

**TAITA TAVETA- BASELINE STUDY**



2018-2019

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Taita Taveta County is in the Coastal region of Kenya. The county is located at coordinates 3.3161° S, 38.4850° E. The county has an area of 17,084.1 Km<sup>2</sup>. According to the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census (KPHC), the population of the county was 284,657, where females and males were 139,323 and 145,334, respectively. The county population was projected to be 306,205 in 2012. The projections indicate that the total county population will increase to 329,383 and 345,800 in 2015 and 2017 respectively.

Geological reports of surveys carried out at different times in this region show the presence of mineral deposits in the County and the neighboring areas. A report by Horkel (1980) shows that parts of Taita Taveta County has high and middle value gemstones including: Tsavorite (green garnets), red garnets, ruby, change color, blue sapphire, pink sapphire, green tourmalines, yellow tourmalines, rhodolites and kyanites. The main gemstone mining area in Kenya is in the Tsavo region, many small mining operations are located along a fault system extending from the Taita Hills of Kenya to the Uмба Valley in northern Tanzania, passing through the Tsavo, Kasigau and Kuraze areas. This is where Campbell Bridges discovered tsavorite in 1971 and where his company continues to carry out mining. Taita Taveta County is currently the main source of tsavorite in the world.

### **1.2 Data Collection m Instruments and methods**

#### **1.2.1 Questionnaires**

The primary tools used in Data Collection were questionnaires attached in Annex I. A total of 50 respondents were sampled from Magarini. Respondents targeted were those residing within the vicinity of the extractive industry and the salt workers. The results are presented in tables, bar graphs and pie charts.

#### **1.2.2 Location coordinates**

Location of samples collected was recorded by use of a GPS device (GPSMAP® 64s).

#### **1.2.3 Photography**

Photography and videos were also used to capture visual data.

#### **1.2.4 Physical Observation**

Direct observation was also incorporated. This primarily involved visiting affected communities within the vicinity of the salt companies and making observations with regards to their environment

#### **1.2.5 Soil and Water Samples**

Soil and water samples were taken from a variety of points within communities neighboring the companies. The samples were then taken to SGS Laboratory in Mombasa for analysis.

## 2. FINDINGS AND INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

### 2.1 Data Entry and Analysis

The data that was collected from the study was entered and analyzed by use of MINITAB software. The data garnered was majorly descriptive.

### 2.2 Distribution of Respondents

A total of 24 respondents were interviewed while 2 of the respondents declined. All the total population interviewed was men. This was because the area majorly consists of men who work in the mines and camp in the company's camp sites while some sleep in the underground mines.

#### 2.2.1 Age distribution

Among the respondents Men of age 45 and above dominates with 46.2%, 19.2% of the respondents were of age between 15-24 and 35-44 years. 15.4% of the respondents were of the age 25-34 years.

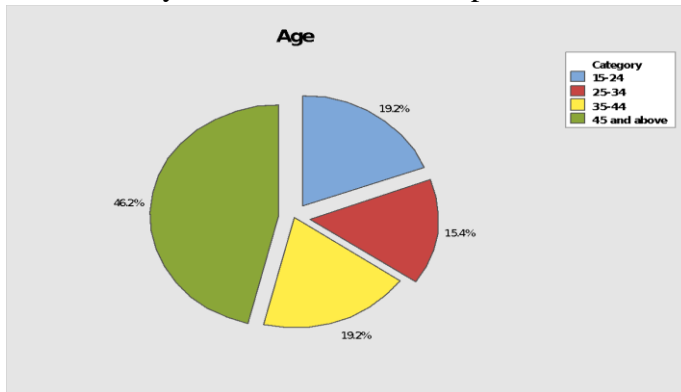
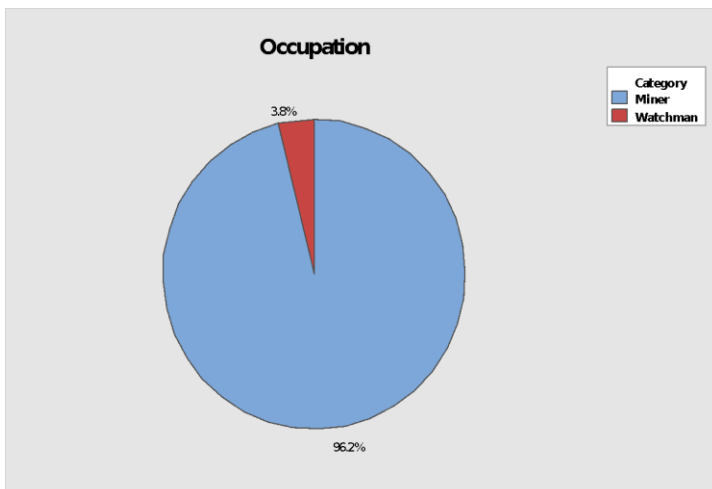


Figure 1 Age distribution in the study site.

#### 2.2.2 Occupation

The survey established that the main source of livelihood by community members was mining of gemstones with

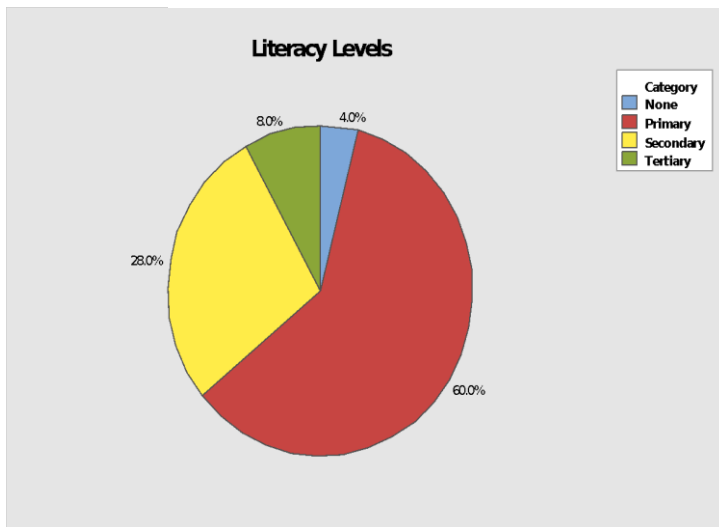


96.2% while only 3.8% of the respondents were watchmen at the Chawia minerals CBO Company

### 2.2.3 Literacy

The level of literacy among the interviewed respondents is very low with 60% of the respondents being primary levels, 28% had attained secondary levels while only 8% with collage education levels. 4% of the respondents did not attain any school.

*Figure 2 proportion of people employed by the company*



*Figure 3 pie chat showing literacy levels.*

### 2.2.4 Language

All the respondents interviewed were able to frequently communicate in Kiswahili, and only 30.8% of the respondents were able to communicate in English language while 69.2% of the population could not communicate using English as shown by the pie chart.

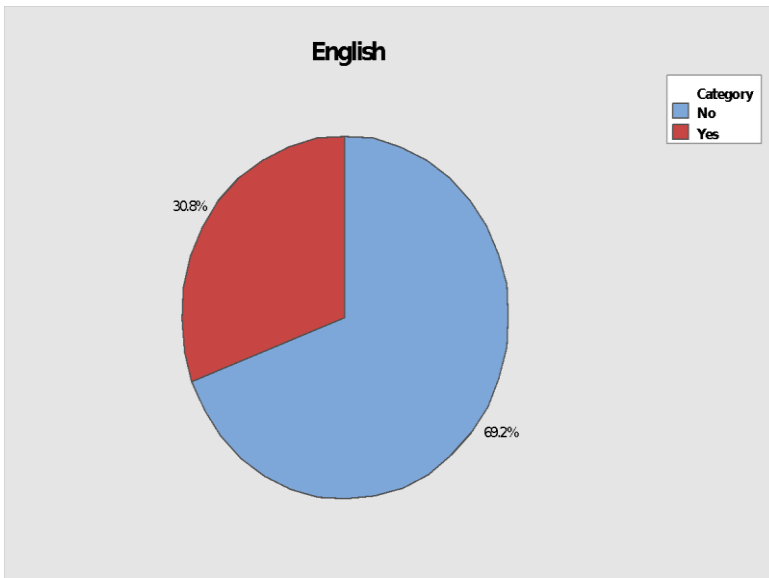


Figure 4 Percentages of language

60.0% of the respondents interviewed were speakers of Taita language followed by kamba with 16.0%. Kikuyu's accounted for 12.0%. Other vernacular languages in the community were Luo, Duruma and Kasigau accounting for 4% each.

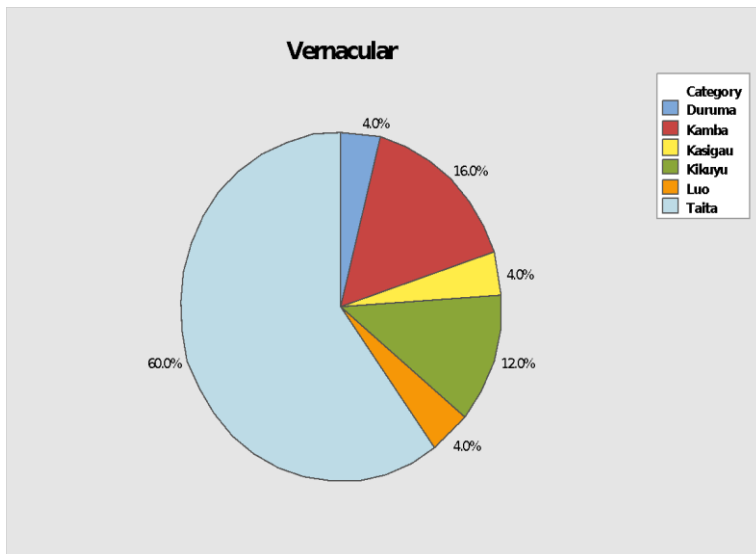


Figure 5 Vernacular languages as used by respondents.

### 2.3 Presence of civil society organizations (CSO)

Only 11.5% of the respondents interviewed were aware of any presence of CSOs working with the community and they mentioned United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) that had visited them in the year 2015. The UNDP

had promised shelter and food provision with emphasis on implementing better available technologies for mining. On the other hand, 89.5% of the people interviewed said that there were no CSOs that had ever visited or worked in the area before our visit.

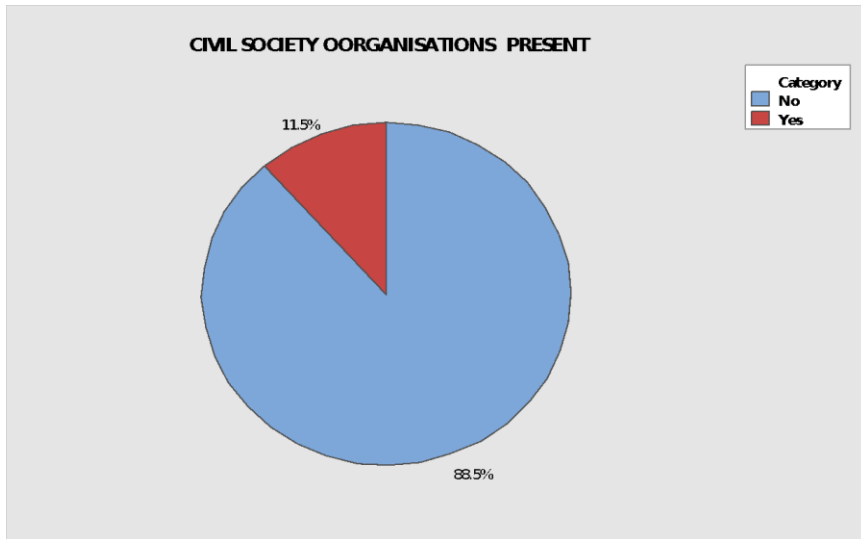
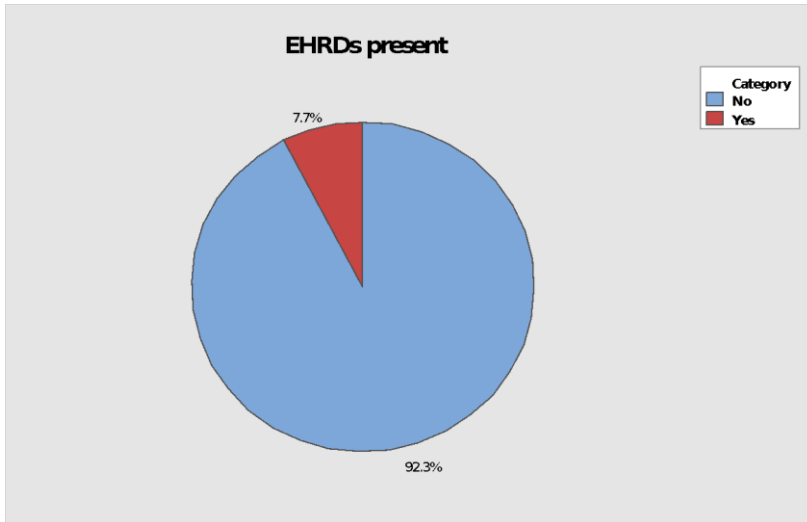


Figure 6 CSOs present

The respondents further explained that there had been no CSOs dealing with environmental issues within the community. However, they also felt that it was necessary to have greater civic space in the community that will aid in increasing awareness on safety. They also need the CSOs to help in bringing harmony between the workers and the employees from the companies.

#### 2.4 Environmental human rights defender's presence

The study was also to find out if there were environmental and human rights defenders present within the community, 92.3% of the respondents did not know any EHRDs present within their community with only 7.7% of the respondents said they knew of their existence, which most of them mentioned former member of parliament Mr. Mwatela who had many times fought for better wages for mine workers and advocates for safety and health of mine workers.



The study also revealed that 96.2% of the respondents had not had of any EHRDs attacks within the community while 3.8% knew of EHRDs attacks within the community. With Mr. Mwatela as their reference they mentioned that he was intimidated by the mining companies higher authorities operating within the community while he was advocating for better wages , safety and health for workers, He lost his stakeholders share as a board member with Chawia minerals company while advocating for better wages for the Chawia mine workers as shown below.

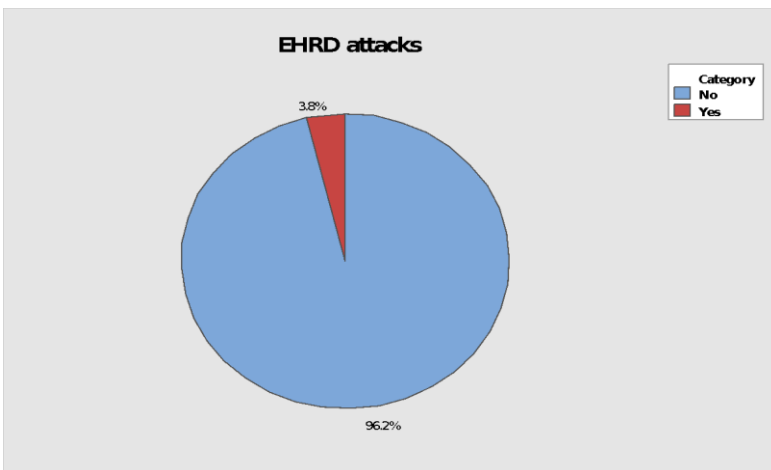


Figure 7 EHRD attacks in the region.

## 2.5. Modes of Communication



Section B of the research questioner was to assess whether the respondents receive environmental information through the available modes of communication ensuring the right to access information. Only 7.7% of the respondents had televisions sets that were functional and 50% of the respondents had radios. Only 4.0% of the people interviewed had phones that were internet enabled while 96% had the old model phones that could not access internet.

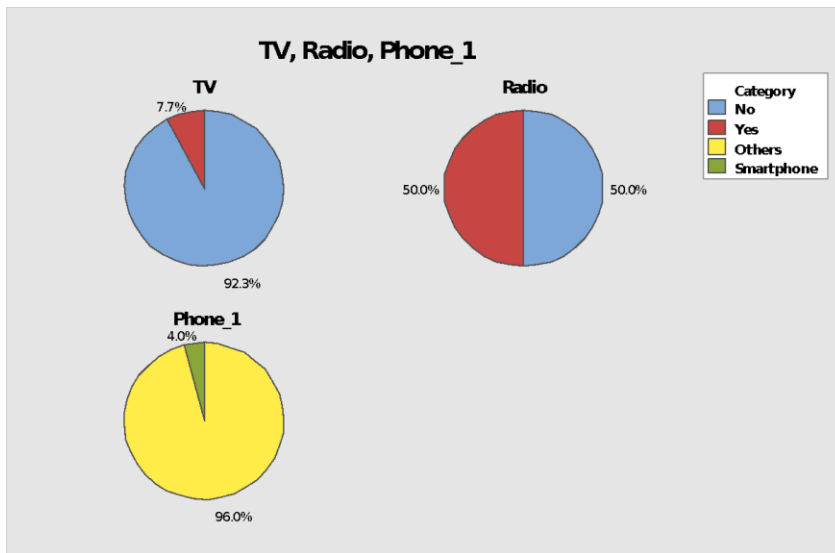
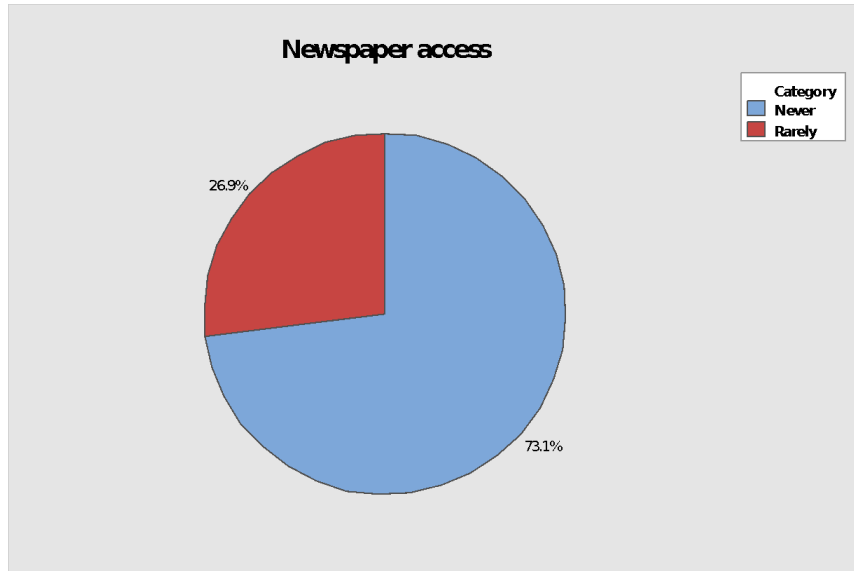


Figure 8 Modes of communication used in the area

### 2.5.1 Newspaper Access

During the survey we established that 73.1% of the respondents do not gain access to newspapers while the proportion of the population that said that they get access to news paper on rarely basis was 26.9% as shown by the pie chart below.



The survey indicated that 66.7% of the populations were aware that the newspapers contained some environmental information since they always find such information on the newspapers. The remaining 33.3% of the respondents said the newspapers do not contain any environmental information as shown by the pie chart below.

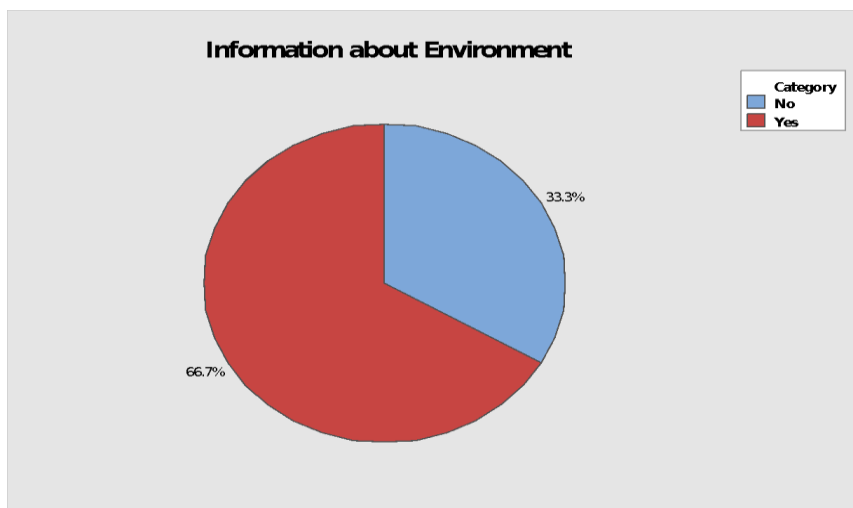


Figure 9 Information on newspapers about the environment.

### 2.5.2. Adequacy of information on the newspapers

Only 25% of the respondents who read newspapers said the newspapers communicated some environmental information while the 75% of the population said that the newspapers did not contain any environmental information as represented in the pie chart below.

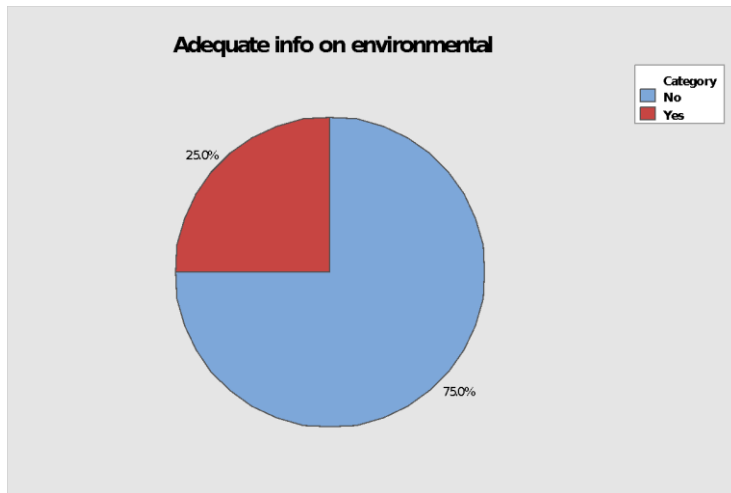


Figure 10 Environmental information in newspapers

### 2.5.2 Other modes of accessing environmental information

Verbal communication was the mode widely used to communicate environmental information to the community members represented by 65.4% on the pie chart followed by radio with 23.1%. 11.5% of the respondents registered that they never receive any environmental information at all.

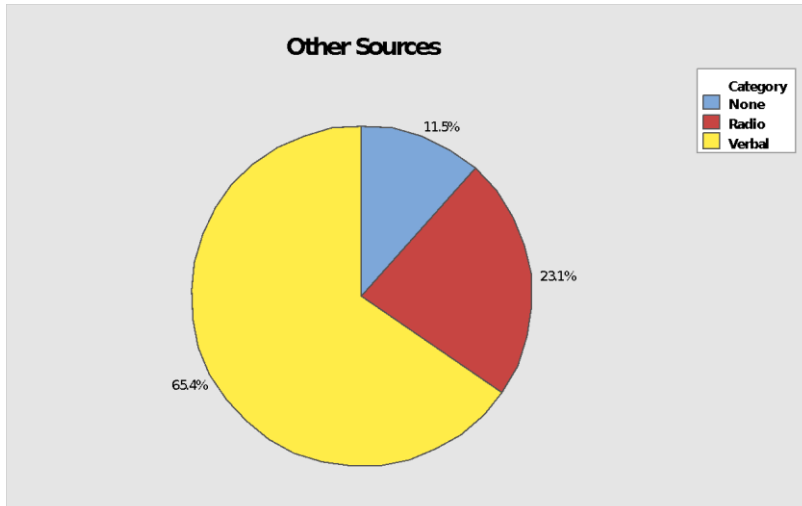


Figure 11 Other modes of accessing environmental information

## 2.6 Familiarity with Mining activities

The survey established that all the respondents were fully aware of the mining activities that were taking place in their area of residence while and they even mentioned some of the major companies that were operation within their location as shown in the graph below.

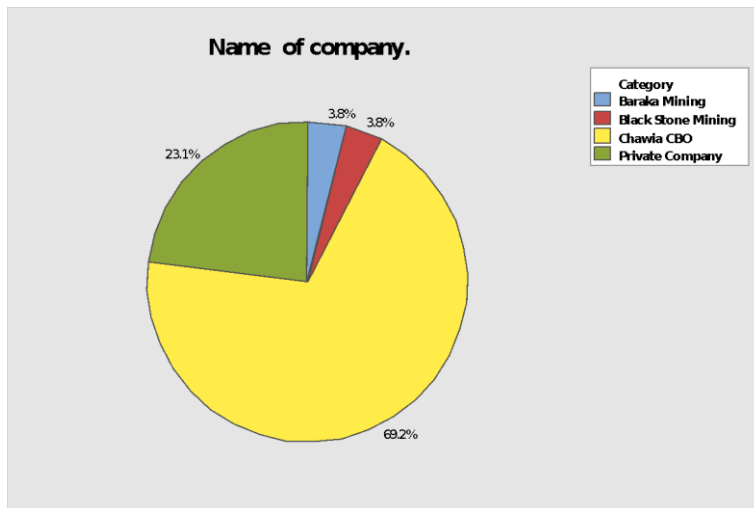


Figure 12 Resident's familiarity with the mining activities.

## 2.7 Public participation

During the survey, 40% of the respondents had participated in a meeting during the expansion of the company activities while 60% of the respondents said that no meeting between the community and the

investors or the duty bearers was held prior to establishment of this company or at any stage of expansion.

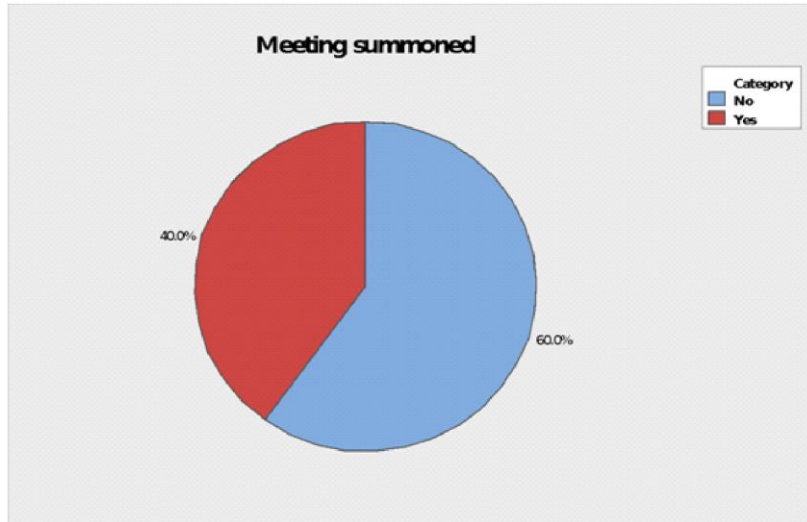


Figure 13 Public involvement.

### 2.8 Meeting invitation.

A big proportion of the respondents who were able to learn about the meeting got the information from the other community members through verbal communication while others got the information through the local authority announcement as represented by 75% and 25% respectively.

### 2.9 Access to information to enable participation

55.6% of the respondents who attended the meeting recorded that they did not get enough information on the agenda prior to the actual day of the meeting to enable them have effective participation. They felt that the meeting was not relevant because information was not well flowing and this denied them a full opportunity to contribute their views regarding the activities of the company. However, 44.4% of the population felt that the information that had been offered was sufficient to enable participation.

### 3.0 Community views

All the respondents recorded that the community members had raised some views for consideration before the commencement of the mining activities. Some of the complains raised were law wages paid to the workers, lack of protective gears at the mines, poor compensation after displacement and lack of land

rehabilitation. The communities complained that the company was not performing its corporate social

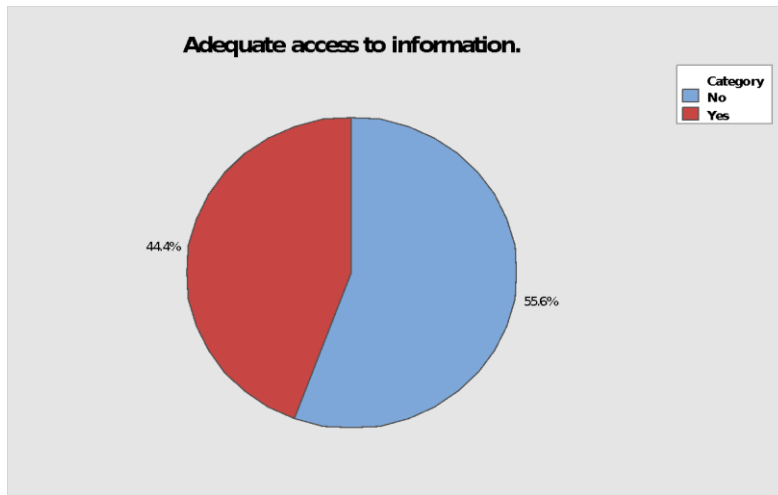


Figure 14 views on adequate access to information

responsibility and they wanted the company to invest more on improving education in the region.

### 3.1 Consideration of the views.

80% of the respondents said community views were not considered during the operation of the mining company, most of the claims being poor wages where they claim to be only receiving Kshs 7,000 per month with hard labour, no seek leaves are given to workers, no personal protective gears as most of the mining is underground mining with blasting of hard rock for excavation. 20% of the respondents said the company had complied with the community views.

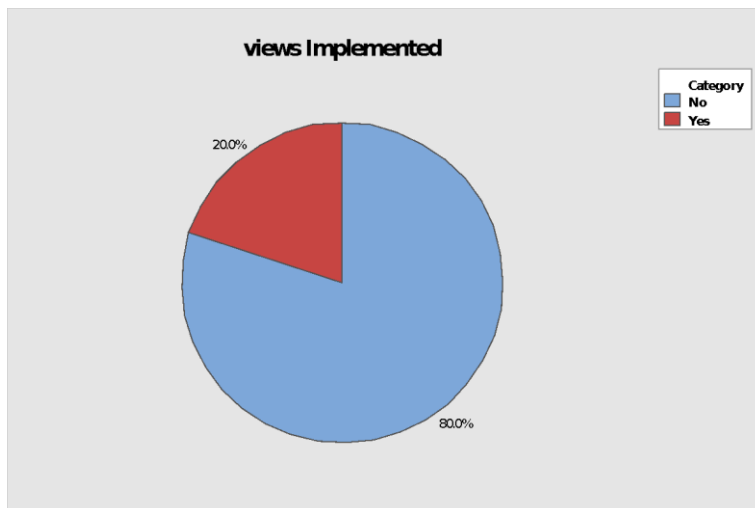


Figure 15 Percentage on implementation of remarks by community members

### 3.2 Worked in the company

The proportion of the respondent that had or was working in the cement company was 96.2% while 3.8% of

the respondents had not worked in this company. This showed that a larger population of the community is dependent on this company for employment.

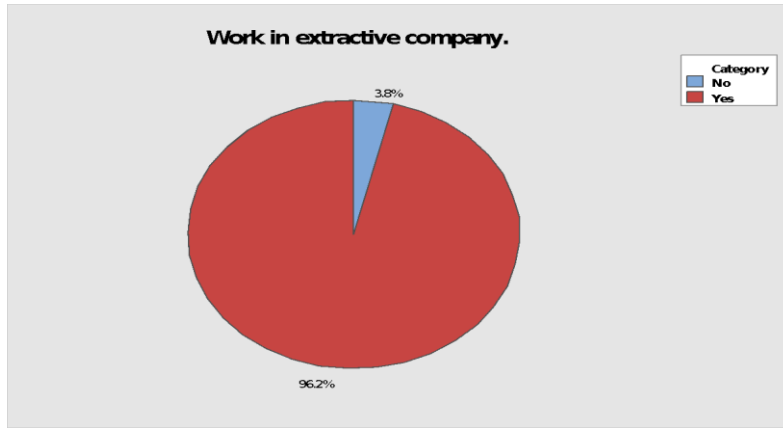


Figure 16 Residents who had worked in the company.

### 3.4 Infringement of rights by the Company

Most of the respondents interviewed claimed that there are violation of human rights and degradation of the environment associated with the company’s activities. 69.2% of the respondents narrated that most of the environmental degradation cases were un rehabilitated mine pits, blasting activates for underground mining, bush clearing and water pollution. Human rights violations included low wages for hard labour, no seek leaves and accident compensations, Mr. Dominic Kyengo Muteti who got his hand broken while working with the company did not compensate him and forced him to resign job. However, 30.8% of the respondents said they saw no environmental and human rights violation associated with the company.

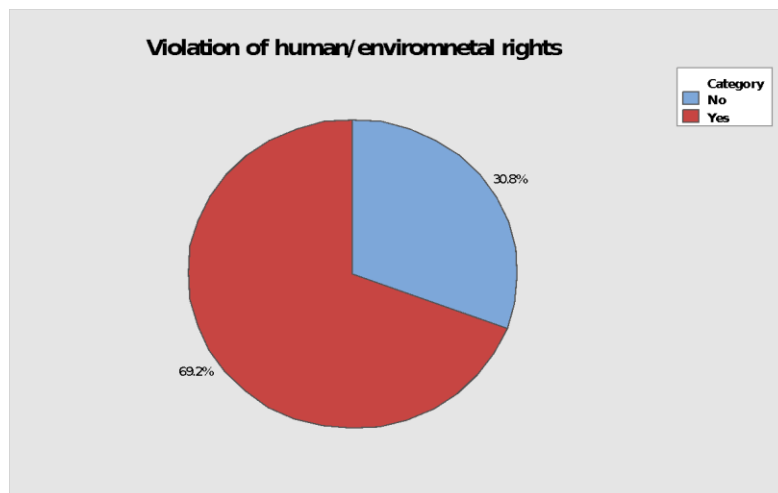


Figure 17 Violation of human rights.

### 3.5 Corporate Social Responsibility

84.6% of the respondents interviewed said the company did nothing in improving the social



economic development of the hosting community while 15.4% said the company is confirming to its social accountabilities to the hosting community.

### **Conclusion**

The community members made it known that there were several mining projects in the Taita Taveta region but they were not gaining from the economic activities being carried out. They were still living impoverished lifestyles as the workers in the mines are being paid minimum or below minimum wage. They were not being adequately involved in decision making and their recommendations were not implemented. Violations of fundamental human rights and environmental degradation is rampant in the areas where mining was taking place yet there has been no action from relevant state agencies. The few EHRDs in the community were being silenced and eliminated from the board hence crippling their efforts to stand up for socio-economic and environmental justice for the affected community members.