

**NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF ILLEGAL MINING: A  
CONTENT ANALYSIS OF DAILY GRAPHIC**

The image features a large, semi-transparent watermark of the University of Ghana crest in the center. The crest is a shield-shaped emblem with a light blue background and gold-colored symbols. At the top, there are three stylized leaves. Below them, the text "BY DENICE YAO POMARY" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The lower half of the shield contains a complex, symmetrical gold-colored design with swirling and arrow-like elements. At the bottom of the shield, a gold-colored banner contains the Latin motto "INTEGRI PROCEDAMUS" in a light blue, serif font.

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**A DISSERTATION PRESENTED TO THE SCHOOL OF  
COMMUNICATION STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA, LEGON, IN  
PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD  
OF A MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES**

**JULY, 2016**

**DECLARATION**

I do hereby declare that this work is my own handiwork through my own research under the supervision of DrEtseSikanku of the School of Communication Studies, University of Ghana, Legon. It also has references from other works which have been duly acknowledged.

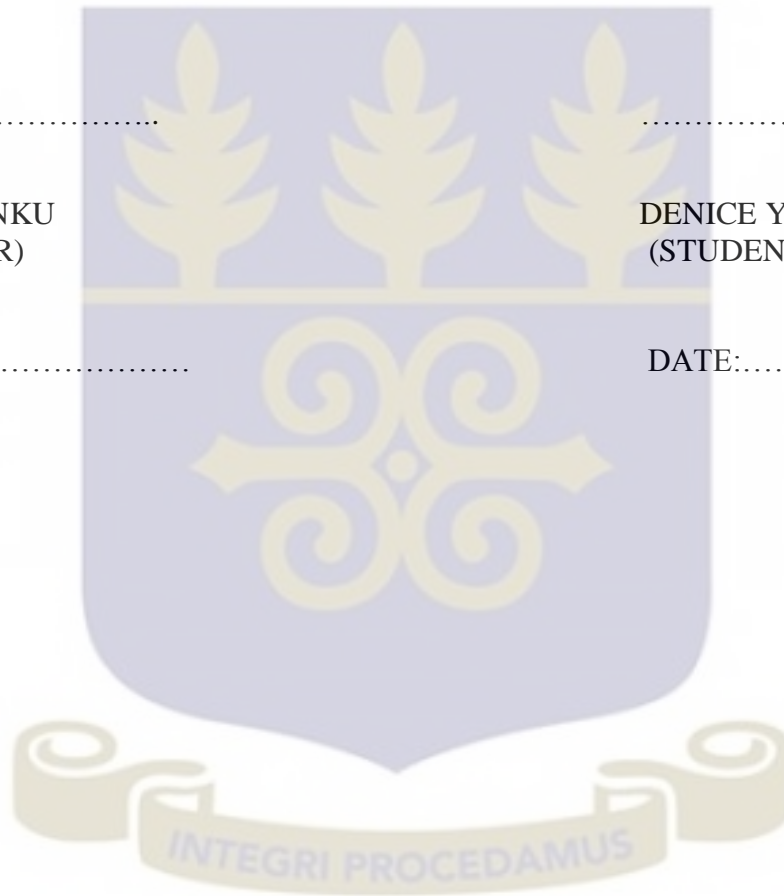
I fully accept all the shortcomings of this research as my own.

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(STUDENT)

DATE:.....

DATE:.....



## **DEDICATIONS**

I dedicate this work to my sisters- Emefa, Dodzi and Eunice who have been a solid rock to stand on, in all adversity through the course. I wish you all God's blessings and guidance.

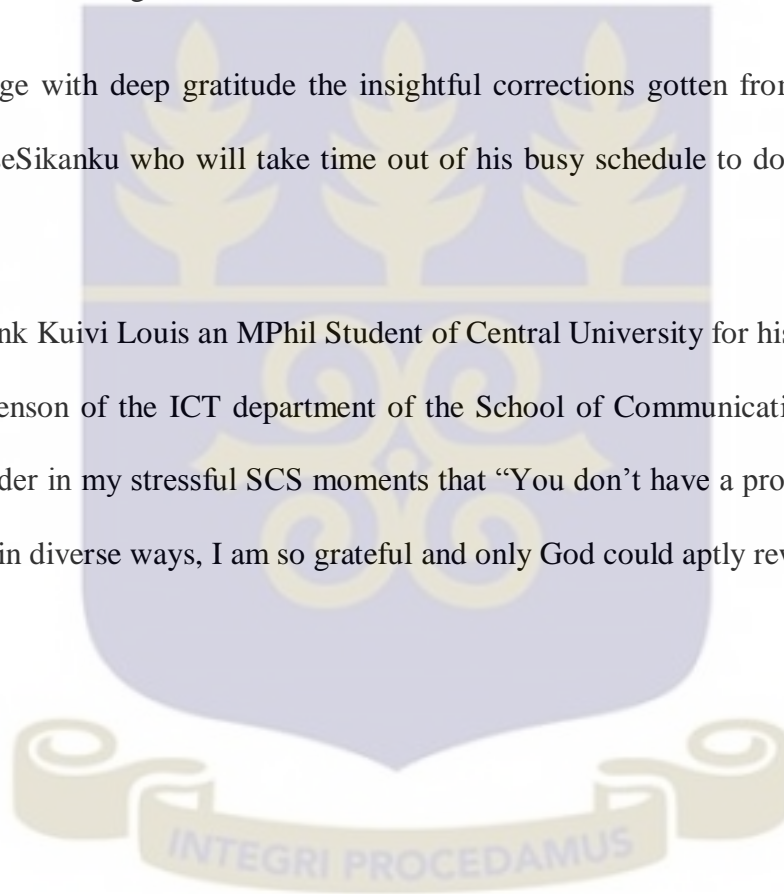


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## **ABSTRACT**

*Thus, this study sets out to investigate the degree to which the Daily Graphic, which is a state owned newspaper in Ghana carried stories on illegal mining. The study also sought to examine how frequently the Daily Graphic published stories on illegal mining. It also sought to establish the extent to which photographs were used when reporting on illegal mining. The study also attempted to identify the tone of stories that were covered in the Daily Graphic about illegal mining as well as the placement of stories in the Daily Graphic on illegal mining activities. It finally identified the major sources of stories on illegal mining in the Daily Graphic. The study adopted the quantitative approach of research, conducting a content analysis of the Daily Graphic to identify the level to which it reported on illegal mining issues and the extent to which such stories are accompanied by photographs. It also looked at the placement of such stories and the types of banner headlines given to such stories on illegal mining in the Daily Graphic, which is a state-owned newspaper. The findings reveal that the Daily Graphic published quite a number of substantive stories on illegal mining related issues out of the numerous thematic areas that comprise its publications throughout the year. One other finding from the research was that, the use of photographs to accompany news stories on illegal mining had not been extensive. Thus very few photographs accompanied most of the stories that were published. However it was revealed that the few pictures that were published were taken with the purpose of enhancing thematic message accompanying these stories which the writer wants to convey to his or her readership.*

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## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.0 Background

Artisanal and Small-scale Mining (ASM) refers to mining by individuals, groups, families or cooperatives with minimal or no mechanization, often in the informal (illegal) sector of the market (Global Report on Artisanal & Small-Scale Mining, 2002). Most scholars admit the fact that a standard definition of ASM is yet to be acknowledged. This is because a clear distinction has to be made between ‘artisanal mining’ that is purely manual and on a very small scale and ‘small-scale mining’ that is more mechanized and on a larger scale (Hentschel, Hruschka & Priester, 2002).

Although governments have their own interpretations of “artisanal” and “small-scale” mining defined according to such criteria as workforce size, production and revenues, ASM is generally identified in international development circles as the most rudimentary branch of the mining sector (Hilson & Pardie, 2006). The United Nations (UN) defined ASM as the use of rudimentary tools and techniques (e.g. picks, chisels, sluices and pans) in mining mineral deposits with an annual production of unprocessed material of 50,000 tonnes or less (Aryee, Ntibery & Atorkui, 2002)

On the other hand, Aryee, Ntibery & Atorkui (2002, pg. 132) defined mining as;

Any method not involving substantial expenditure by an individual or group of persons not exceeding nine in number or by a co-operative society made up of ten or more persons. The definition therefore includes (1) what has been termed “artisanal”—those operations using only rudimentary/artisanal implements and (2) the use of more sophisticated mining activities operating at a relatively low level of production and which generally require limited capital investment.

The issue of digging for mineral is not something peculiar to only Ghana. It is a universal phenomenon in most mineral rich countries across the globe. In fact it is one of the principal sources of revenue for many African developing economies (Hentschel, Hruschka, & Priester, 2002).

One other effect which is synonymous with illegal mining is the dangers of the practice to the environment. Mining any form has some degree of negative impact on the environment but this can be regulated if government adopts very good regulations to forestall such negative impacts. Illegal miners, on the other hand, due to the surreptitious nature of their operations, are not easily monitored and are responsible for the most significant share of environmental damages in the sector. Most ASM activities are carried out illegally, mainly on concessions demarcated to large-scale mining companies. ( ) These operations cause significant environmental degradation through the use of hazardous chemicals in the mining process (Banchirigah, 2008). The residue chemical then seeps into the ground polluting the soil and other river bodies. In substantial quantities, it poses a serious threat to human health and is poisonous to a wide-range of ecological entities (Babut et al., 2003).

However with all its negative impacts the small scale mining industry has become an integral part of the country's rural economy. It now accounts for over 10% of national gold output and therefore contributing enormously to government coffers (Hilson, Hilson & Pardie, 2007). Considering the unfavourable and the favourable role ASM plays in the economy of the country, it will be worthy investigating how and the degree to which ASM issues are reported in the news media.

### **1.1 A Brief History of Illegal Small Scale Mining**

Illegal mining is not exclusively limited to or done in Ghana but it has been the predominant form of natural resource extraction in Southern India, California, Liberia and many impoverished

parts of the world (Bockstael, 2014). In Ghana, they are known in the Ghanaian local parlance as “galamsey operators”, plying their mining trade in the mineral rich areas of the country. The term is actually a corruption of the saying, “Gather them (the gold) and sell”(Hilson,&Yekovleva, 2007 pg. 98)

The Ghanaian small-scale mining industry is well over 2,000 years old with vestiges of alluvial gold extraction and winning activities found that date as far back as the sixthcentury(Hilson,2001). The main mineral mining activity prevalent in pre-colonial time in Ghana was gold and diamond which was traded with the Moors and the Phoenicians on the trans-Saharan trade routes before the advent of the Portuguese and other Europeans incursions around 1471(Aryee, Ntibery&Atorkui,2002). Because of the unavailability of sophisticated technology currently employed in today’s large scale mining circles, the rudimentary methods are used to work on most alluvial gold and diamond deposits (Amankwah&Anim-Sackey, 2003).

At the helm of affairs in all the mineral exploration process were the chiefs. There was a mutual understanding between the miners and chiefs who by tradition were the custodian of the land andwere generally entitled to portions of the gold or other forms of payment from the mining operations (Hilson, HilsonAdu-Darko, 2014). As part of their responsibility and in their own interest, theysupervised the organization of the activities of illegal mining and most miners were directly responsible to them.

As a result of the above relationship between the chiefs a and the miners, artisanal or small scale mining continued in Ghana even after the introduction of modern exploration and mining methods. In fact sometimes, the presence of small scale mining activities serves asclue for large scale mining companies to identify the presence of mineral resources in anarea(Aryee, Ntibery&Atorkui 2002)). The sector later became dominated by various foreign mining

companies in Ghana since they usually have legal backing to work on large concessions. As of 2006, 31,237 km<sup>2</sup> or 13.1% of the country's land area was under concession to mining and mineral exploration companies engaged in large scale mining (Banchiringah, 2008)

The small- scale mining sector keeps expanding because of the engagement of the youth of which many of them are operating without permits from the authorized bodies. Banchiringah(2008) in a personal communication with one of the officials from the Ghana Mineral Commission assumed the figure to be about a million. Agyepong (1998) for instance indicates that in Tarkwa alone, there are about 6000 illegal small-scale miners with only 167 registered.

## **1.2 The Pervasive Nature of illegal Mining**

The legal framework for the registration of mineral production and sales in the mining sector was established in Ghana in 1989. The Small-scale mining law, PNDCL 218 facilitated the formation of the Small-scale Mining Project within the Ghana Minerals Commission (PNDCL Law).

The law requires Ghanaian nationals aged 18 years or older to possess licenses before engaging in mining activities. In effect no individual or groups of individuals can engage in mining activities on any piece of land even if they had ownership rights to the land. This was clearly stipulated in the Mineral and Mining Act of 2006 section 9 (1) that:

Despite a right or title which a person may have to a land in, upon or under which minerals are situated, a person shall not conduct activities on or over land in Ghana for the search, reconnaissance, prospecting, exploration or mining for a mineral unless the person has been granted a mineral right in accordance with this Act.

This means all, even chiefs who are traditionally considered the custodian of lands under their jurisdiction, need to seek permit before engaging in any mineral mining activities.

After the government's intervention to regulate the small-scale mining system, two types of small-scale miners have emerged. There are those who operate legally and those who operate illegally. Legal small-scale miners comprise those who have acquired mining licenses from the Minerals Commission of Ghana to cover their concessions. Illegal small-scale miners include those mining and/or processing ores without the requisite mining license and they usually operate on concessions held by other companies (Hilson, Hilson & Adu-Darko, 2014). This always brings them into conflict with the law and sometimes resulting into bloody clashes with the securities agencies.

The cumbersome procedure in license acquisition, the lengthy waiting period for decision to be made on applications, the need to travel to the capital city to complete paperwork, and the requirement to make several payments, have further discouraged individuals from obtaining a license (Banchirigah, 2008).

So pervasive and enticing were the operations of illegal mining that the sector attracted not only Ghanaians but also expatriates, mostly Chinese. This is an indication of the depth of informality and chaos inherent in the sector. A study in China estimates between 3 and 15 million people as those who engage in artisanal and small-scale mining activities in that country alone (Global Report on Artisanal & Small-Scale Mining 2002). The statistics above then suggests that small scale mining which is known in the Ghanaian context as galamsey, is a huge sector on its own.

### **1.3 The Ghana Mineral Commission<sup>1</sup>**

The Minerals Commission is a government agency established under Article 269 of the 1992 Constitution and the Minerals Commission Act 1993 (Act 450). The Minerals Commission as the

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<sup>1</sup> Information obtained from <http://www.eservices.gov.gh/MINCOM/SitePages/MINCOM-Home.aspx>.

main promotional and regulatory body for the minerals sector in Ghana is responsible for the regulation and management of the utilization of the mineral resources of Ghana and the coordination and implementation of policies relating to mining.

The lack of adherence to regulatory framework and the inability of the government to monitor the activities of the miners and protect the environment have led to serious environmental degradation(Hilson, & Potter,2003).

#### **1.4 Functions of the Mineral Commission**

One core function of the Mineral Commission is to formulate and recommend national policy for exploration and exploitation of mineral resources. The commission is to advise the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources on matters relating to minerals. Apart from its advisory role it monitors the implementation of laid down Government Policies on minerals and periodically reports to the sector Minister. It receives and accesses public agreements relating to minerals and report to Parliament. It also secures a firm basis of comprehensive data collection on national mineral resources and the technologies of exploration and exploitation.

#### **1.5 Activities of the Mineral Commission**

The Commission is mandated to investigate the background of applicants, work on the applications for mineral rights and endorse their grant or otherwise to the Minister. It also appraises agreements relating to minerals; collects, collates and analyzes data on the operations of mining companies for decision making and for dissemination. It is also mandated to liaise with other governmental agencies, both the local and the international ones like the Bank of Ghana, and the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) to make sure that the sector's fiscal regime is maintained. Its functions also include cooperating with other governmental agencies, notably the

Geological Survey Department (GSD) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to screen and ensure the compliance of mining companies to the terms and requirements of the mineral rights granted to them.

### **1.6 Statement of the Problem**

The power of the media in inducing change is well known. The few studies that have been done involving media coverage of issues bothering on illegal mining activities in Ghana only looked at the effects of such coverage mainly from the political perspective. On 6 June 2013, Ghana's police force arrested 168 Chinese nationals suspected to be working in the country's informal mining sector. The number of Chinese citizens involved in illegal gold mining activity has risen sharply in recent years with reports indicating that since 2005, to 2013 as many as 50,000 Chinese were engaged in illegal mining in Ghana (Hilson, Hilson & Adu-Darko, 2014). Various stakeholders, the government and other agencies have all expressed concerns and at the same time spent a considerable amount of time and resources in the bid to reduce the menace posed by illegal mining activities in the country. Illegal mining issues like many other news items are always captured in the media since the practice of these illegal miners have always been at the peril of the environment (Hilson, Hilson & Pardie, 2007).

It must be noted that even though such studies have been conducted regarding the coverage of illegal mining by the print media in Ghana, little or no studies has been conducted to examine how frequently the *Daily Graphic* published stories on illegal mining. Also little is known regarding the placement of stories in the *Daily Graphic* on illegal mining activities. Also little is known regarding the major sources of stories on illegal mining in the print media. This implies that undertaking such study is justifiable

It is against this backdrop that the study is aimed at doing a content analysis of the state-owned newspaper thus *Daily Graphic* in covering issues on illegal mining and the pattern of their coverage.

### **1.7 Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study were to

- Examine how frequently the *Daily Graphic* published stories on illegal mining.
- Establish the extent to which photographs were used when reporting on illegal mining.
- Identify the tone of stories that were covered in the *Daily Graphic* about illegal mining
- Identify the placement of stories in the *Daily Graphic* on illegal mining activities
- Identify the major sources of stories on illegal mining in the *Daily Graphic*

### **1.8 Research Questions**

The study was guided by the following research questions

- R1. What type of story was used mostly in the *Daily Graphic's* coverage of illegal mining issues?
- R2. What were the main sources of the stories that were published on illegal mining?
- R3. To what extent did the *Daily Graphic* accompany stories with photographs?
- R4. What type of tone was used in the *Daily Graphic's* stories on illegal mining?
- R5. How many stories on illegal mining in the *Daily Graphic* were on the front page?

### **1.9 Significance of the Study**

Several studies have been done in both Ghana and beyond about the activities of small scale miners. Most of these studies have mainly concentrated on the effects of their activities on the environment, their use of dangerous chemicals like mercury which can be hazardous for human and other living organism, or the gender distribution of those involved in this mining activities. However not much has been done as research into how the media covers such activities for public consumption.

This study looks at the media coverage of illegal mining from the Ghanaian situation with the purpose of giving stakeholders and the government machinery an insight into how the activities of these illegal small-scale miners are covered in the media. The significance of this study is evident in its desire to investigate the manner in which *DailyGraphic*; a state owned media covered illegal mining.

#### **1.10 Definition of Key Terms**

‘**Small-Scale Mining**’, ‘Artisanal Mining’ and ‘Artisanal and Small-scale Mining’ (ASM) are used interchangeably. For the purposes of this discussion, ASM is defined as low-tech, labour intensive form of mineral extraction and processing.

“**Galamsey**”, “**Illegal mining**” “**illegal small-scale mining**” are used interchangeably to mean the act of engaging in Small Scale Mining without the necessary permits to work on a concession.

**Concession-** an area designated for mining activities

## CHAPTER TWO

### THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.0 Review of Related Literature

This chapter begins with a discussion on framing thus the theoretical framework underpinning this study. It also summarizes literature on related work with special emphasis on small-scale mining which in most cases is illegal. It also makes analysis of the theories that underpin the study through a discussions of the findings therein.

#### 2.1 Theoretical Framework

This section looks at framing, a theory that forms the basis for this study. Most researches are underpinned with a theory that specifies the relations among concepts likewise this very one.

#### 2.2 Framing

The public's inability to always gain direct personal experience or information about mining related activities means that individuals must rely on cues to form opinions about such activities. This is why the media come in handy to fill in the gap through the provision of such information for public consumption. In situations like this, the media then report such activities from their perspective.

A frame in communication or a media refers to the words, images, phrases and mode of presentations that a speaker uses when relaying information about an issue or event to an audience (Gamson & Modigliani 1987, 1989). Frames, according to Ryan, Carragee and Meinhofer (2001), organize discourse including news stories, by their patterns of selection, emphasis and exclusion. In framing, social actors determine what is and what is not important to the issue. Chong and Druckman (2001) states that public opinion often depends on how the elites choose to frame issues. In this regard, it can be argued that meanings of issues are not absolute.

Framing is based on the assumption that how an issue is characterized in news reports can have an influence on how it is understood by audiences (Scheufele&Tewksbury,2007).

Several researches established that the media has powerful effect on its audience but most of these researches were conducted outside Ghana focusing mainly on problems in other parts of the world. Hanitzsch(2007) identifies that other variables, like the journalistic culture can influence a journalist's presentation of issues. He defines journalistic culture as a particular set of ideas and practices which, consciously or unconsciously guide the journalist to legitimate their role in society and render their work meaningful for themselves and others.

In this regard, it could be concluded without looking at the nuances in this definition that the journalist is the determiner of meaning. This "authority" that journalists have in news coverage which is influenced by the journalistic culture could be the cause of biases in news reportage.

This kind of bias is not the result of ideological decisions, but rather the result of the routines by which journalists work such as judging news stories according to their news values, or the use of framing which provide stories that are easily recognizable for audiences. What then inform that kind of selection depends on the objective that the person wants to achieve or the journalistic culture.

Higgins (1996) also intimated that salience draws an individual's attention to specific parts of a message which can then have an effect on subsequent judgment. This means that the use of salience which is at the discretion of the media increases the likelihood that selective attention will be paid to the organization of particular aspects of messages thereby giving it the potential to influence subsequent interpretation and judgment of issues that may be reported. In that vein, it presupposes that certain messages have to be selected and given salience and others have to be ignored. Who determines the selected and the ignored? Obviously it is the journalist.

Adams and Xenos (2001) stated that the idea of framing first appeared in Goffman's seminal work of 1974 with the underlying presumption that messages affect subsequent thoughts and actions. In other words, a message can induce how we think and the way we behave. They further indicated that one key element of framing is the organization and packaging of news which include the style and mode of presentation of messages. This means that how one says what they say could equally be as important as what they say as far as meaning attribution is concerned. For instance, Fishman and Marvin (2003) posited that photographs are regarded as very powerful tools that enhance the visual insight and imageries of viewers and they have the tendency to make a lasting impression on the minds of those who are exposed to them. In this light, stories that are accompanied by related photographs have a greater propensity to appeal to the heart and minds of viewers than those that are not.

Sampeiand Aoyagi-Usui (2009) conducted research in Japan that analyzed Japanese newspaper coverage of global warming from January 1998 to July 2007 and how public opinion during parts of that period was influenced by the newspaper coverage. Results showed that dramatic increase in newspaper coverage of global warming from January 2007 had significant influence on people's perception on global warming. This suggests that the media, like the *Daily Graphic* can act as an effective tool in galvanizing public support and influencing policy formulation towards the activities of illegal mining.

It is the desire to make sense of the world that makes the individual to rely on other sources like the media for help. In this way the media hold some degree of power over the individual forcing him/her to think in a certain way in their interpretation of issues. Mining and mining related activities have always been a problem for many mineral producing nations and the media often perform their watchdog role by covering such mining issues.

In Ghana for example by the end of 1999, the mining sector had attracted over US\$3 billion worth of foreign direct investment with 19 operating mines and over 128 local and foreign companies mainly in the domain of gold (Akabzaa&Darimani, 2001). With such a great investment going into the sector, it is imperative to look at how the media captures activities of the sector since the media wields so much influence over its audience.

### **2.3 The Conceptual Aspect of Framing**

Gamson and Modigliani (1987) identified frames to be essential schemes for both the presentation and comprehension of news. He identified two concepts of framing: media frames and individual frames. He conceptually defined mediaframe as “a central organizing idea or story line that provides meaning to an unfolding strip of events”(p. 143). This presupposes that media or news frames are indispensable tool in turning seemingly meaningless and unidentifiable happenings into a conspicuous event. The news frame organizes everyday reality and it is also an integral part everyday reality. This means in the packaging and presentation of news, it is a very powerful tool. In addition, Gitlin (1980) then reasons that media frames also serve as working routines for journalists and allow them to quickly notice synthesis and present through an effective packaging of information for audience’s consumption.

### **2.4 Illegal Mining, the Media and Framing**

Frames organize discourse, including news stories, by their patterns of selection, emphasis and exclusion (Ryan, Carragee&Meinhofer,2001). This function of framing dwells on three thematic areas. The first selection acknowledges the fact that the media has a repertoire of issues at its disposal which as part of its mandate, it has to make available to the knowledge of the people.

Due to the limited space and transient nature of news reportage, frame helps in selecting what to bring to make news. After the selection, framing helps identify which aspect of news should be emphasized so that the information could have optimum effect on the schema of the target audience. This process is not complete without those news events that are judged not to be newsworthy and are therefore excluded or relegated to the background.

Framing “select some aspects of a perceived reality and make them more salient in a communicating text” Entman (1993, p. 52).” This definition involves three techniques used in the framing process which are selection, emphasis and exclusion (Ryan, Carragee & Meinhoffer, 2001). The selection and the exclusion process may be described as biases on the part of the journalist since he deliberately chooses what to include and ignore in his reportage. The media perform a very pivotal role in educating and informing the public on very pertinent issues. Mining and mining related activities have always engaged the reaction of the media. The function of inclusion, selection and exclusion that the media employs in the discharge of its duty is another issue all together.

Entman (2007) intimated that the term framing bias could have three possible meanings. The first is Distortion bias which refers to news that purportedly distorts or falsifies reality. This is largely unacceptable in journalistic practices. The second being content bias which favours rather than provides equivalent treatment to both sides and the third being decision-making bias which is basically about the motivation of the journalist to allegedly produce the biases based on his or her mindset or individual idiosyncrasies.

With the myriad of problems posed by illegal small-scale miners, the media become the first point of call in gaining information with regard to the activities of these miners. How the media present such issue has a great potential to influence public perception and government

intervention. In the case of Chinese illegally invading Ghanaian small scale mining industry it is believed that the media reportage fuelled public outcry that eventually led to the repatriation of several Chinese immigrants(Hilson et al,2014).

Framing in itself, does not mean that a journalist spin their stories to deceive their audience.Framing here focuses on the way complex issues of illegal mining are presented and broken into comprehensible way for it to work on the cognition of the audience.

## **2.5 Related Studies**

Several researches, especially case studies have been done in analyzing the menace of illegal mining on the environment, the people and the country in which mineral resources are located. For decades, the extraction and subsequent processing of these precious minerals especially gold and diamond have been the means of livelihood for many indigenes located in these countries. These grassroots industries have also made important contributions to foreign-exchange earnings (Hilson,2001).

On the other hand, the activities of illegal miners exploiting these minerals have led to serious environmental degradation and impoverishment of several other indigenes in these mineral rich countries (Hilson,2001).

Hilson, Hilson&Adu-Darko (2014) mentioned that many studies conducted in Ghana on illegal mining, academic literature and the media reportage seemed to focus particularly on the environmental impacts of Chinese-infiltrated *galamsey* activities. Drawing on findings from interviews with key stakeholders, the paper interrogates many of the claims presented in the local media about galamsey even though it did not include any research finding on media reportage of illegal mining activities. It is very clear that finding out how the media has reported such illegal

mining activities and whether the media has given enough attention to illegal mining has not been the target of many studies.

## **2.6 Role of the Media in Reporting the Illegal Mining Industry**

The link between an effective media coverage and economic development is illustrated by the level of coverage of the extractive sector particularly the mining industry. From varied experiences from Africa, the wealth from the extractive sectors poses challenges for African governments<sup>2</sup>.

According to Schiffrin (2009), the media cannot only expose wrongdoing but can also help decide and prioritize development policy by pursuing relevant issues on the agenda for public discussion and covering topics in a way that educates the public and policymakers and help societies decide how they want to approach certain developmental questions.

On the basis of this, journalists should be able to undertake objective writing in the illegal mining industry using balanced sourcing, incorporating in-depth research, and proper article structure<sup>3</sup>. Journalists can fulfill their oversight role only through informed analysis and reporting, high-quality and thoughtful commentary and investigative efforts. This requires good reporting skills, understanding technical issues and being accessible to relevant information from experts.

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<sup>2</sup>Media council of Kenya (2015) Lenses on the mines: Media coverage of the extractive industry in Kenya, exploring

<sup>3</sup>Media council of Kenya (2015) Lenses on the mines: Media coverage of the extractive industry in Kenya, exploring the coverage, challenge, effects and lessons for news room reflection

In this way the media can effectively play its fundamental role in spreading knowledge about, raising awareness of and highlighting potential flaws in the mining industry. To this end, journalists need to understand the sector's technicalities as well as the economic and political implications of management decisions. Moreover, they need to help the general public make sense of the figures and the technical details in an accurate, impartial, transparent and independent way (Dyke, Nash, Redd & Sukkarieh, 2014).

There is a great deal of room for journalists to do investigative reporting on the extractive sector. This is because there are innumerable instances of outright corruption as well as bad practices, where countries fail, for instance, to garner for themselves the full value of their resources and/or when the revenues raised are not used for public good. There are more complex stories, demonstrating how wellintentioned actions can have unintended adverse effects. Such reporting is necessary if the media is to fulfill the role of the watchdog, particularly needed in this complex and often opaque industry (Schiffrin & Rodrigues, 2014).

As a whole, Ghana's media coverage of the mining industries for example the illegal sector has been unimpressive (Colmery et al, 2009). They further argued that, the media Coverage is generally insubstantial and skin-deep. In their view, different perspectives on the extractive industries are offered, for example, but rarely do articles engage the totality of the issue at hand or evenly present both pro and con arguments. In-depth investigative articles, crucial to monitoring the illegal mining industry is notoriously lacking in transparency, and are simply not being written (Colmery et al, 2009). Like most other African countries, Ghanaian media coverage of the extractive industries is limited almost entirely<sup>4</sup>. However, it must be noted that

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<sup>4</sup>Canonge, J. C., Purcell, M., & Behrman, M. (2010). Watchdog or lapdog: limits of African media coverage of the extractive sector.

news stories are important to fight against illegal mining. Based on this very limited analysis of Ghanaian media coverage of the illegal mining sector, it would appear that the Ghanaian media should be doing a much better job at covering the mining industry which is vital to Ghana's economic development.

## **2.7 Media Coverage of the Illegal Mining Sector: Ghana, Nigeria and Uganda as Cases Study.**

The results of the problem faced by journalists can be seen in the press coverage of the extractive sector particularly the illegal mining industry. A recent study of the major newspapers in Ghana, Nigeria and Uganda concluded that the press coverage of the illegal mining industry in Uganda was the strongest, followed by Nigeria and finally Ghana, though still lacking (Schiffrin, 2009). The study further showed that, much of the coverage were business and politics oriented relegating the illegal mining industry to the background. Schiffrin (2009) further posit that, events that were not be considered news in the Western press were routinely covered in Ghana as well as Nigeria and Uganda relegating the illegal mining industry which is posing harm to people and their environment.

Schiffrin (2009) also noted in his study that, there are were more business-oriented coverage in Uganda, Nigeria and Ghana as compared to the extractive industry particularly the illegal mining industry.

Hulland (2008), in his study also noted that, most of the media coverage of the illegal mining sectors in Uganda, Nigeria and Ghana were short and superficial. He further posited these stories were mostly single-sourced, though occasionally two sources were cited, and had commentary only from the government. Hulland noted that at their best, the articles presented in the news were complex and hence difficult to be understood by the average citizen.

It has been argued by several such as Obeng-Odoom that “Media report mainly what it has been referred to as the ‘bandwagon news’ of the mining industry.

## **2.8 Reasons for Weakness in Media Coverage of the Illegal Mining Industry.**

There are today many reasons why the illegal mining sector is not covered as comprehensively as it should be (Canonge and Purcell 2009). These include lack of resources to spend on developing experienced beat reporters who can cover a subject in depth, lack of funding to send reporters out on stories and lack of access to the far-flung places where, often, extraction takes place (Canonge and Purcell 2009).

Moreover, although transparency has been increasing in the last decades, the sector remains obscured by the interests of many players who want to exploit it away from the public eye (Schiffirin and Rodriques, 2013). Especially in developing countries and emerging markets such as Ghana (within which a large part of the natural resources reside) poorly-funded news outlets with overstretched editorial staff simply do not have the time, money, the will or expertise to cover these stories in sufficient detail (Hilson et al 2007).

The Project for Excellence in Journalism found that national newspapers in the US had three or more sources 90% of the time (2006) and four or more sources 48% of the time (PEJ 2005 and 2006). By contrast, a 2009 study of African newspapers found that only 21.45% of the African newspaper articles surveyed concerning the illegal mining industry had three or more unique sources. Nearly 50% of articles had one unique source or less. By far the most prevalent types of sources were those from government or business outlets.

According to the Revenue Watch Institute, many journalists in Africa are relatively poorly paid, have limited technological support and face political and editorial interference<sup>5</sup>. In countries where mineral production is new, such as Ghana and Uganda, journalists face the additional problem of having little knowledge about the industry and related economic issues (Schiffrin, 2009).

The weakness of coverage of the extractive sector in Nigeria, Ghana and Uganda, for example, highlights the difficulties faced by journalists working in these countries and exemplifies the challenges across Africa. It will take a great deal to change the situation for the media (Hulland, 2008). Training efforts have made a difference but have not, and will not, address the larger social, economic, and political context. Education levels, salary increases and the political and legal climate need to change before the press can fully reach its potential. New forms of media and online publications show promise but have not yet had a massive impact across the continent (Hulland, 2008).

Despite these obstacles, there are many cases of journalists around the world exposing problems associated with the illegal mining sector (Schiffrin and Rodriques, 2013). This form of “watchdog” journalism puts governments under high scrutiny to help curb misappropriation of public funds.

## 2.9 Summary

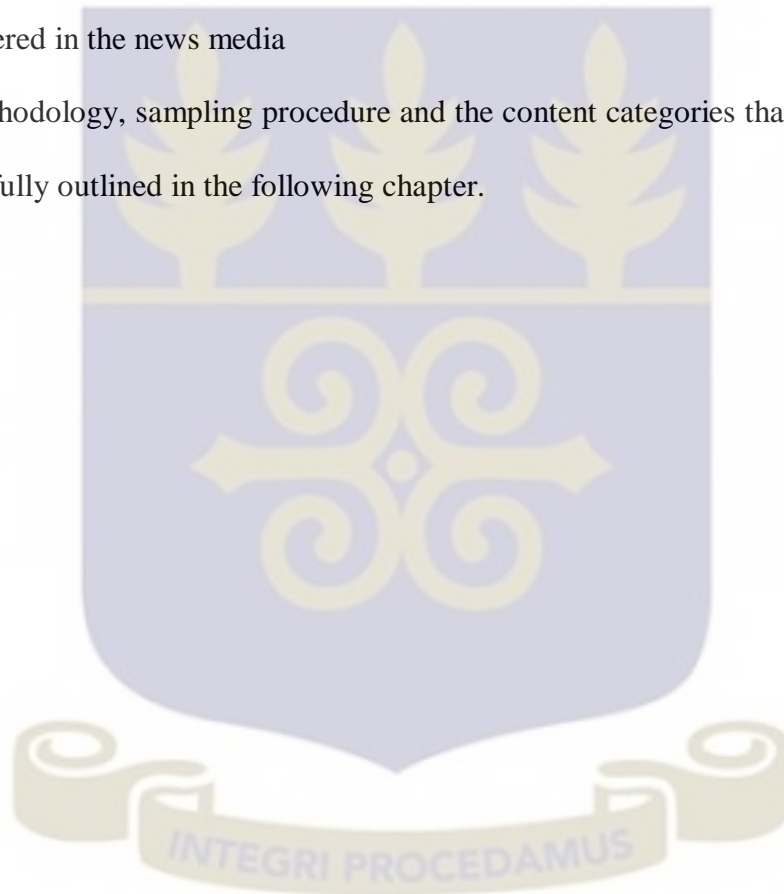
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<sup>5</sup>Ghana's Natural Resource Funds Well-Governed: Revenue watch Institute; April 28, 2014.

This chapter clearly outlined researches that were done in the areas of illegal mining. Generally the works analysed from these researches mainly focused on the involvement of expatriates in the illegal mining activities and the negative repercussions that their activities have had on the environment. The study also shows that governments have done very little to sanitize the system through effective regulations.

However, not many studies have been found that investigate the degree to which illegal mining activities are covered in the news media

The research methodology, sampling procedure and the content categories that were used in this research are carefully outlined in the following chapter.



### **CHAPTER THREE**

## METHODOLOGY

### 3.0 Overview

This chapter embodies the methodology engaged in the research. In this chapter, the author presents a description of research design employed; the population and the sampling techniques adopted in this study; the various tools for the data collection and data collection procedure.

### 3.1 Content Analysis

The first work on quantitative procedures for content analysis was first identified in the field of journalism especially in the area of news, propaganda, and public opinion formation at the end of the 1920s during the Second World War(Lasswell&Leites 1968). However, content analysis research,specifically in the area of quantitative research was mostlyrestricted to assigning content to specific categories and counting frequencies with the aim of arriving at a conclusion (Bos&Tarnai1999).

Holsti (1969) considered content analysis as “a technique for drawing conclusions through a process of objectively and systematically identifying specified features of messages” (pg. 14). He further stated that content analysis must be objective and systematic and is not limited to the analysis of textual contents. Its application can be extended to other areas such as students’ drawings or observations of actions that are shown in videotaped studies.

However, content analysis as observed in a broader perspective by Holdford(2008)is a technique that systematically collects and analyzes the makeup and exchange of communication through various visual, auditory, and print media to scientifically and objectively describe the content delivery of communications. In the view of Krippendorf(1980),content analysis as a research technique for making replicable and valid inference from data to their context.

To Wimmer and Dominick (2000), content analysis has over the past decades become increasingly popular and almost becoming an indispensable tool in the study of symbols and messages contained in the mass media. They expressed that content analysis is a research approach or methodology that describes the content of communication materials through collation of data, analysis and comparison of media content to the “real world”.

Holdford (2008 pg. 173) also said,

“Good content analyses are considered to have several common characteristics. They are objective because they use detailed and transparent procedures that permit others to effectively judge the methods and replicate the data if desired. They are systematic because they use explicit rules based upon established content analysis processes to reduce personal bias of researchers. Many social science researchers would agree, and it is argued here, that good content analyses are also quantitative because they result in data that can be counted and analyzed using statistical techniques.”

Since the study was designed to systematically, objectively and quantitatively collect and analyze issues of illegal mining as covered by the *Daily Graphic*, content analysis is therefore the most appropriate research methodology because it makes it easy for identification and examination of how issues regarding illegal mining are presented in the *Daily Graphic*.

### **3.2 Newspaper Selection**

The newspaper industry in Ghana is mainly made of the privately owned newspapers and the state owned. The *Daily Graphic* is a state owned newspaper. The company that produces the *Daily Graphic* uses a KBA Comet press, which reduces printing time and enhances efficiency giving the company the capacity to print 75,000 copies an hour in full color (Graphic Annual Report & Financial Statements (2011)). Graphic is one of the only three companies in Africa that use this modern press. It is the only newspaper with the widest coverage- reaching a wide range of audience. It is the above statement that informed the choice of the *DailyGraphic* for this study.

### **3.3 Population and sample for the Study**

The universal population for the study was all *Daily Graphic* newspapers in the year 2013. *Daily Graphic* editions published within the year of 2013 (1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December) formed the population for the analysis. In all, a total of 288 editions of *Daily Graphic* were published throughout the year of study. Six editions of the *Daily Graphic* per a week (Mondays –Saturday) producing 24 editions per a month of the year (1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013) were analysed. A total of 69 editions of the newspaper were found to contain 82 stories on illegal mining. These 82 stories were identified using their headlines themes on illegal mining, and were further coded and analysed.

### **3.4 Sampling Approach**

#### **3.4.0 Year of Study**

The period for the study was 12 months, spanning from January 1 to December 2013. The year was purposely selected because it was the year (precisely, week of 6 June 2013), that the security forces arrested some foreign nationals, mostly Chinese working as illegal miners in Ghana's gold mining sector (Hilson et al, 2014). It will be useful to study how the press covered the illegal mining issues during the period and throughout the year.

Also, 2013 was chosen because it was just a year before this study began and this suggests that the findings of the study would somewhat represent the current state of media reportage on illegal mining in the country. Thus, the press was expected to perform its watchdog role by informing, educating the public and spearheading public discussions on the activities of these illegal miners during that year.

### 3.4.1 Sampling Design

The research undertook census enquiry to analyse the entire population. The reason for analysing publications covering the whole of last year was to get a more comprehensive trend of how such issues were covered by the *Daily Graphic*. Since the *Daily Graphic* comes out daily (six out of seven days) it will most probably offer a more detailed reportage on news worthy issues on illegal mining compared to those do not come out six out of seven days in a week and analyzing issues spanning from the entire year gives finding from the research more credibility.

### 3.4.3 Unit of Analysis

In this regard, all news items about illegal mining published in the *Daily Graphic* were coded thus news, feature articles, editorials and letters to the editor together with its headline and any space occupied by a photograph and caption accompanying the story or letter.

## 3.5 Category Definitions

### Types of Stories

**Straight News:** News report on events and issues that have to do with small scale illegal mining.

**Feature Articles:** All articles other than straight news report on small scale illegal mining. It must be noted that, feature article is not a hard news and is usually memorable for their reporting creativity.

**Editorials:** The opinion of newspapers on illegal mining activities as expressed in the editorial column of the *Daily Graphic*.

**Letters to the Editor:** Letters addressed to the editor and published in the *Daily Graphic*.

**Story Prominence:** This refers to how news items are placed in the newspaper. It could be in the front page, centre page or the back page. A news story on the front page is most prominent, followed by the centre spread and the one on the third page.

### **Newspaper Headline/Banner Headlines**

Headlines on illegal mining could be categorised into large, medium and small.

**Large:** Newspaper headline that spread across an entire page

**Medium:** newspaper headlines on illegal mining that covered more than three columns but not extending across the entire page.

**Small:** These are news stories on illegal mining with headlines that covered less than two third of the page

### **Categorisation of Tones**

Illegal mining is the focus of this research and is the subject matter as well. The coding of the various variables consisted of reading each unit of analysis which is about illegal mining and grouping it according to categories of tones as used in the report of illegal mining. They could be Favourable, Unfavourable or Neutral.

**Favourable:** These are stories that portrayed the illegal mining in a very positive light. This category of tone has editorials that show support, approval or praise for any views, policies, programmes, issues and actions about illegal mining or mining related activities.

**Unfavourable:** This refers to stories published in the *Daily Graphic* that are opposed to or showing negativities associated with illegal mining. These stories expose the negativities associated with the practice and thereby report the practice in a very bad light.

**Neutral:** These stories have underlying themes or directions that are difficult to determine whether they should be grouped under favourable or unfavourable.

### **Use of Photographs**

This identifies whether the stories came with photographs of victims, suspects, scenes of illegal mining, or police. This also includes photographs of people who have connections with the stories reported in the *Daily Graphic* on illegal mining for instance the police.

### **Source of Stories**

This is about where the stories were obtained as evident in the newspaper reportage. The sources of the stories could be from the police and the courts among others.

### **3.6 Data Analysis Plan**

Most of the data gathered for the purpose of this research were analysed from the nominal level, which showed the percentages and the frequencies of stories covered by the *Daily Graphic*.

### **3.7 Data Collection Instrument**

The researcher developed a coding sheet which was based on the various themes evident from the newspaper reportage on illegal mining issues.

The coding sheet comprises a broad theme under Type of stories, Sources of stories, Placement of stories, use of photograph, Tone of stories, and the Type of banner headlines used in the story headlines.

The researcher did all the coding by using the *Daily Graphics* available School Communication Studies library and the reliability of the coding was enhanced by a second coder who is a master's student from the Central University College.

### 3.8 Data Analysis

The SPSS was used to analyse the data. Frequency distribution tables were used to summarize the data.



## CHAPTER FOUR

### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

#### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter deals with finding of the study in the form of tables and discussions. The findings were discussed based on the use of content analysis research methodology that was used. The news editions of the *Daily Graphic* from January to December, 2013, were considered in the discussions. The Statistical Product for Service Solution (SPSS) software was used in data analysis. As indicated in chapter three which talked about the methodology, a total of 288 *Daily Graphic* formed the universe population for this study. Out of this a total of eighty two stories were coded and analysed.

**Table 1: Type of Story**

Type of story	Frequency	Percent
STRAIGHT NEWS	66	80
FEATURE	11	13
EDITORIAL	4	5
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR	2	2
Total	83	100.0

From Table 1 sixty-six stories representing 80% was used by *Daily Graphic* as Straight News, eleven stories appeared in the *Daily Graphic* as Feature stories representing 13% , four Editorials on illegal mining representing 5% was used by *Daily Graphic*, however there were, two Letters to the Editor representing 2% was used by *Daily Graphic* to report on illegal mining. From the analysis one can conclude that, the *Daily Graphic* carried more stories as Straight News on illegal mining than those published articles that present the newspaper's opinion on illegal

mining in the form of editorials. On the other hand the Daily Graphic carried substantive reports in the form of Features on the issue of illegal mining but published less stories in the form of letters addressed to the editor.

**Table 2: Sources of Story**

Sources of story	Frequency	Percent
POLICE	11	13
COURTS	4	5
PAPER'S OWN SOURCE	61	75
OTHERS(SPECIFY)	6	7
Total	82	100

From Table 2, eleven sources representing 13% were from the Police used by the *Daily Graphic* to report on illegal mining, four sources representing 5% on illegal mining was from the Courts, sixty-one sources representing 75% was from the paper's own initiative on illegal mining, six sources representing 7% was from other sources reports on illegal mining in Ghana. From the analysis, one can conclude that *Daily Graphic* uses its own sources reporting on illegal mining in Ghana. This could be interpreted to mean the *Daily Graphic* takes a substantial initiative in investigating issues of illegal mining in the bid to perform its watchdog role in the society.

**Table 3: Placement of Stories**

Placement of stories	Frequency	Percent
FRONT PAGE	8	10
CENTRE PAGE	68	83
BACK PAGE	6	7
Total	82	100

From Table 3, eight representing 10% of stories used by Daily Graphic was placed on front page reported on illegal mining, sixty-eight representing 83% stories used by *Daily Graphic* was placed on centre page reported on illegal mining, six representing 7% stories used by *Daily Graphic* was placed on back page. One can conclude that Daily Graphic used more stories on centre page to portray the dangers of illegal mining in Ghana than on other pages.

**Table 4: Tone of Story**

Tone of story	Frequency	Percent
FAVOURABLE	36	44
UNFAVOURABLE	42	51
NEUTRAL	4	5
Total	82	100

The tone direction of the newspaper's coverage of how illegal mining activities are published in the newspapers was aimed at identifying the angle through which the Daily Graphic did its coverage using the tone of Favourable, Unfavourable and Neutral as a guide.

From Table 4, 36 representing 44% of stories were used by the *Daily Graphic* to report on favourable news stories on illegal mining. 42 representing 51% stories were unfavourable stories on illegal mining, 4 representing 5% stories were neutral. In other words, there is no clear-cut distinction as to whether they were favourable or unfavourable. By this result one can conclude that *Daily Graphic* reported more unfavourable stories on illegal mining than any of the other remaining thematic stories to reach its audience about illegal mining.

**Table 5: Use of Photographs**

Photographs	Frequency	Percent
VICTIMS	2	2
SUSPECTS	6	7
EXHIBITS	4	5
ILLEGAL MINING SCENE	17	20
POLICE	1	1
WITHOUT PHOTOS	38	45
OTHERS(SPECIFY)	17	20
Total	85	100

From Table 5, 2 photographs representing 2% was used by *Daily Graphic* to report on victims of illegal mining , 6 photographs on suspects representing 7% was used by *Daily Graphic* to report on suspects of illegal mining, 17 photographs on illegal mining scenes representing 20% was used by *Daily Graphic* to report on illegal mining ,1 Police photograph representing 1% was used by *Daily Graphic* to report on illegal mining, 38 stories without photographs, representing 45% was used by the *Daily Graphic* to report on illegal mining. 17 photographs representing 20% were not related to the variables used in the analysis. These photographs were mainly of prominent people. From the analysis one can conclude that, the *Daily Graphic* uses more

photographs about illegal mining sites to report on illegal mining than any other type of photographs. It also published more stories with photographs than stories without photographs.

Journalist do not report on all issues that meet their attention. There are certain factors that inform the addition and exclusion of certain stories with photographs. This deliberate selection process of stories that should carry photographs and which photograph should be accompany with which stories are part of the framing process. In effect, framing involves the processes of inclusion and exclusion as well as emphasis that are laid on those stories through the use of photographs. This is a critical activity in the construction of social reality because it helps shape the perspectives through which people see the world Hallahan (1999).

This supports Corrigan-Brown & Wilkes' (2012) assertion that modern media includes more images than ever before, and these images are remembered longer and are more likely to elicit emotional responses than textual accounts. It can be safely concluded that the *Daily Graphic* used more pictures of illegal mining scenes as compared to other image categories so as to create emotional response from its readers.

**Table 6: Size of Banner Headline**

Banner Sizes	Frequency	Percent
LARGE	57	63
SMALL	24	26
MEDIUM	10	11
Total	91	100.0

From the Table 6, 57 representing 63% of news banner headlines on illegal mining were large, 24 of the banner headlines representing 26% were small, 10 of the banner headlines representing 11% were medium sizes. From this analysis it is clear that *Daily Graphic* used more large

headlines to report on illegal mining activities than the use of other sizes. Large headlines are more conspicuous than small or medium sized headlines. This could mean that *Daily Graphic* intend drawing more of its readers attention to the illegal mining activities through the use of its headlines.



## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

#### 5.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the concluding statements, recommendations and suggested areas for further research.

The study was aimed at finding how the *Daily Graphic*, a state owned and the highest circulating newspaper in Ghana, covered illegal mining activities in terms of the use of photographs, tone of story, sources of story, type of story and the placement of story.

#### 5.1 Summary of Findings

The study focused on how the *Daily Graphic* reported on illegal mining in Ghana.

#### 5.2 Type of Stories

From the analysis, it was discovered that the *Daily Graphic* published 82 stories on illegal mining from January to December, 2013. Notable among the findings from the research is the fact that the *Daily Graphic* in performing its watchdog role has published more stories as straight news than other forms of news. Straight news are hard news that only present the facts without any further analysis or embellishment. Findings from the research indicate that *Daily Graphic* did more work on presenting facts about illegal mining without any embellishment using straight news than other types of news stories.

From the findings, what is certain is that the *Daily Graphic* did different presentations of stories on illegal mining to influence people's choice and decision. Out of the 82 stories that entirely make up stories published on illegal mining, eighty percent (80%) were straight news. This means that news reports on the issue of illegal mining formed the bulk of *Daily Graphic* reportage on illegal mining for the year 2013. Thus, between the findings on the type of stories

used to cover reports on illegal mining in the *Daily Graphic*, the paper selected more straight news compared with other types of news report to make the issue of illegal mining more salient so as to draw attention to that problem definition. As a state-owned newspaper, *Daily Graphic* is expected to report on issues that touch on the fabric of the society in general. It is also expected to educate the public through its reportage.

Findings from the research show that 13% and five percent 5% were on features and editorials respectively. Straight news rarely explain the concepts of illegal mining in detailed forms and rarely proffers solutions like Editorials and Feature Stories. It can be concluded that if this pattern of reportage continues the general public maybe abreast with current news on illegal mining but may not have the depth of education on the subject through feature and editorials.

According to Gamson and Modigliani (1989), media discourse is part of a process by which individuals construct meaning, and public opinion is part of the process by which journalists develop and crystallize meaning in public discourse. The *Daily Graphic's* report on illegal mining as straight news constitutes about 80% of total reportage for the 2013 year. This indicates that newspaper report on illegal mining were timely and current which adds momentum and urgency in their reportage. It could be argued that those reports fuelled the government into action and this saw the expatriation of several Chinese illegal miners into their home country (Hilson, 2014).

### **5.3 Use of Photographs**

On the contrary, the use of photographs in accompanying mining related stories does not correspond to the actual number of issues on illegal mining that were reported. While forty-five percent (45%) out of the 82 stories analysed were without photographs, twenty percent (20%) were photographs used about illegal mining scenes. These photographs were reported showing the

mining pits and the devastating effects of mining on the environment. These findings go to support Babut et al(2003) that illegal mining activities have had very devastating effects on the environment.

However out of the 47 photographs used to accompany the stories, 17 constituting 20% of were about illegal mining sites. This suggests that the 20% percent of the photographs were used to frame the story to appeal to the emotional response of the readers (Setmetko&Valkenburg2000). Thus, framing was used to bring to the fore some of the negative effects of illegal mining through a picturesque presentation to influence the readers perspective about the issue.

#### **5.4 Use of Tones**

Findings about the tone of stories that were published indicate that a little over 50% of stories on illegal mining stories had an unfavourable tone. From this, it could be concluded that more than half of the stories from *Daily Graphic* were with unfavourable(negative) tones than stories with favourable tone. In other words, stories with negative themes about illegal mining have dominated the headline in the *Daily Graphic's* publications for the 2013 year period. This resonates with (Owusu and Dwomoh, 2012) on the negative effects of illegal mining on mining areas in the country. It further corroborates his assertion that illegal mining activities have had negative implication for this country and the education of the youth. The *Daily Graphic* is to inform, educate and perform its watchdog role in bringing salient issues to the general attention of the public. Findings on the use of tones further establish that the *Daily Graphic*, through the framing process of selection and emphasis used salient negative stories in its coverage of illegal mining to inform the public.

### 5.5 Placement of Stories

The placement of stories was further analysed. Findings from the study further indicate that only 8 representing 10% of stories were on the front page cover of the *Daily Graphic*. Karikari (1998) identified that news headline that hit the front; centre spread and the back page of newspapers are purposefully put there to create an effect on the viewer. This is because such news stories have catchy headlines that draw the reader to patronize or read the news item. Out of the 82 news stories, 8 were on the front pages of the *Daily Graphic*, while 6 were on the back pages cover. The remaining 68 representing 83% were located in-between the front and the back pages. From this analysis, it is clear that the *Daily Graphic* published majority of stories in between the first and the back pages than on the front cover and the back pages. However there were more front page cover stories than back page stories. This suggests that the *Daily Graphic* used more front page covers than back page covers in framing illegal mining related issues. The stories published on the front page cover draws readers' attention and influence their perspective about issues of illegal mining. However, findings indicate that, close to 85 percent of total stories published were located in between the front and the back page. This finding suggests that the *Daily Graphic* did not use the front pages and back pages to frame illegal mining stories. These other pages located between the front and the back pages will not create the impact.

### 5.6 Sources of Stories

This research, in finding out the sources of story on illegal mining for the *Daily Graphic* reveals that 75% of the stories originated from the paper's own sources. This finding shows that the courts and the police were not a prime source of information in reporting on illegal mining. Mcombs & Shaw (1972) wrote that the readers attach importance to an issue based on the amount of attention the media give to them. It could be concluded that the *Daily Graphic* did not

consider the police as an important source in its coverage of illegal mining. This can also influence the importance people attach to the police in relations to the information they give about illegal mining. Even though (Hilson et al, 2014 and Aryee et al., 2002) cited frequent confrontation between the police and the illegal miners, findings from this research indicate the police were not a preferred source of information on illegal mining for the *Daily Graphic*.

### **5.7 Limitations of the Study**

The study is also limited to the period under review (January to December, 2013) such that findings from the study could not be generalised to other years.

Another limitation of the study was that the study based itself on the *Daily Graphic* which is a print media. Content analyzing both the print and the electronic media will produce more comprehensive findings.

Also, the study limited itself to the *Daily Graphic* newspaper. There are numerous newspapers in the country but the study limited itself to the understudying of the *Daily* reportage on illegal mining in the country. The lack of financial support and the short duration of the study did not allow the researcher to do a comparative study with *Daily Graphic* and other newspapers on illegal mining in Ghana.

### **5.8 Recommendations**

With the menace posed by the activities of illegal miners the whole country is at risk of losing valuable natural and human resources to such unguarded activities. In this vein, a research in this area is in the right direction. The following recommendations are being made with the aim of creating awareness on the dangers of illegal mining activities in the country;

Firstly, it is recommended that, the *Daily Graphic* adopts stringent editorial policies which would encourage more editorials on illegal mining. Currently, only 4 of the *Daily Graphic* editorials were on illegal mining issues.

Also, 38 news stories on illegal mining were without photographs out of the 82 stories published by the *Daily Graphic*; this is inadequate. Research has shown that photographs enhances the visual imageries of the viewers and has a lasting effect on the viewer. The *Daily Graphic* should do well to accompany news stories on illegal mining with appropriate photographs so as to enhance the readers discernments of issues reported.

Again, equal attention should be paid to Feature stories on illegal mining vis-à-vis Straight news. Out of the 66 news stories on straight news, only 11 were in the forms of feature articles. Considering the fact that features are a more detailed reportage on issues than straight news, a considerably equal news report on illegal mining should be features so as to present a more detailed assessment of the illegal mining phenomenon.

Another recommendation is that a future study could explore a private newspaper's reportage on illegal mining against a state owned newspaper. This may bring a balance view on how these two categories of newspapers perform their watchdog roles in bringing to the society activities that bothers it.

Finally, judging from the level of coverage given to the issue of illegal mining, there is the need to invest more funding into researches on the issues of illegal mining and its related activities.

There should be a coordinated effort from the police and the media in the reportage of illegal mining in bringing the menace posed by the practice into the public domain

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **CODING GUIDE**

NEWSPAPER:

DATE:

TOTAL NO. OF STORIES ON ILLEGAL MINING

#### **A TYPE OF STORY**

1. STRAIGHT NEWS
2. FEATURE
3. EDITORIAL
4. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### **B SOURCES OF STORY**

1. POLICE
2. COURTS
3. PAPER'S OWN SOURCE
4. OTHERS (SPECIFY )

#### **C. PLACEMENT OF STORIES**

1. FRONT PAGE
2. CENTRE PAGE
3. BACK PAGE

#### **D. TONE OF STORY**

1. FAVOURABLE
2. UNFAVOURABLE
3. NEUTRAL

#### **E. USE OF PHOTOGRAPH**

1. VICTIM
2. SUSPECT
3. EXHIBITS
4. CRIME SCENE



5. POLICE

OTHER (SPECIFY)

**F. USE OF BANNER HEADLINES**

1. LARGE

2. SMALL

3. MEDIUM



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