

Gender Dimension in Artisanal Small-scale Gold Mining in Indonesia: The Women Perspective from GOLD-ISMIA’s project location

It is estimated that the number of women involved in Artisanal Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) is very large, but there is very little explanation of women's involvement and experiences. Unfortunately, formal data are also not found from official agencies from the village level and above. This lack of recognition is also due to stereotypes that consider mining as a masculine and gender-neutral area.

Through the gender analysis in each project location which conducted in December 2019–May 2020, the project mapped out the different roles of women and men in ASGM value chain & different access and control over productive resources that contribute to gender inequality. This research is a qualitative study with data collection techniques using a purposive sample. The data collection process is done by in-depth interviews in six targeted project locations of GOLD-ISMIA. This study reveals that women are less recognized for their existence in ASGM. The data obtained were analysed using the Longwe analysis framework. Undertaking a gender-sensitive situation analysis, including a barrier analysis, is a useful way to strengthen understanding of the context of marginalized actor in ASGM sector.

Barriers are include:

- Family/community/social factors such as prejudice, discrimination and stigma. These are likely to be gendered and to vary across cultures.
- Mining area such as physical infrastructure, equipment and tools. These are likely to have gender implications.
- Institutional factors such as laws, policies, and capacities of institutions. ASGM sector, which has so far been regarded as a masculine and gender-neutral area.

Discussions that are focused on women in this case do not mean to obscure the notion of gender that is women bias,

but considering the imbalance that occurs shows that women are still left behind as a marginal group.

Therefore, to obtain an equal result, it is necessary to make efforts to equalize the differences in conditions that surround men and women, through responses in the form of actions, policies or special treatment aimed at accelerating the process of eliminating inequalities.

| Dimension | Findings |
|--------------------|---|
| Control | Women miners do not have power over resources (capital, land, and means of production). |
| Participation | Women miners face institutional and social obstacles in participating quantitatively and qualitatively in public policymaking processes and are not being involved significantly. |
| Critical Awareness | Only a few female miners have attempted to challenge gender-biased norms and practices in ASGM in the early days, proving that they were able to become pit diggers, breaking down feminine-masculine constructions, for example, two of women respondents are tromol owners. |
| Access | It is difficult to gain access to training / capacity building, information, economic empowerment, new technological skills, quality health services, formal financial institution services, social protection, and village forums. |
| Welfare | Income obtained from gold mining (money) does not have a positive correlation with the welfare of women miners and their families. Women carry multiple burdens, health risks, do not have alternative livelihoods, live with poor sanitation, have low education, and are vulnerable to gender-based violence. |

Figure 1. Findings based on Longwe Analysis Dimensions

Different Roles of Women and Men in ASGM Value Chain and Their Impact to Health and Work Safety Risk

The result of study showed that women and men have distinct but complementary roles and tasks in both gold production and marketing phase, but men have more control and benefits from them. Women in ASGM communities are responsible for all domestic duties, which curbs their capabilities to improve their socio-economic status. Domestic work includes preparing meals, laundry, cleaning, household maintenance and personal care. It is regularly noticed that women’s domestic work disregarded and categorized as unpaid job. The more massive of time invested by women in household work appear to have far greater value than the quantity of time spent by in earning income through mining work.

The unsanitary gold processing conditions, that were located at around the people’s house, and a lack of knowledge on chemical exposure while pouring the mercury into the ball-mills or mixing the mercury in panning, and burning the amalgam, exacerbates the probability of health and safety problems. Amidst this difficult situation, women tend to be more vulnerable to mercury and hazardous chemical exposure. Women perform the foremost toxic jobs since they think it does not need require strength.

However, in some area’s women are also carrying the rocks from the mining sites to the processing plants. They are not only exposed to the misuse of mercury, but also injuries as the result of being hit or struck by an object during the manual crushing using hammer to reduce size of ore rocks. Stress due to dust and noise pollution, worsens their health conditions. Often, they also work with their children or babies nearby.

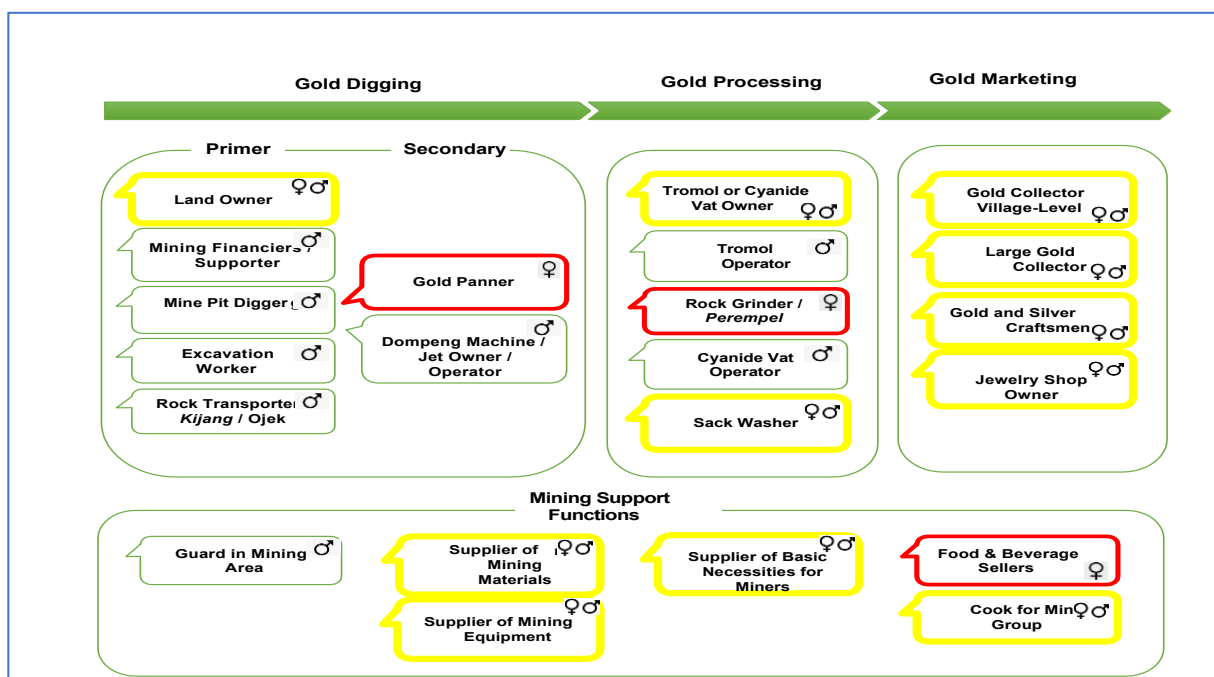


Figure 2 - Different roles of women and men in ASGM value chains

Different Access and Control over Productive Resources that Contribute to Gender Inequality

The challenge in comparing men's and women's productivity in ASGM lies in the measurement of gold processing and marketing activities. A related conceptual issue is how to measure the separate productivity of men and women, especially when they are typically working alongside one another as part of complex family or group enterprises. As a practical matter, it is becoming more challenging when we try to disentangle the productivity of individuals within the domestic work of miners family, especially when gender roles and norms assign women and men to different tasks. Even though in reality they make an economic contribution to the family, women are not identified as "miners", therefore in many opportunities women were not involved in new technology training and other capacity building activities. The role of male miners dominates the existence of women as miners, and as a villager, most of them positioned at the lowest level and are considered not to have legality and capacity to attend village forums. As the majority of the miners group have a migrant status (no formal identity card) and work in illegal sectors, access to various economic strengthening programs.

Financial services becomes even further out of reach. All women in miner groups at the six ASGM locations, which are the main subjects of this study, perform work ranging from hauling stones, crushing stones manually, panning, mixing mercury, washing sacks, and cooking for male miners. They do not operate heavy equipment and hardware. Incorporation of local knowledge and skills for women that is oriented towards technology will provide opportunities to explore the application of innovative technologies that are developed locally and are gender-friendly.

Facing the Problems

With the government, GOLD-ISMIA will support the development and strengthening of gender sensitive policies for ASGM. The project places gender equality as one of important elements to ensure our intervention will benefit equally to all people, men and women. Through the gender mapping, we recognised the capacity and vulnerability of men and women's roles at ASGM. On the ground, the project will work with multiple stakeholders to empower women. The project will develop a guidance on gender mainstreaming in ASGM sector which aims to create practical guidance on how to address gender inequalities related to the ASGM management in Indonesia.

GOLD-ISMIA is working with relevant authorities to develop financial mechanism with gender sensitive innovative financing to access mercury-free technologies and develop equal market routes at gold's supply chain. GOLD-ISMIA also supporting the establishment of women miners' cooperative to stimulate their economic and livelihood's empowerment. Through this project, we will ensure all, men and women, can grow together, to participate and access all resources equally in ASGM sector.

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Special appreciation for the Field Facilitators for staying in their respective duty stations, being away from family at this difficult time.

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