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# Olgeta Samting Senis (Everything has changed): Social Impacts of Resource Extractions on Gendered socio-sexual relations in Tari Town, Papua New Guinea

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## Extractive Industry & PNG LNG Project




- Minerals and energy revenue earners for nation building, investment & revenue-raising (Bonnell, 2009; Johnson, 2010)
- ExxonMobil-led PNG LNG project, extracting oil and gas brought immense wealth, hyper cultural, socio-economic, socio-cultural and socio-sexual changes (McIlraith, et al, 2012, Mek, 2018)

## Aim of the Study

-  **Aim 1:** To examine the role of mining development on sexual health risks amongst landowners, their sexual partners and others affected by the resource extraction in order to improve the health outcomes of Papua New Guineans
-  **Aim 2:** To understand the social impacts of PNG LNG project on gender, sexuality, health and wellbeing and risks to HIV of men and women in Hela Province.



## Research Questions

-  What are the impacts of PNG LNG project on the lives of the people in Hela Province?
-  In what ways is the PNG LNG project impacting on gender, relationships, sexuality and HIV risks?
-  How can media communication methods portray the voices of ordinary and often marginalised people in resource extractive areas to the wider public?

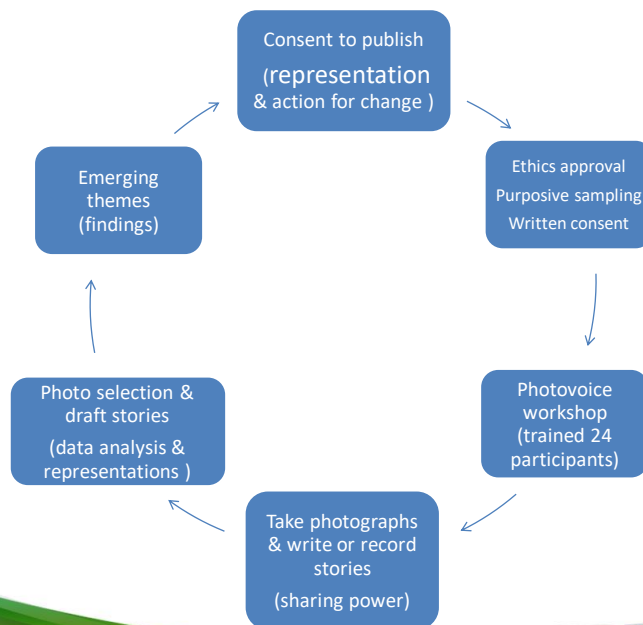


## Methodology

Qualitative mixed methods – Critical & Interpretative epistemologies

- PAR (involvement & empowerment)
- Photovoice (visuals)
- Storytelling (verbal & written)
- Qualitative interviews (IDIs & FGDs)

## Data Collection Process



## Emerging Themes



- Expectation of money
- Desires for money
- Demand for money
- Access to money
- Uses of money
- Influences of money

## Three domains

### Money changes everything



Land and livelihoods



Marriage, family and sexual relationships



Health and well-being

## Domain 2- Transformed Families

### Families enjoyed income earned from men's employment.

When LNG started, my husband was employed as a security with the company. When he got paid at first he used to buy bag rice, cooking oil, soap and other things for the house.  
*Lily, Field Officer, Hela Province*

### With new found wealth, husbands neglect old families and struggling mothers turn to transactional sex work

My husband works for PNG LNG ... but when he saw that his salary increased, he married many wives and left me. Now that PNG LNG came, I pamper myself to look pretty and go sit at the guest house waiting for men to come. When they arrive, I usually go and have sex with them and get money but if they don't come then I suffer and live with hunger.

*Neolah, Female sex worker, Hela Province*



## No bride price price; No name

### Bride price is important in protecting women in Huli societies, without it women and children are lost

I thought my family would accept us but they told me, "we didn't eat your pay so take your bastard and go back" and they attempted to kill us. Now I have no name in my community and family so I get money from men for us to live.  
*Koilly, Female sex worker, Hela Province*



## Fone Fren & sex network

### Technology had gendered effect - 'fone fren'

I married a landowner from Komo...my phone friend. He called and told me to come to Hagen. I did not tell my family [but] just follow the call and went... He just got my hand and put a big amount of money in my hand. The money and phone disturb my mind...so it was hard for me to refuse.

*Koilly, Female sex worker, Hela Province*

### Also referred to as 'technology of sex'

When I sit like this, I hold my mobile (phone). So I arrange my goods on display for sells and sit with my phone switched on for any calls to come in... I go to do sex work and get money... This is done through mobile phone network...

*Bertha, Female sex worker, Hela Province*



## Transformed Sexual Agency

### Women and girls more assertive

Young girls are no longer interested in young men so long as you have money they will come. I am talking from my experience as a single father and making good money through farming. Young girls assertively approach me for [sexual] relationship.

*Bonny, Field Officer/farmer, Hela Province*

### Negotiate prices for sex

I tell the men, "if you have K50 or K100 then we have sex... You waisted very big pigs and money on your wife, where as for me I am offering you my vagina free so to consider this".

*Anekim, Female sex worker, Hela Province*

### Sexual revolution around men's sexuality

My second husband demanded we have sex all the time. He didn't care even when I had my monthly period. He used to say, 'we eat each other' and play, play [foreplay] before putting his penis into my vagina, then he enjoyed sex.

*Anekim, Female sex worker, Hela Province*



## Domain Three – Family & *sikAIDS*

“Many women are at risk of HIV because of their husbands extra marital sexual liaisons with other women outside of their marriages”.

*(Wardlow, 2007, p. 1006)*

- Having money or lacking it posses HIV risks for both men and women  
He was having sex everywhere [with multiple sex partners] and so for this reason I divorced him. I was afraid he would come and infect me with *sikAIDS* [as] today, it is time for HIV. Who will feed my children then?

*Lilly, Field Officer, Hela Province*

- Even some mothers and babies infected by the husbands

While he was driving on the road, he used to go out with sex workers and got this sickness [HIV] and, gave me *sikAIDS* and destroyed our family.

*Alem, PLHIV, Hela Province*

## Cultural spaces re-imaged & HIV risks

- Haus krai* and *haus tawanda* - cultural spaces for mourning and socialisation for older people

Sexual promiscuity in the *haus tawanda* is high and cases of HIV, gonorrhoea and syphilis transmission have also increased there.

*Damaris, Peer educator, Hela Province*

- Condoms less used

I say *haus krai* are where many infections, many HIV transmission take place because they never use condoms.

*Teddy, Field Officer, Hela Province*



## Discussion

Explosion of LNG money came with;

- drastic social and cultural changes, compromising social values and ways, people relate to sexuality
- causing impacts on gendered relationships and increased risks to health and wellbeing and HIV/STIs
- Women and children do suffer inequalities and marginalisation produced by resource extraction
- Hidden costs of development on human lives not equally communicated



## Conclusion

We mothers are suffering and struggling to look for our children's school fees; provide their food and all these kinds of things. They must see the kind of problems we are facing and living with.

*Lilly, Field Officer, Hela Province*

- Reposition business plan and shift focus to reflect UN's Sustainable Development Goals and PNG's Vision 2050





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## Thank you & Questions??

