

Learning by Practice: Sustainable Development in Ghana's Gold Mining Sector

Tuokuu, Francis Xavier Dery

Doctoral Student, Antioch University New England, United States, ftuokuu@antioch.edu

Sustainable development is a very slippery concept and has been subjected to many debates and contestations in the literature. The concept means different things to different people depending on one's discipline and background. In the mining sector in particular, sustainable development has been a major issue of contention among industry players and academics with some arguing that, because mining falls under the non-renewable sector, the concept should not even be an issue for discussion. The study employed semi-structured interviews to understand how the concept is embraced and embedded in the gold mining sector in Ghana. Findings of the study revealed that five of the largest gold mining companies in Ghana have different approaches of implementing sustainable development practices. The study recommends that the government in consultation with the various stakeholders in Ghana's mining sector should develop a legal framework that will ensure that mining companies adhere to the sustainable development goals (SDGs) recently adopted by member countries of the United Nations.