UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

FACULTY OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL WORK

IMPACT OF ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION: A CASE STUDY OF CENTRAL-SAKWA LOCATION IN SIAYA COUNTY

BY:

BEATRICE ATIENO ABURA

REG. NO: C50/72810/2012

A PROJECT PAPER SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF MASTERS OF ARTS IN SOCIOLOGY (RURAL SOCIOLOGY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT)

DATE OF SUBMISSION:

NOVEMBER, 2013
DECLARATION

DECLARATION BY CANDIDATE

I hereby declare that this project paper is my original work and has not been presented for any other academic award at the University of Nairobi or any other institution.

Name

...........................................................................................................................

Date

...........................................................................................................................

Signature

...........................................................................................................................

DECLARATION BY SUPERVISOR

This project paper has been submitted with my approval as the University of Nairobi Supervisor

Dr. Robinson Mose Ocharo

Date

...........................................................................................................................

Signature

...........................................................................................................................
DEDICATION

I dedicate this study to my grandfather Leokadus Achieng’ Oketch and my grandmother Jane Adhimbo Opata for their great love and emotional support. You are a great source of joy and pillars of strength in deed.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to acknowledge my lecturers for their various supports, especially my Supervisor, Dr. Robinson Mose Ocharo for his impeccable guidance, encouragement, professional and technical advice and for ensuring that this study is a success.

Special thanks go to my family members who have been supportive by ensuring that I give the best resources to this study. I am thankful to the community members of Central-Sakwa Location for their support and cooperation during the data collection period. Not forgetting my friends Albert Aduma, Joseph Tolo and Dan Wasamba for their great encouragements, I say thank you.

I would like to thank my fellow students Bernice Apondi, Gloria Phiri and Irene Kibere, for their motivation and support. I would also like to thank Mr. Abura Manyala, assistant chief Uyawi sub-location Mr. Hillary Manyala and the area Chief Mr. Julius Nyerere for their maximum assistance.

I finally give thanks to all other parties that were helpful to me and I may have failed to recognize them by name. Above all, I thank God, the Almighty, for His divine inspiration and guidance, without Him, this study could not have been a success.
ACRONYMS AND ABREVIATIONS

AIDS - Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

ASM – Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining

CASM - Community Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Initiative

CFC - Common Fund for Commodities (CFC)

DEAP – District Environment Action Plan

FGDs - Focused Group Discussions

FPE - Free Primary Education

GDP - Gross Domestic Product

GoK - Government of Kenya

HIV - Human Immunodeficiency Virus

ILEG - Institute for Law and Environmental Governance

ILO - International Labor Organization

LSM - Large Scale Mining

MDGs – Millennium Development Goals

NEMA - National Environment Management Authority

PRSPs - Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers

STDs - Sexually Transmitted Deficiencies

UNECA - United Nation Economic Commission for Africa

UN - United Nations
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION ............................................................................................................................ ii  
DEDICATION ............................................................................................................................... iii 
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ........................................................................................................... iv  
ACRONYMS AND ABREVIATIONS.......................................................................................... v  
TABLE OF CONTENTS............................................................................................................... vi  
LIST OF FIGURES ..................................................................................................................... viii  
LIST OF TABLES ......................................................................................................................... ix  
LIST OF PLATES ........................................................................................................................ x  
ABSTRACT................................................................................................................................... xi  

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION............................................................................................ 1  
1.1 Background to the Study ................................................................................................. 1  
1.2 Problem Statement ......................................................................................................... 3  
1.2.1 Key Research Questions.............................................................................................. 5  
1.3 Objectives of the Study .................................................................................................. 5  
1.3.1 Overall Objective....................................................................................................... 5  
1.3.2 Specific Objectives .................................................................................................... 6  
1.4 Significance of the Study ............................................................................................... 6  
1.5 Scope and Limitations of the Study .............................................................................. 6  
1.6 Definition of Key Terms and Concepts......................................................................... 8  

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK................. 9  
2.1 An Overview of Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM) ........................................ 9  
2.2 Reasons and types of Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM) ................................ 11  
2.3 Conceptualizing poverty ............................................................................................... 12  
2.4 Relationship between ASM and Poverty Alleviation ................................................. 13  
2.5 Factors that Promote or Inhibit ASM from Alleviating Poverty............................... 15  
2.6 Theoretical Framework ............................................................................................... 18  
2.6.1 Theories of Poverty ................................................................................................. 18  
2.6.2 Resource –Curse Theory ....................................................................................... 20  
2.7 Conceptual Framework ............................................................................................... 21
CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY ............................................................... 24

3.1 Research Design.................................................................................................................. 24
3.2 Study Site Description......................................................................................................... 24
3.3 Study Population ................................................................................................................. 25
3.4 Sample Size ......................................................................................................................... 25
3.5 Unit of Observation and Unit of Analysis........................................................................... 27
3.6 Data Sources........................................................................................................................ 27
3.7 Data Collection Methods and Tools.................................................................................... 28
3.8 Training ............................................................................................................................... 30
3.9 Pre-testing of study tools..................................................................................................... 30
3.10 Validity and Reliability ..................................................................................................... 31
3.11 Data Analysis and Presentation......................................................................................... 31

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS .................. 32

4.1 Response turnout rates ........................................................................................................ 32
4.2 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents..................................................................... 33
4.3 Conceptualization of Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM)........................................ 42
4.4 Conceptualization of Poverty.............................................................................................. 45
4.5 Extent in which ASM have alleviated poverty.................................................................... 49
4.6 Factors promoting or inhibiting ASM from alleviating poverty......................................... 62

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS..................................................................................................................74

5.1 Summary of Findings .......................................................................................................... 74
5.2 Conclusions ......................................................................................................................... 78
5.3 Recommendations to ASM Stakeholders............................................................................ 78
5.4 Recommendations for Further Research............................................................................. 79

REFERENCES ............................................................................................................................. 80

APPENDICES .............................................................................................................................. 87
LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Conceptual Model ......................................................................................................... 21
Figure 2: Bar graph showing the Ages Respondents ................................................................. 34
Figure 3: Pie Chart Showing the Marital Status of Respondents .............................................. 35
Figure 4: Pie Chart showing residing villages for the Respondents ........................................... 36
Figure 5: Pie Chart showing Names of mining sites for Respondents ...................................... 37
Figure 6: Pie Chart showing Size of Household for Respondents .............................................. 38
Figure 7: Bar graph showing Highest Level of Education of Respondents ............................... 39
Figure 8: Pie chart showing the Main Occupation of Respondents .......................................... 40
Figure 9: Pie Chart showing Main Source of income of Respondents ..................................... 41
Figure 10: Pie Chart showing the duration of years in ASM by Respondents ........................... 43
Figure 11: Pie Chart showing the Understanding of poverty by Respondents .......................... 45
LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Summary of Methods and Tools used in the Study .................................................. 28
Table 2: Response turnout rates ............................................................................................ 32
Table 3: Sex Ratio of Respondents ....................................................................................... 33
Table 4: Understanding of ASM by Respondents ............................................................... 42
Table 5: Reasons for practicing ASM by Respondents .......................................................... 44
Table 6: Economic Status of Respondents ............................................................................. 50
Table 7: Conditions making gold miners to meet their needs ............................................... 63
Table 8: Challenges to gold miners by Respondents ............................................................. 66
Table 9: Recommendations on challenges experienced by gold miners ............................ 71
LIST OF PLATES

Plate 1: Entrance of a shaft at Kibere mines in Wagusu village ................................................................. 38
Plate 2: A house built with money from gold mining activities ................................................................. 52
Plate 3: An old shaft in Belmira mines used in providing water to the community ............................... 56
Plate 4: A small portion of gold ore after washing grinded gold stones ............................................... 61
Plate 5: Stone grinder at Konduru site at Kibere mines in Wagusu village ......................................... 63
Plate 6: Casual laborers taking a meal at Lavin Investment mining site ............................................... 64
Plate 7: Compressor machine found at Lavin investment mines ............................................................ 66
Plate 8: Explosives used in gold mining activities .................................................................................... 67
Plate 9: Researcher & Miners as they wash soil to get gold at the shores of Lake Victoria ............... 68
Plate 10: Researcher and Women washing soil to get gold at Kajohn mines ....................................... 69
Plate 11: A young lady washing gold at Kajohn mines ......................................................................... 72
ABSTRACT

The urgent demand for appropriate mitigation of the activities of Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM) in Africa has become necessary in view of the immense contribution of the mining activities to poverty alleviation in the continent. The specific objectives of this study were; to find out how the people of Central- Sakwa location have conceptualize ASM and poverty; to examine the extent in which ASM have alleviated poverty among the people of Central-Sakwa location; and to find out the factors that have promoted or inhibited ASM in alleviating poverty among the people of Central- Sakwa Location.

This study had two theories governing it and this were the resource – curse theory and the theories of poverty as well as a conceptual framework illustrating the link between ASM and poverty alleviation. Chapter three of this study focused on the research methodology setting out a descriptive study design with Household Survey, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), Key Informant Interview, and observation as data collection methods used to generate primary data. Secondary data provided complementary information on the topic of study.

The analyzed data was presented using narrative reports and quantitative techniques of data such as Pie charts, tables, percentages and graphs. The findings of this study revealed that respondents had diversity on conceptualization of ASM and poverty. A good number of respondents did not understand the meaning of artisanal an indication that the problem of understanding ASM existed in Central-Sakwa location.

The study established that ASM had help gold miners to meet their needs but this was identified to be short term as it depended on the fluctuating income of the miners. From the findings, it was evident that with the illegality of the sector, there was no taxation of income from the activity hence no development projects directly associated with it in the location. The study found out that the main factors that had promoted ASM to alleviate poverty were; availability of ready market and the mineral gold within the location, and provision of food to casual laborers by the site managers while those that inhibited ASM from alleviating poverty included; accidents/deaths at the mines, lack of finance to invest on mining equipments and machines, political instability, and lack of skills on harvesting gold.

From the findings it was evident that with financial support, legalization of the sector, training of miners and putting measures on how to properly invest income from gold mining, would help ensure that ASM alleviates poverty among the community members of Central-Sakwa location.