“FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHEN DESIGNING WOMEN’S & (COMMUNITY) EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVES IN THE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES SECTOR IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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Mining Projects in PNG

Compiled by Papua New Guinea Chamber of Mines and Petroleum, 2012
Production: Ok Tedi Open Cut (Cu, Au concentrate)
Production: Porgera Open Cut
Production: Porgera Underground
Production: Lihir Open Cut (Au)
Production: Hidden Valley Open Cut (Au, Ag)
Production: Small Scale Mining

80,000 small scale miners
120,000ozs Au/yr
Production: Small Scale Mining
Women in Mining and Petroleum Program Objective

“To improve the impacts of extractive industries developments on women from remote areas of PNG by providing skills, mechanisms and equipment that empower women to be more able to participate in and contribute to community growth”
The issues & challenges for women in resource development in PNG

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<th>Challenges</th>
<th>Issue</th>
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<td>Weak government support for women’s empowerment</td>
<td>“The project brought to light the very real challenges of working with women who have for most of their lives led entirely subsistence lifestyles; meeting their kinfolk only during ceremonial occasions and who are often unsure of the functions of the Women’s Associations or groups they belong to. Most of the WAs and groups were initiated by relatively well-educated women who are not always able to explain the purpose of working together for a common goal and vision”.</td>
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<td>Inability of women to have access to benefits distribution</td>
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“A lack of understanding by outsiders of the social & cultural dynamics at play in the communities and a lack of understanding of the community’s perception of development which may NOT be the same as that of the ‘outsider’”
The PNG Women in Mining & Petroleum Program Activities
Life-Skilling (Baking) and Agriculture Training
Will the agriculture training guarantee contracts to feed the work-force?
Will women be able to use the skills to supply the company’s requirements?
What are the opportunities available to these women to use the skills to benefit from these types of developments?
Women struggle to align the old with the new without fully realizing the consequences of the trade-offs.
What are the chances of translating the skills into viable economic opportunities when women are obligated by tradition, culture and custom?
Empowerment must consider the women’s (and community’s) understanding of ‘development’ and particularly for women - the traditional role that they play in society.
Thank you