	7	14%
Never	9	15	4	13%
Variance	4	5	2	5%

companies to the community people about the mining companies' operation in the three study locations. The result revealed that 20% of the respondents indicated

Table 9: Frequency of information flow from Mining Companies to community People

that the mining companies

in their communities do communicate with them at least once, 48% of respondents indicated that communication is frequently done, 14% of the respondents indicated that such communication is done yearly. Also 13% of the respondents

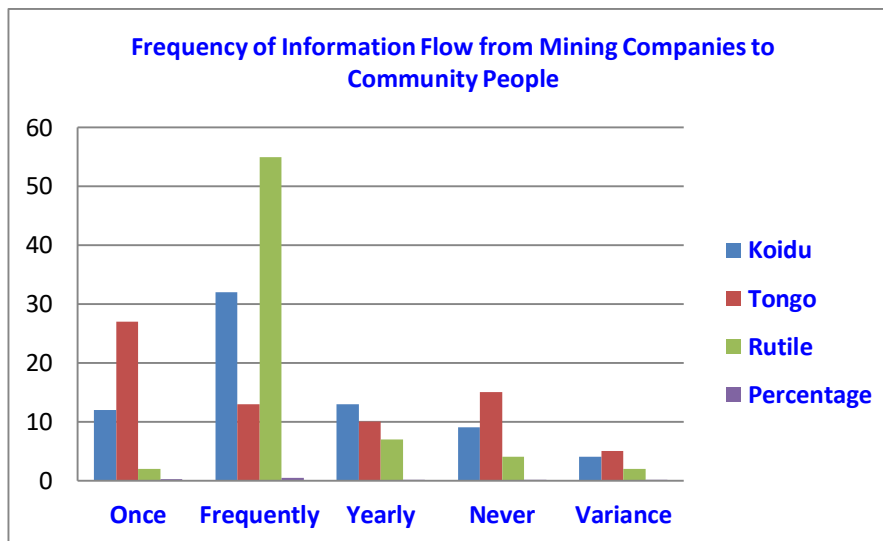


Table 9: Frequency of information flow from Mining Companies to community People

recounted that such communication has never been done. About 5% of respondents were not sure and did not indicate any of the option provided in the data collection

instrument, thus, it was recorded and interpreted as a variance. This result has been summarily presented in table 9 and illustrated in figure 9 respectively.

10. In like manner the study also investigated the frequency of information flow from Government representative, Ministries, departments and agencies to the community

Frequency of Information Flow from Mining Companies in Study Locations to Community People	Koidu	Tongo	Rutile	Percentage
Once	12	27	2	20%
Frequently	32	13	55	48%
Yearly	13	10	7	14%
Never	9	15	4	13%
Variance	4	5	2	5%

Figure 10: Frequency of Information Flow from Government Representatives to Community People

people about the activities of mining companies in the three study locations.

The results revealed that 20% of the respondents indicated the Government representatives had communicated with them at least once, 48% of respondents indicated government

representatives are frequently communicating with them, 14% of the respondents indicated that such communications are done yearly. Also 13% of the respondents recounted that such communication has never been done. About 5% of respondents

were not sure and did not indicate any of the options provided in the data collection instrument for this study, thus this was recorded and interpreted as a variance.

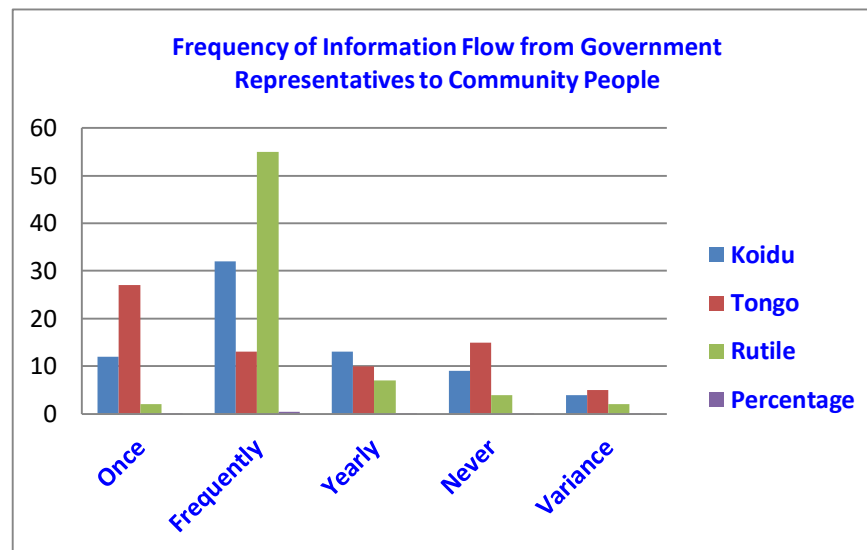


Figure 10: Frequency of Information Flow from Government Representatives to Community People

6.3. GENDER BASED-INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION MAKING

This section of the study seeks to assess the extent of gender-based involvement in decision-making processes in mining host communities like Koidu, Tongo and Rutile respectively. Given the patriarchal composition of Sierra Leone's rural communities which constitute the study location of survey, the consultant deemed it prudent to gauge the level of gender-based involvement in decision making processes in general and mining related decision-making processes in particular.

11. The study results revealed that 42% of respondent strongly agreed with the statement

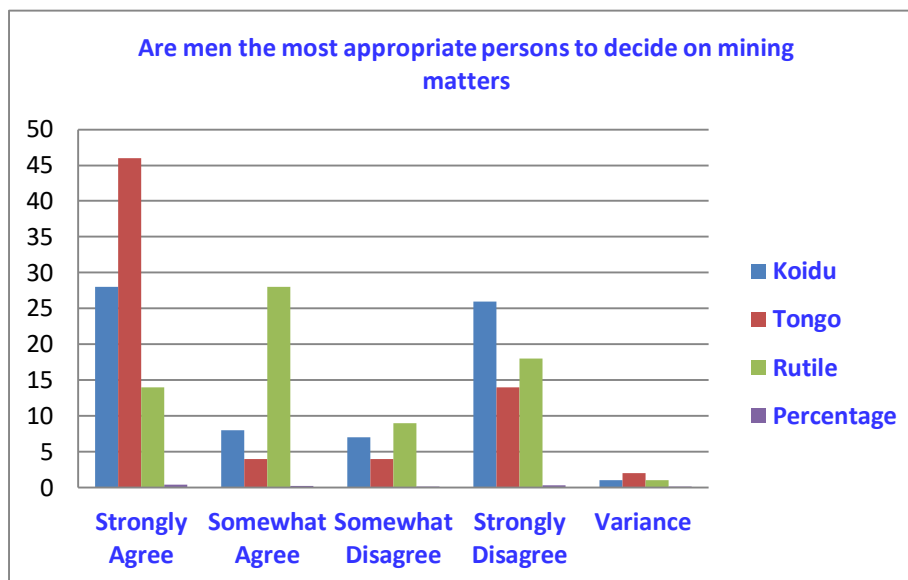
Are men the most appropriate persons to decide on mining matters	Koidu	Tongo	Rutile	Percentage
Strongly Agree	28	46	14	42%
Somewhat Agree	8	4	28	19%
Somewhat Disagree	7	4	9	10%
Strongly Disagree	26	14	18	28%
Variance	1	2	1	2%

Table 11: Are men the most appropriate persons to decide on mining matters

persons to decide on matters relating to mining of mineral resources". About 19% of

posited in the data collection instrument which states that ***"Men are the most appropriate***

respondents from the three study locations somewhat agree. While 10% and 25% of respondents indicated that they somewhat disagree and strongly disagree respectively



with the statement.

However, 2% of the respondents were unsure and did not indicate any of the options provided in the data

Figure 11: Are men the most appropriate persons to decide on mining matters collection instrument, thus was recorded and interpreted as a variance.

12. An inquiry into the level of gender-based participation was done by way of presenting a statement on gender-based approach to decision making processes (*Should women and*

Should women and men jointly decide on mining matters	Koidu	Tongo	Rutile	Percentage
Strongly Agree	59	29	15	49%
Somewhat Agree	8	6	16	14%
Somewhat Disagree	0	3	29	15%
Strongly Disagree	2	30	8	19%
Variance	1	2	2	2%

men jointly decide on mining matters) to solicit respondents views on the subject matter. The study results revealed that 49% of respondent from the study locations strongly agree,

Table 12: Should women and men jointly decide on mining matters while 14% only somewhat agree. About 15% and 19% Somewhat disagree and strongly disagree respectively. Another 2% of respondents were unsure and did not indicate any option from the list provided in the data collection instrument, thus this was recorded and interpreted as a variance. This result has been summarily presented in table 12 and illustrated in figure 12 respectively.

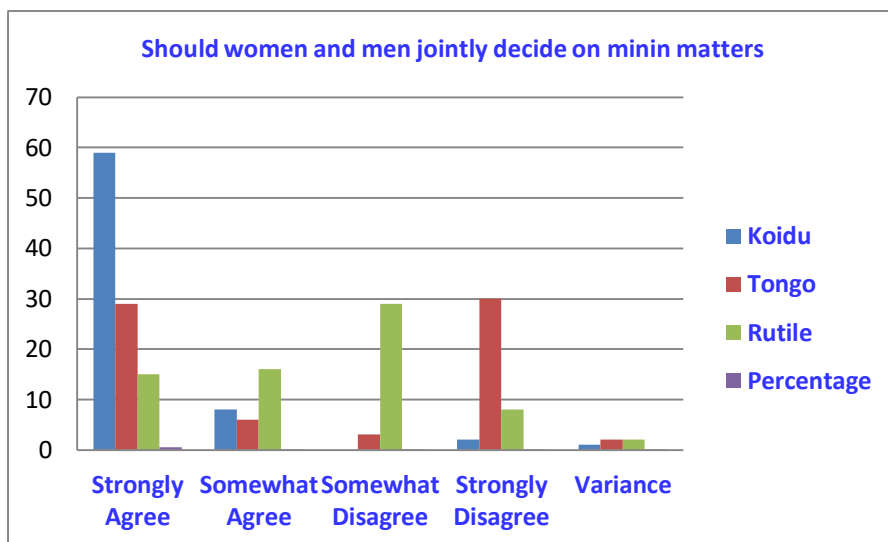


Figure 12: Should women and men jointly decide on mining matters

13. In view of investigating the level of household involvement in decision making

Level of household involvement in mining decision making processes	Koidu	Tongo	Rutile	Percentage
Very Active Involvement	6	3	2	5%
Frequent Involvement	14	6	3	11%
Occasional Involvement	23	11	53	41%
No Involvement	27	48	11	41%
Variance	0	2	1	1%

Table 13: Level of household involvement in mining decision making processes

processes, the study results revealed that only 5% of respondents indicated that indeed very active involvement of households in decision making processes at the community level is taking place,

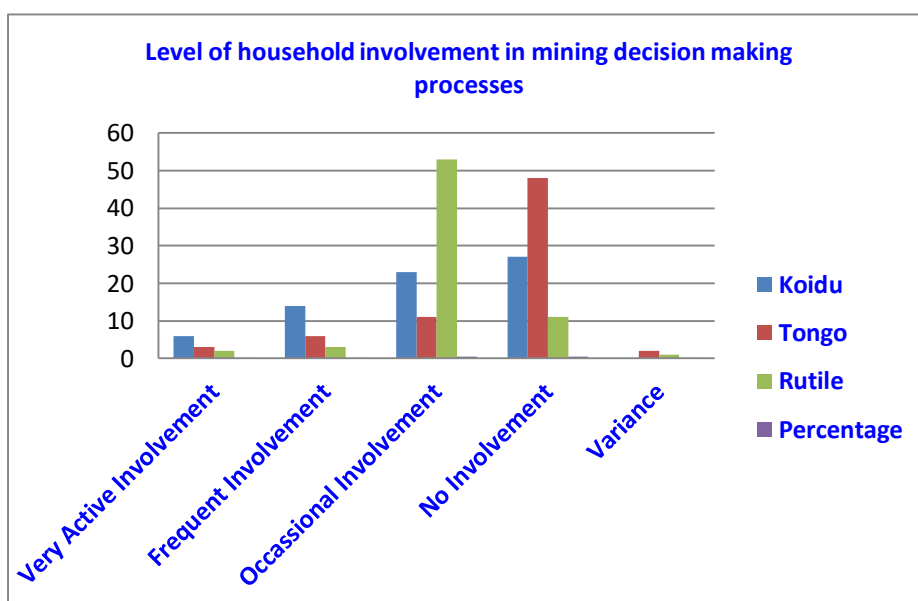


Table 13: Level of household involvement in mining decision making processes

as well as 11% of the respondents indicated that frequent involvement is taking place, while 41% of the respondents

indicated occasional

involvement. However, another 41% of respondents stated that there is no involvement

what so ever of household in decision making processes at the community level. About 1% of respondents were unsure of what to indicate and as such did not indicate any of the options provided in the data collection instrument. Therefore, it was recorded and interpreted as a variance. This result has been summarily presented in table 13 and illustrated in figure 13 respectively.

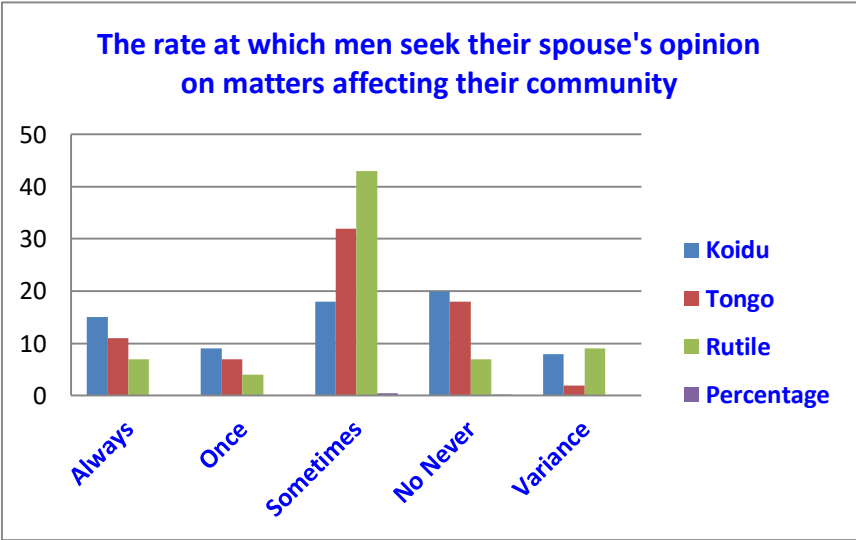
14. An inquiry into the rate at which men seek their spouse’s opinion on matters affecting

The rate at which men seek their spouse's opinion on matters affecting their community	Koidu	Tongo	Rutile	Percentage
Always	15	11	7	16%
Once	9	7	4	10%
Sometimes	18	32	43	44%
No Never	20	18	7	21%
Variance	8	2	9	9%

their community was also done. The result revealed that such gender-based best practices seldomly happens.

Table 14: The rate at which men seek their spouse’s opinion on matters affecting their community

This is evident in the 44% respondents that indicated that



it sometimes happened as compared to the 16% that indicated that it always happens. About 10% of

Figure 14: The rate at which men seek their spouse’s opinion on matters affecting their community

respondents

indicated that it happened once, whiles 21% of respondents recounted that it has never happened. However, about 9% of the respondent were unsure and did not indicate any option based on the list provided in the data collection instrument of the study. Thus, it was recorded and interpreted as a variance.

6.4. CULTURAL PRACTICES AROUND DECISION MAKING PROCESSES

This section of the study assessed the cultural practices around decision making processes around land lease agreement for both small and large-scale mining companies in the study locations. This is to ascertain the extent to which such cultural practices have limited women's participation in mining decision making processes.

15. The study sought to find out the cultural arrangements around who takes the decision

How was the decision to lease the community's land for mining undertaken	Koidu	Tongo	Rutile	Percentage
Community Leaders Decide	21	51	15	41%
The Men decide on behalf of the Community	1	1	1	1%
Men and women decide	3	1	1	2%
Govt. of Sierra Leone Instructs	44	15	49	51%
variance	1	2	4	3%

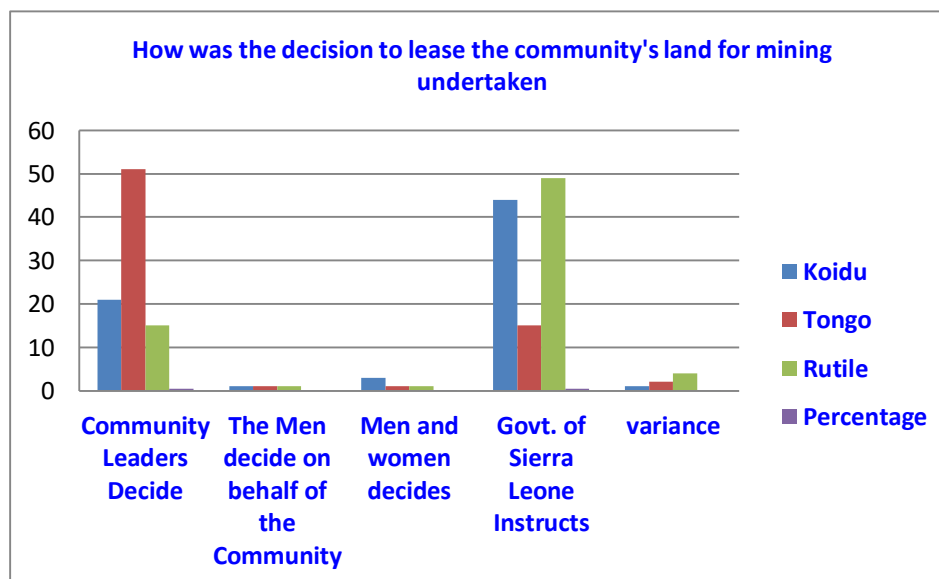
around land agreement.

Preliminary review of relevant literature on

Table 15: How was the decision to lease the community's land for mining undertaken

the issue had revealed that the paramount chief as the

custodian of all the lands in the community remains an integral stakeholder. In order to



validate this finding respondents were asked to state "who" or "how" such decisions were made.

Figure 15: How was the decision to lease the community's land for mining undertaken

The study

revealed that in most cases it is the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone that has the final say, as 51% of respondents in the study location indicated that on the data collection instrument. However, 41% indicated that it is the community leaders that decide, while about 1% of respondents indicated that it is the men that decide on

behalf of the community, 2% indicated that men and women normally decide. About 3% of respondents were unsure and did not indicate any of the options provided in the data collection instrument for the study. Thus, it was recorded and interpreted as a variance. This result has been summarily presented in table 15 and illustrated in figure 15 respectively.

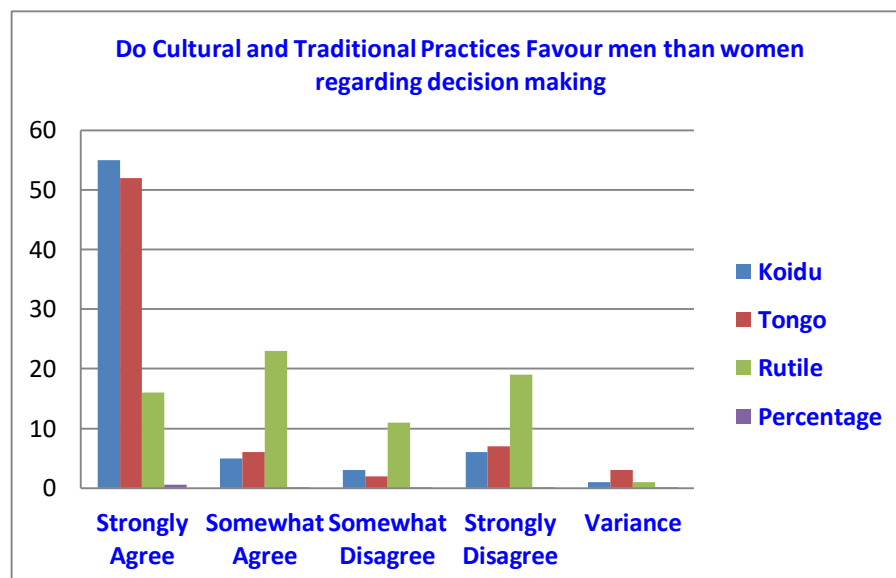
16. In view of understanding whether cultural and traditional practice favor men than

Do Cultural and traditional practices favor men than women regarding decision making	Koidu	Tongo	Rutile	Percentage
Strongly Agree	55	52	16	59%
Somewhat Agree	5	6	23	16%
Somewhat Disagree	3	2	11	8%
Strongly Disagree	6	7	19	15%
Variance	1	3	1	2%

women, respondents' viewswere gauged. The study

Figure 16: Do Cultural and Traditional Practices Favour men than women regarding decision making

results revealed that 59% of respondent strongly agree that indeed cultural and traditional practices favor men than women, whiles 16% somewhat agree. However,



15% of the respondents strongly disagree and 8% somewhat disagree. Further still, 2% of respondents were unsure

Figure 16: Do Cultural and Traditional Practices Favour men than women regarding decision making

and did not indicate any

options provided in the data collection instrument, thus it was recorded and interpreted as variance. This result is suggestive of the patriarchal arrangement in rural communities of Sierra Leone where men and boys are given preferential treatments over women and

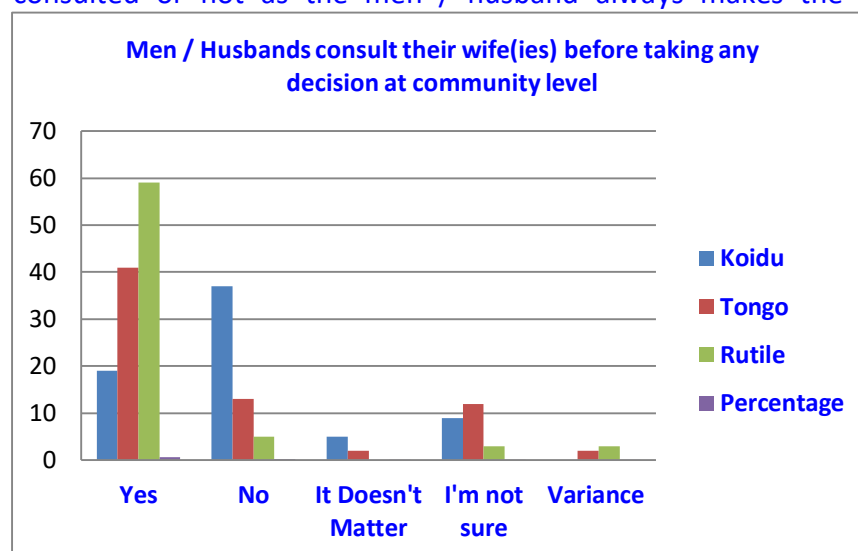
girls some pointers include limited access to inheritance, education and leadership opportunities (paramount Chief).

17. Respondents were asked to ascertain whether men / husband do consult their wife(ies)

Men/Husbands consult their wife(ies) before making any decision at community level	Koidu	Tongo	Rutile	Percentage
Yes	19	41	59	57%
No	37	13	5	26%
It Doesn't Matter	5	2	0	3%
I'm not sure	9	12	3	11%
Variance	0	2	3	2%

Table 17: Men / husbands consult their wife(ves) before making any decision at community level

26% of respondents indicated no; while 11% indicated that they are not sure that is the practice. However, 3% of respondents indicated that it doesn't matter whether they are consulted or not as the men / husband always makes the decision. About 2% of



before taking any decision at community level. The study revealed that 57% of respondents stated yes husbands normally consult with their wife(ies) before making decision at community level;

respondents did not indicate any of the options provided in the data collection

Figure 17: Men / husbands consult their wife(ies) before making any decision at community level

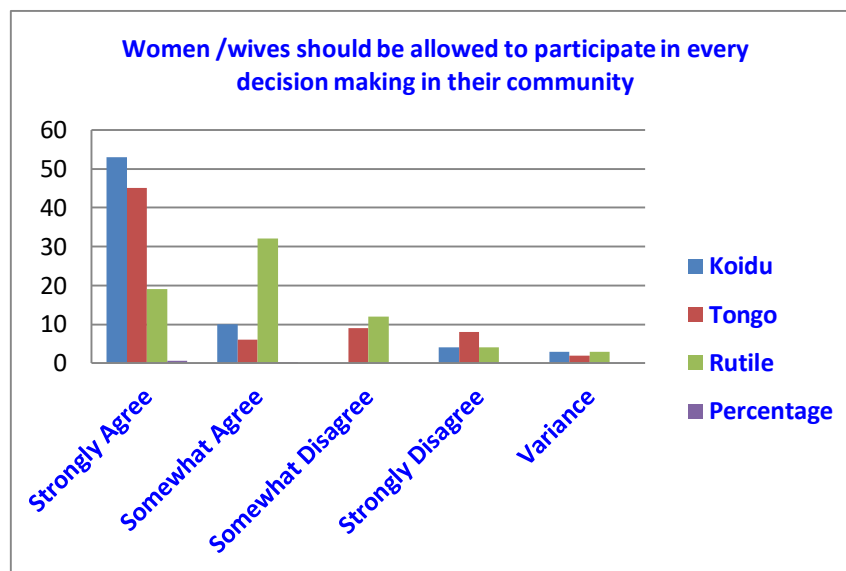
instrument administered to

them, thus it was recorded and interpreted as a variance. This result has been summarily presented in table 17 and illustrated in figure 17 respectively.

18. An inquiry on the perception of respondents regarding gender-based decision-making

Women / wives should be allowed to participate in every decision making in their community	Koidu	Tongo	Rutile	Percentage
Strongly Agree	53	45	19	56%
Somewhat Agree	10	6	32	23%
Somewhat Disagree	0	9	12	10%
Strongly Disagree	4	8	4	8%
Variance	3	2	3	4%

Table 18: Women / wives should be allowed to participate in every decision making in their community



processes was done by asking respondents trigger questions like *women / wives should be allowed to participate in every decision making in their communities.*

The study results revealed that 56% of respondents strongly agree, whiles 23%

somewhat agree that it should be the new normal. However, 10% of respondents indicated that they somewhat disagree, whiles 8% strongly

disagree. About 4 percent of respondents were not sure and did not indicate any of the option provided in the data collection instrument of the study, thus it was recorded and interpreted as a variance. This result has been summarily presented in table 18 and illustrated in figure 18 respectively.

6.5. BARRIERS TO WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING

This section of the study investigated conditions, practices and perception that serves as barriers to women's participation in decision making processes around mining and the activities of mining companies in the study locations.

19. The study also investigated the difficulties women encountered whenever they want to

Difficulties that pervades women's participation in decision making processes	Koidu	Tongo	Rutile	Percentage
Not At all	15	41	59	55%
Somewhat Difficult	25	13	5	20%
Very Difficult	29	2	0	15%
Impossible	1	12	3	8%
Variance	0	2	3	2%

participate in decision making processes at the community level.

The result of the study revealed

Table 19: Difficulties that pervades women's participation in decision making processes

that 55% of respondents indicated

that they did not face any difficulty, while 20% of the respondents indicated that they somewhat faced difficulties. About 15% of respondents

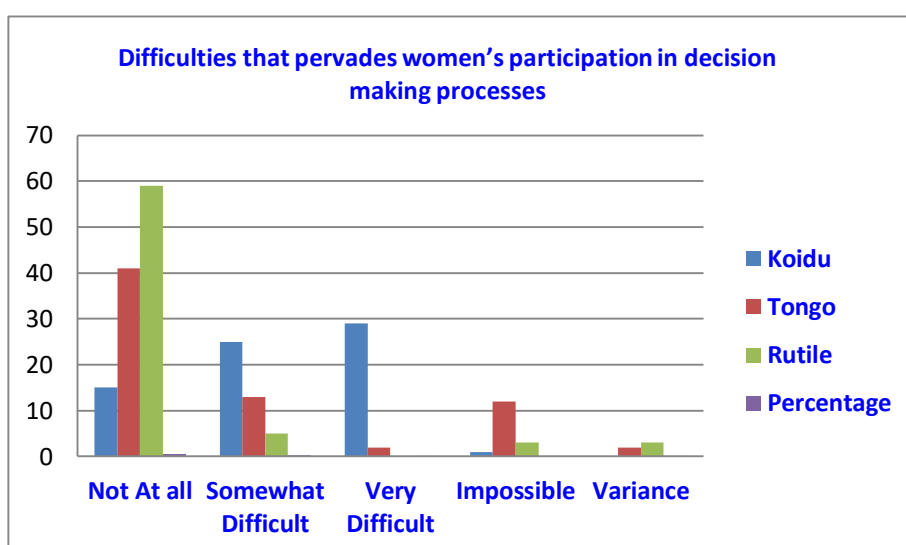


Figure 18: Difficulties that pervades women's participation in decision making processes

indicated that it very difficult for them to participate in decision making processes owing to factors like timing and venue of meetings.

However, 8% of respondents

stated that it is almost impossible for women to participate in decision making processes. About 2% of the respondents did not indicate any of the option provided in the data collection instrument as such was recorded and interpreted as a variance.

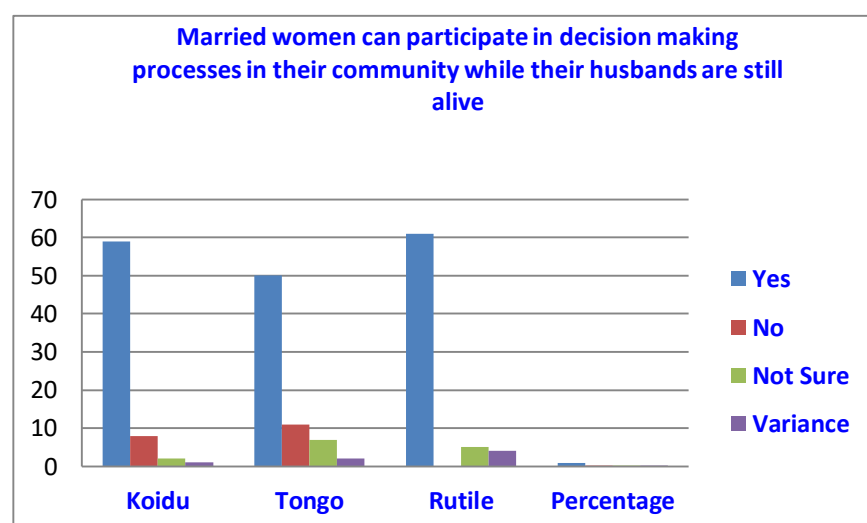
20. In a patriarchal society like Sierra Leone it is culturally and traditionally inappropriate for

Married women can participate in decision making processes in their community while their husbands are still alive	Koidu	Tongo	Rutile	Percentage
Yes	59	50	61	81%
No	8	11	0	9%
Not Sure	2	7	5	7%
Variance	1	2	4	3%

women to participate in any decision-making process while their husbands are still alive. To validate this perception respondents' views were solicited on the issue. The

Figure 20: Married women can participate in decision making processes in their community while their husbands are still alive

study revealed that 81% of respondents indicated affirmatively that yes, it is ok for married women to participate in decision making processes in their communities while their husbands are still alive. About 9% of the respondents indicated that it is not ok for women to participate in decision making processes while their husbands are still alive. Also 7% of respondents indicated that they



are not sure about what should obtain, while 3% did not indicate any option from the list of options provided in the data collection instrument. This

Figure 20: Married women can participate in decision making processes in their community while their husbands are still alive

result has been summarily presented

in table 20 and illustrated in figure 20 respectively.

21. Respondents were asked about the preferred venue for meetings between the community people and mining companies, so as to ascertain whether such venues are

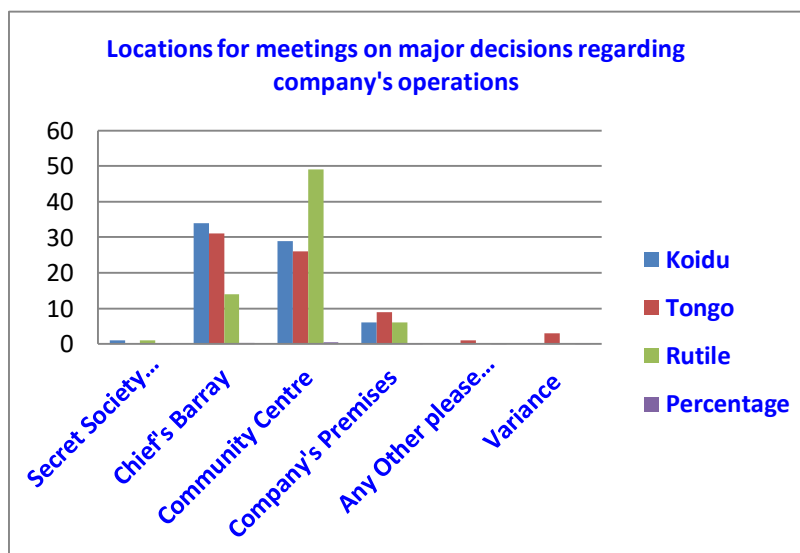
Locations for meetings on major decisions regarding company's operations	Koidu	Tongo	Rutile	Percentage
Secret Society Bush(es)	1	0	1	1%
Chief's Barray	34	31	14	38%
Community Centre	29	26	49	50%
Company's Premises	6	9	6	10%
Any Other please state	0	1	0	0%
Variance	0	3	0	1%

also serving as barriers to women's participation in decision making processes. The study revealed that 50% of respondents indicated the Community Centre as

Figure 21: Locations for meetings on major decisions regarding company's operations

one of the venues for such meetings; whiles 38% of respondents indicated the Chief's Barray. About 10% of respondents indicated the company premises; whiles 1% of respondents indicated secret society bush(es). It was only 1% of respondents that did not indicate any option from the list of options provided in the data collection instrument, thus was recorded and interpreted as a variance.

Worth noting is that whiles the community center and chief's Barray can be regarded as



venues that are easily accessible to community people, the same cannot be said about secret society bush(es) and company premises.

Figure 21: Locations for meetings on major decisions regarding company's operations

22. Respondents views were sought regarding women's attendance at meeting(s) organized by mining companies. The result of the study revealed that 77% of respondents indicated that women are allowed to attend such meetings, whiles 15% of respondents indicated that women are not allowed to attend such meetings. About 7% of the

respondents indicated that they are unsure whether or not women are allowed to attend such meetings. However, 2% of respondents indicated that women are never

Women's attendance at meetings regarding mining company's operations	Koidu	Tongo	Rutile	Percentage
Yes	40	53	68	77%
No	20	9	2	15%
Not Sure	7	4	0	5%
Never	3	2	0	2%
Variance	0	2	0	1%

Table 22: Women's attendance at meetings regarding mining company's operations

allowed to attend such meetings, 1% of respondents failed to indicate any of the options provided in the data collection instrument of the study thus, it was recorded and interpreted as a variance. This result has been summarily presented

in table 22 and illustrated in figure 22 respectively.

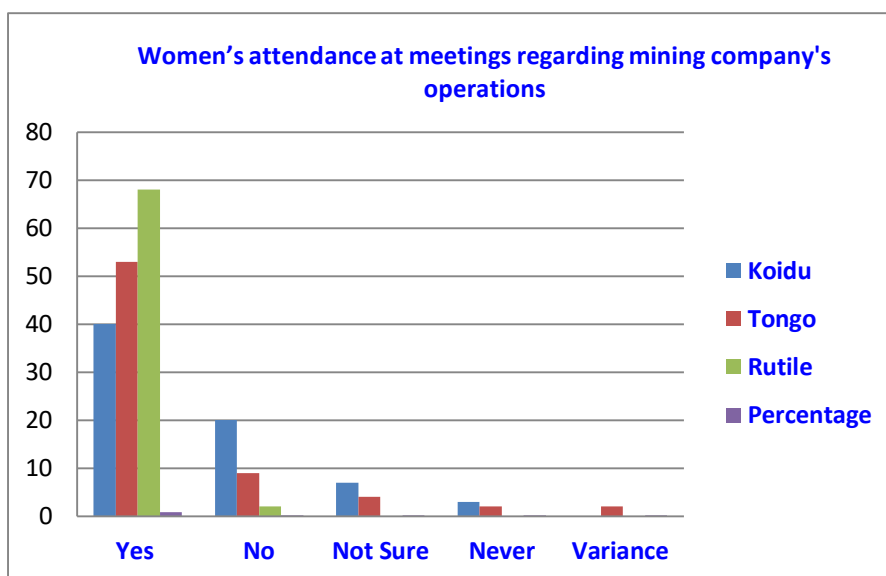


Figure 22: Women's attendance at meetings regarding mining company's operations

23. The study also investigated the difficulties women faced while attending meeting in some of the venues stated in table 21 above. The result of the study revealed that 33% of respondents indicated that they did not face any difficulty, while 31% of the respondent indicated they somewhat faced difficulties. About 28% of respondents indicated that it very difficult for them to participate in decision making processes due to some of the venues for the meeting. However, 7% of respondents stated that it is almost impossible for women to participate in decision making processes. About 1% of the

respondents did not indicate any of the option provided in the data collection instrument as such was recorded and interpreted as a variance.

How difficult is it for women to participate in meetings based on locations to participate meeting based on locations / venues	Koidu	Tongo	Rutile	Percentage
Not at all	12	22	36	33%
Somewhat Difficult	28	20	17	31%
Very Difficult	25	20	13	28%
Impossible	5	6	4	7%
Variance	0	2	0	1%

Table 23: How difficult is it for women to participate in meetings based on locations / venues

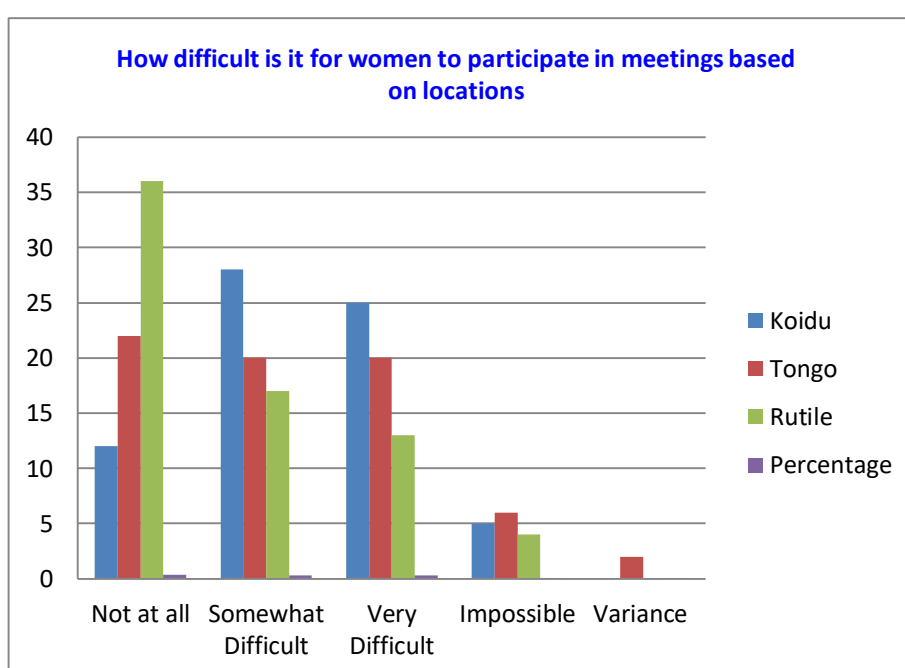


Table 23: How difficult is it for women to participate in meetings based on locations /venues

24. Respondents view were sought on whether such meetings are open to both men and women of the community. The study revealed that 69% of respondents indicated

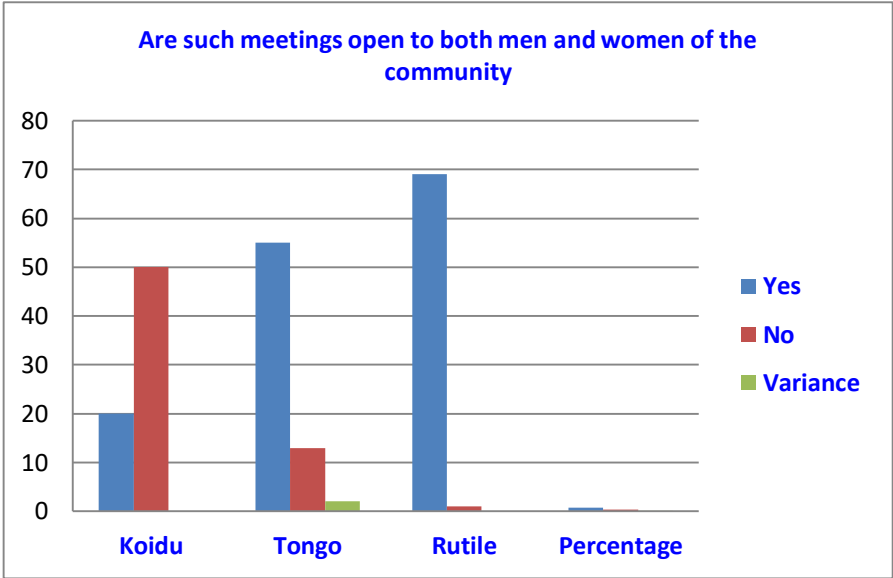
Are such meetings open to both men and women of the community	Koidu	Tongo	Rutile	Percentage
Yes	20	55	69	69%
No	50	13	1	30%
Variance	0	2	0	1%

affirmatively that yes, such meetings are open to both men and women of the

Table 24: Are such meetings open to both men and women of the community

community. About 30% of the respondents indicated that it is not always open to both men and women of the community. However, 1% of the

respondents did not indicate any option from the list of options provided in the data collection instrument, thus it was recorded and interpreted a variance. This result has



been summarily presented in table 24 and illustrated in figure 24 respectively.

Figure 24: Are such meetings open to both men and women of the community

25. By way of probing to ascertain further barriers to women’s participation in decision

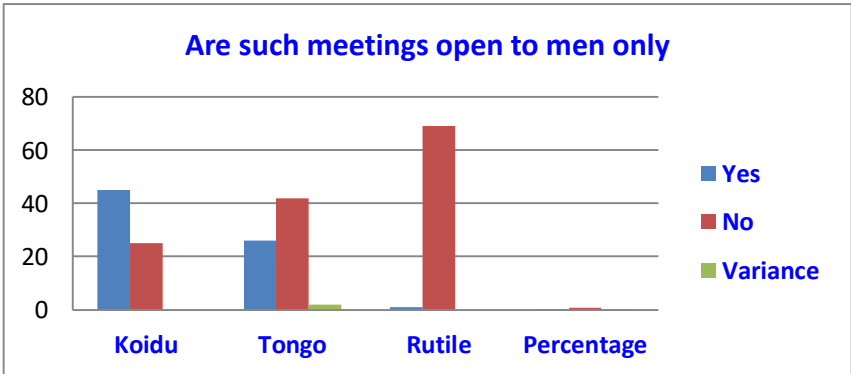
Are such meetings open to men only	Koidu	Tongo	Rutile	Percentage
Yes	45	26	1	34%
No	25	42	69	65%
Variance	0	2	0	1%

making processes. Respondent were asked to confirm whether such meetings between mining

Table 25: Are such meetings open to men only

companies and community

people are only open to men. To validate this statement respondents’ views were solicited. The study revealed that 34% of respondents indicated affirmatively that yes, that such meetings are only open to men; while 65% of respondents indicated that no such meeting are open to both men and women of the community. However, 3% of respondents did not indicate any option from the list of options provided in the data



collection instrument thus, it was recorded and interpreted as a variance. This result

Table 25: Are such meetings open to men only

has been summarily presented.

7. RESULT OF FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION HELD

Focus group discussions were held in one of the study locations (Koidu) to achieve the study objectives. A carefully designed and approved checklist of questions was administered to generate quantitative data on the cultural and traditional barriers that negate effective gender participation in mining decision-making processes.

26. *Participants were asked “What are some of your thoughts about mining activities going on in your community”* In responses participants at the focus group discussion had this to say:

- i. For some of us we think about exploitation of the mineral resources, given that mining lease agreement are done with little or no women’s participation. We also think of destruction of the environment as well as relocation of families into new settlements that are mostly far away from the township.
- ii. We also think about “Land grabbing” being that fertile land for agricultural productivity are being leased for mining operation which is also a threat to food security in the country.
- iii. We also envisage conflicts due to unfulfilled promises thus awakening the sad experiences of the past (Sierra Leone’s decade long civil conflict). It brings to mind the Top-bottom approach in terms of mining agreement, wherein government both past and present will look at the economic benefits of mining, while turning a blind eye to the social and environmental costs.
- iv. We think of wide spread abuse of young girls as well as an upsurge in STIs and STDs prevalence due to the sporadic increase in population in mining communities as well as the potential increase in drop-out rate amongst youths mostly school goers.

- v. It brings to mind that a potential disease outbreak such as Malaria, dysentery, cholera is bound, largely due to the failure of mining companies to rehabilitate the dug-out pits which also cause accidents (disability) and deaths.
- vi. We always think of increase in population that will ultimately lead to an increase in crime rate and a shortage in available resources.

27. Participants were also asked whether they would say they are satisfied with the current situation, with the way things are going on in their communities. In response they had this to say:

- vii. They recounted that there is gross dissatisfaction amongst inhabitant of mining host communities like Koidu. Being that the advent of mining companies had brought more harm than good to their communities thereby increasing the suffering of its people.
- viii. They went on to state that: Resettlement sites are poorly constructed are that single mothers in these sites are poorly catered for which is affecting the growth and development of their children and wards.
- ix. Qualified community people still face challenges in accessing employment from the mining companies.
- x. There is gender imbalance in the recruitment processes of mining companies as women are most often not given opportunity to be employed as trainee employees which is not the case for their men counterparts.
- xi. Given that jobs from mining companies are difficult to access, this has given rise to the advent of middle-men that have defrauded desperate job seekers in mining host communities.

28. Respondents agree with the consultant there are few things that they may be satisfied with, thus they were asked "What are you satisfied about? Why is that?" (Or, "What's going well...?")

- xii. They recounted the 0.25% payment made by large scale mining companies from its profit that is being disbursed to communities as part of the community development agreement signed by mining companies and local authorities.
- xiii. They also mentioned annual payment of surface rent to land owners as well as One-off crop compensation payment to farmers.
- xiv. Participants also stated creation of employment opportunities for few fortunate ones as well as the issuance of scholarships to deserving indigenes. They were quick to register their plea for scholarships to be extended to university students.
- xv. Construction of market, hospital and store (on-going construction) at resettlement sites, provision of pipe borne water, recreational facilities such as canteen, constructed a library as well as assistance provided towards the maintenance of feeder road, support to security sector through the construction of border security posts was also mentioned as success stories in Koidu.

29. Participants were also asked about those things that they are really dissatisfied with and wish to see change. In response they had this to say

- xvi. Women should be made to benefit from funds paid to CMC in the form of DACDF in order for them to undertake livelihood activities (trading etc.).
- xvii. Participants call on authorities to expedite the payment of back-log (5-6 years) CDA to the community people, given that it has the tendency to degenerate into conflict if care is not taken.
- xviii. Participants called for youth (M/F) capacity building programmes such as the one currently being implemented by GIZ should be built in order for them to be gainfully employed or become self-reliant.

30. Participants were what do they want to see change within the short-medium term or What kinds of things would you like to see happen soon?

- xix. Participants call for the endorsement of the 2% CDA to be given to mining host communities.
- xx. Participants also calls on Koidu Holdings to fast track the construction of market stores in one of the settlement sites to reduce the plight of market women as well as safeguard the premise against thieves.
- xxi. Participants call for the employment of women and men with disabilities given that mining operation exposes people (employees) to disability.

31. How about this particular aspect (Women Participation in decision making process regarding mining)? What do you think about that?

- xxii. Participant especially the women were bold to state that they are not consulted to have their say in mining decision making processes even those in resettlement communities.
- xxiii. Participants recounted that based on previous experience of non-consultation or passive women's participation in mining host communities have made women loss interest in mining companies' activities.
- xxiv. The participants also mentioned that at a particular instance in order to get women to participate in a meeting, local authorities had to induce the notice for that meeting (women were promise to be given their house plans). This was due to the continuous non-involvement of women in decision making processes. Hence, their slogan was "anything for women, without women is not for women"

32. Some people are of the opinion that one way to improve women's participation in mining decision making processes is to develop a quota system for women representative. Do you agree to this?

xxv. Participants at the focus group sessions agreed that women in mining host communities should be adequately represented in all meetings with regards mining decision making and further appealed for 40% quota representation in all of those meetings.

33. *"Are there other recommendations that you have, or suggestions you would like to make?"*

xxvi. Women of Tankoro according to the Mammy Queen (Madam Feremusu N. Saquee) proposed that 40% of all executive positions in all committees formed to deal with mining and other related matters should be assigned to women, examples of such committee are: CMC and CDC.

xxvii. Participants by way of recommendation urged Government to make frantic efforts towards involving grassroot women in all mining decision making processes instead of the top-bottom approach.

xxviii. The women also called on chiefdom stakeholders to allocate part of the CDA payment to women in agriculture particularly crop farmers.

xxix. Participants also called for effective communication flow from local authorities to enhance increase women's participation as well as reduce incidents of conflict or fear of relocation that has been in community people's mind.

xxx. Women should be supported fully when selected or appointed to executive positions at the grassroot level.

xxxi. The Government of Sierra Leone through the ministry of mines and mineral resources as well as its agencies such as Environmental Protection Agency and National Minerals Agency should mainstream effective gender participation in all its engagement with mining host communities.

xxxii. Transparency International Sierra Leone should advocate and monitor the 40% affirmative action for women's representation in all mining structures at chiefdom level particularly CMC and CDC.

xxxiii. Transparency International Sierra Leone should collaborate with other partners to advocate for the repeal of the Chieftaincy Act 2009 especially article 8 subsection 1 paragraph B (Excerpt)

8. (1) A person is qualified to stand as a candidate in a Qualification paramount chieftaincy election if-

b. where tradition so specifies, he or she has direct paternal or maternal lineage to a rightful claimant in a recognized ruling house, whether born outside wedlock or not.

8. APPENDICES

8.1. FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION – FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

Transparency International Sierra Leone as part of its Sustainable Mining Project implementation with funds from her donor partners has commissioned a study titled: *Investigating the Cultural and Traditional Practices that negate effective gender participation in mining related decision-making processes in Sierra Leone*". The study will cover three mining towns namely: Rutile, Koidu, and Tongo from January to April, 2021.

Respondent's Consent:

Good Morning / Afternoon / Evening Sir/ Madam

We are _____Facilitator_____ and _____Note Taker_____ we work for Transparency International Sierra Leone as Field Officers / Enumerators.

We are going to ask you some questions relating to the *Cultural and Traditional Practices that negate effective gender participating in mining-related decision in your town*. Some of the answers to the questions may be personal, but we want you to know that all your answers will be kept completely confidential.

There is no compulsion on answering every question and you may choose to move out of this focus group discussion at any time if you are uncomfortable answering the questions. There is no penalty for refusing to take part in this focus group discussion nor is there any incentive for participation.

However, your honest answers to these questions will help us better understand the challenges or gaps that are affecting gender participation in decision making around mining communities in Sierra Leone.

The Focus Group Discussion will take about 30-45 minutes, would you be willing to participate?

Yes: ☐

No: ☐

If yes, you are heartily welcome!

Now that you all have agreed to participate, let's take you through the topic and questions that we would be discussing shortly.

1. What are some of your thoughts about mining activities going on in your community?
2. Would you say you are satisfied with the current situation, with the way things are going on?
3. (If so) What are you satisfied about? Why is that?" (Or, "What's going well...?")
4. Are there things you are dissatisfied with, that you would like to see changed?" (Or, "What's not going well...?")
5. (If so), What are they? Why is that? How should they change? What kinds of things would you like to see happen?

6. How about this particular aspect (Women Participation in decision making process regarding mining). What do you think about that?
7. Some people are of the opinion that one way to improve women participation in mining decision making processes is to develop a quota system for women representative.
8. Do you agree with this?' (Or, "How do you feel about that?")
9. "Are there other recommendations that you have, or suggestions you would like to make?"
10. "Are there other things you would like to say before we wind up?"

Questioning Technique for Facilitator - Ask Probing Question. Some "probes" or follow-ups" designed to get more information on a given question:

- "Can you say more about that?"
- "Can you give an example?"
- "Jane says X. How about others of you. What do you think?"
- "How about you, Joe. [Or, "you folks in the corner over there...."] Do you have some thoughts on this?"
- "Does anyone else have some thoughts on that?"

8.2. SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

Transparency International Sierra Leone as part of its Sustainable Mining Project implementation with funds from her donor partners has commissioned a study titled: Investigating the Cultural and Traditional Practices that negate effective gender participation in mining related decision-making processes in Sierra Leone". The study will cover three mining towns namely: Rutile, Kono, and Tongo from January to April, 2021.

Respondent's Consent:

Good Morning / Afternoon / Evening Sir/ Madam

I am _____; I work for Transparency International Sierra Leone as a Field Officer / an Enumerator.

I'm going to ask you some questions relating to the Cultural and Traditional Practices that negate effective gender participating in mining-related decision in your town. Some of the answers to the questions may be personal, but I want you to know that all your answers will be kept completely confidential.

There is no compulsion on answering every question and you may choose not to respond to any question. Further, you may also terminate this survey at any time if you are uncomfortable answering the questions. There is no penalty for refusing to take part in this survey nor is there any incentive for participation.

However, your honest answers to these questions will help us better understand the challenges or gaps that are affecting gender participation in decision making around mining communities in Sierra Leone.

I would greatly appreciate your help in responding to this survey.

The survey will take about 15-30 minutes, would you be willing to participate?

Yes: ☐

No: ☐

If yes, you are heartily welcome to respond to the following questions;

SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHY OF RESPONDENTS		
1.	Age	a. 18 – 25 <input type="checkbox"/> b. 26 – 35 <input type="checkbox"/> c. 36 – 55 <input type="checkbox"/> d. Above 55 <input type="checkbox"/>
2.	Sex	a. Female <input type="checkbox"/> b. Male <input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Educational Qualification / Level of Education attained	a. Completed Primary School <input type="checkbox"/> b. Completed Secondary School <input type="checkbox"/> c. Completed College / Tech. Voc. Education <input type="checkbox"/> d. Completed University Education <input type="checkbox"/> e. Never being to school <input type="checkbox"/>

4.	Marital Status	a. Married <input type="checkbox"/> b. Widow <input type="checkbox"/> Widower <input type="checkbox"/> d. Single <input type="checkbox"/> e. Divorce <input type="checkbox"/>
5.	Position in the Community	a. Traditional Leader <input type="checkbox"/> e. CSO Activist <input type="checkbox"/> b. Religious Leader <input type="checkbox"/> f. Mines Worker <input type="checkbox"/> c. Local Politician <input type="checkbox"/> h. Former Mines Worker <input type="checkbox"/> d. Community Member <input type="checkbox"/> i. Any other please state
SECTION B: INFORMATION FLOW AT COMMUNITY LEVEL		
6.	Are you aware of any mining activity going on in this town?	a. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> b. No <input type="checkbox"/> If the respondent's answer to this question is "No" please abort the survey.
7.	How did you learn about the company's operation?	a. Local Chief <input type="checkbox"/> e. Spouse (Husband/Wife) <input type="checkbox"/> b. Member of Parliament <input type="checkbox"/> Radio Announcement <input type="checkbox"/> c. Company's Rep. <input type="checkbox"/> d. Govt. Reps. (MMMR, EPA, NMA) <input type="checkbox"/>
8.	What type of Mineral(s) is/are being mined in your community?	a. Gold <input type="checkbox"/> d. Bauxite <input type="checkbox"/> b. Diamond <input type="checkbox"/> e. Any other, please state c. Iron Ore <input type="checkbox"/>
9.	How often do you receive information from the mining company about its activities?	a. Once <input type="checkbox"/> b. Frequently <input type="checkbox"/> c. Yearly <input type="checkbox"/> d. Never <input type="checkbox"/>
10.	How often do you receive information from Government Representative(s) (MMMR, EPA, & NMA etc.) about the activities of the mining company / (ies)?	a. Once <input type="checkbox"/> b. Frequently <input type="checkbox"/> c. Yearly <input type="checkbox"/> d. Never <input type="checkbox"/>
SECTION B: GENDER-BASED INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION MAKING		
11.	Men are the most appropriate people to decide which individual or company is to mine our mineral resource(s)	a. Strongly Agree <input type="checkbox"/> b. Somewhat Agree <input type="checkbox"/> c. Somewhat Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> d. Strongly Disagree <input type="checkbox"/>
12.	Women and men should decide which individual or company is to mine our mineral resource(s)	a. Strongly Agree <input type="checkbox"/> b. Somewhat Agree <input type="checkbox"/> c. Somewhat Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> d. Strongly Disagree <input type="checkbox"/>
13.	Rate the level of	a. Very Active Involvement <input type="checkbox"/>

	involvement of household members in decision making that affects community people's wellbeing?	b. Frequent Involvement <input type="checkbox"/> c. Occasional Involvement <input type="checkbox"/> d. No Involvement <input type="checkbox"/>
14.	How often does your spouse seek your opinion on matters affecting your community?	a. Always <input type="checkbox"/> b. Once <input type="checkbox"/> c. Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> d. Never <input type="checkbox"/>
SECTION C: CULTURAL PRACTICES AROUND DECISION MAKING PROCESSES		
15.	How was the decision to lease the community's land for mining undertaken?	a. Community Leaders decide <input type="checkbox"/> b. Men decide on behalf of the community <input type="checkbox"/> c. Men and women agree <input type="checkbox"/> d. Government of Sierra Leone instructs <input type="checkbox"/>
16.	Culture and traditional practices favour men than women in terms of decision making?	a. Strongly Agree <input type="checkbox"/> b. Somewhat Agree <input type="checkbox"/> c. Somewhat Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> d. Strongly Disagree <input type="checkbox"/>
17.	Husbands normally consult their wife / wives before taking any decision at community level	a. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> b. No <input type="checkbox"/> c. It Doesn't Matter <input type="checkbox"/> d. I'm not sure <input type="checkbox"/>
18.	Women / wives should be allowed to participate in every decision making process in their community	a. Strongly Agree <input type="checkbox"/> b. Somewhat Agree <input type="checkbox"/> c. Somewhat Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> d. Strongly Disagree <input type="checkbox"/>
SECTION D: BARRIERS TO WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING		
19.	How difficult is it for women to participate in decision making processes in your community?	a. Not at all <input type="checkbox"/> b. Somewhat difficult <input type="checkbox"/> c. Very difficult <input type="checkbox"/> d. Impossible <input type="checkbox"/>
20.	Is it ok for married women to participate in decision making processes in your community while their husbands are still alive?	a. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> b. No <input type="checkbox"/> c. Not Sure <input type="checkbox"/> d. Never <input type="checkbox"/>
21.	Where do meetings on major decisions regarding mining normally takes place in your community?	a. Secret Society Bush(es) <input type="checkbox"/> b. Chief's Barray <input type="checkbox"/> c. Community Centre <input type="checkbox"/> d. Company's Premises <input type="checkbox"/>

		e. Any other please state <input type="checkbox"/>
22.	Are women allowed to attend meetings regarding mining company's operations in your community?	a. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> b. No <input type="checkbox"/> c. Not Sure <input type="checkbox"/> d. Never <input type="checkbox"/>
23.	How difficult is it for women to participate in meetings in the following locations: Secret Society Bushes; Chief's Barray; Community Centre; or Company's Premises?	a. Not at all <input type="checkbox"/> b. Somewhat difficult <input type="checkbox"/> c. Very difficult <input type="checkbox"/> d. Impossible <input type="checkbox"/>
24.	Are such meetings open to both men and women of the community?	a. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> b. No <input type="checkbox"/>
25.	Are such meetings open to men only?	a. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> b. No <input type="checkbox"/>