



# International Journal of Advanced Research

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## REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: **IJAR-57877**

**Title:** Le Boom Minier face aux Mutations Socio-économiques et son Impact sur la Déprivation Morale.

### Recommendation:

Accept after minor revision.....

Rating	Excel .	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity		✓		
Significance	✓			

**Reviewer Name: Faheem Abdul Muneeb**

### Detailed Reviewer's Report

#### Overall Evaluation

The manuscript titled “*Le Boom Minier face aux Mutations Socio-économiques et son Impact sur la Déprivation Morale*” examines the social, economic, and moral consequences of the contemporary mining boom in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The author argues that the expansion of both artisanal and industrial mining has generated profound demographic transformations, social dislocation, economic inequalities, and moral deterioration, particularly in mining regions such as Haut-Katanga, Lualaba, Tanganyika, Nord-Kivu, Maniema, and Sud-Kivu. The paper further contends that international actors, multinational corporations, neighboring states, and global financial institutions have played a significant role in shaping an extractive economic model that has failed to translate mineral wealth into sustainable development for local populations.

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The topic is highly relevant and addresses one of the most important development challenges facing the Democratic Republic of Congo. The relationship between mineral exploitation, governance, social transformation, local livelihoods, and sustainable development has attracted considerable scholarly attention, particularly given the strategic importance of Congolese resources such as cobalt, copper, lithium, coltan, and tin within the global energy transition. The manuscript therefore engages with a subject of considerable academic and policy significance.

One of the strengths of the paper is its strong concern for the social consequences of extractive industries. The author draws attention to issues such as population concentration around mining sites, precarious living conditions, educational disruption, labor insecurity, corruption, social fragmentation, and the vulnerability of local communities. The discussion reflects direct familiarity with realities observed in mining regions and raises important questions regarding the long-term social sustainability of current mining practices.

The manuscript also attempts to situate contemporary mining developments within a broader historical context. The discussion of mining-sector liberalization, privatization policies, joint ventures, and the involvement of international financial institutions provides readers with useful background regarding the evolution of the Congolese mining sector since the mid-1990s.

However, despite addressing an important issue, the manuscript currently resembles a policy commentary or advocacy essay more than a conventional academic research article. The paper lacks a clearly defined research design, methodological framework, theoretical foundation, and systematic empirical analysis. Many arguments are presented as factual conclusions without sufficient supporting evidence, and several sections rely heavily on normative assertions and generalized observations. The central concept of "moral depravity" is also insufficiently defined and operationalized, which weakens the analytical coherence of the study.

Overall, the manuscript raises important concerns regarding the social consequences of mining expansion in the DRC and contains observations that merit scholarly attention. Nevertheless, substantial revisions are necessary to strengthen its academic rigor and analytical contribution.

### **Strengths of the Paper**

A major strength of the manuscript is its focus on a highly relevant development issue. The social and economic consequences of mining expansion remain among the most pressing challenges confronting resource-rich African countries, and the paper contributes to ongoing discussions concerning extractivism, governance, development, and social welfare.

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The manuscript also demonstrates a strong awareness of the lived realities experienced by populations in mining regions. The discussion concerning overcrowding, informal settlements, educational disruption, precarious employment, and deteriorating living conditions highlights important dimensions of mining-induced social transformation that are often overlooked in purely economic analyses.

Another positive aspect is the historical overview provided in the paper. The discussion of mining-sector reforms, privatization initiatives, joint ventures, and the involvement of institutions such as the World Bank offers useful context for understanding the structural evolution of the mining sector in the DRC. The manuscript also raises important questions regarding the distribution of mining benefits. The contrast drawn between mineral wealth generation and persistent poverty among local communities reflects a longstanding concern within development studies and resource governance literature.

The policy recommendations presented toward the end of the paper demonstrate a constructive orientation. Suggestions concerning improved regulation of artisanal mining, educational infrastructure, agricultural development, local processing of minerals, and stronger collaboration between mining companies and educational institutions provide a useful basis for further discussion.

The manuscript is also commendable for drawing attention to the intersection between mining activities and broader social issues such as housing, education, demographic change, and community well-being. This multidimensional perspective broadens the discussion beyond conventional economic considerations.

### **Areas for Improvement**

The most significant limitation of the manuscript is the absence of a clear research methodology. The paper does not explain how information was collected, whether the analysis is based on fieldwork, interviews, observations, documentary sources, statistical data, or secondary literature. As a result, readers are unable to evaluate the reliability of the evidence underlying many of the claims presented. A dedicated methodology section is essential for an academic article.

The manuscript would also benefit from a stronger theoretical framework. Concepts such as social transformation, extractivism, resource governance, social disorganization, moral decline, and development are invoked throughout the paper, yet they are not anchored within established academic literature. Greater engagement with relevant theories from sociology, development studies, political economy, or resource governance would significantly strengthen the analysis.

A related concern involves the concept of "dépravation morale," which occupies a central place in the title and argument of the manuscript. While the paper repeatedly refers to moral deterioration, social

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disorder, and declining values, the concept itself is never clearly defined. The study would benefit from a more precise explanation of what constitutes moral depravity, how it is identified, and how it can be linked analytically to mining expansion.

Many of the paper's arguments are presented in highly assertive terms without sufficient empirical evidence. Statements regarding corruption, violence, international conspiracies, deliberate resource plunder, and the role of specific institutions often lack supporting data, references, or documentary evidence. While these issues may be worthy of investigation, they require more rigorous substantiation within a scholarly publication.

The discussion frequently shifts from analysis to normative commentary. Several sections contain strong political judgments and rhetorical formulations that would benefit from a more balanced and academically neutral tone. A clearer distinction between evidence-based analysis and personal interpretation would improve the scholarly credibility of the manuscript.

The literature review is also limited. Although a number of references are cited, the paper does not engage systematically with existing academic research on mining governance, artisanal mining, the resource curse, extractive industries, social impacts of mining, or development in the DRC. The integration of contemporary peer-reviewed scholarship would significantly strengthen the intellectual foundation of the study.

The paper would further benefit from the inclusion of quantitative evidence. Given the repeated references to demographic growth, unemployment, social deterioration, and mining expansion, the analysis would be considerably strengthened by the incorporation of statistical indicators, demographic data, production figures, employment trends, or other empirical measures.

There are also several language and presentation issues throughout the manuscript. Grammatical inconsistencies, punctuation errors, spacing problems, typographical mistakes, and abrupt transitions appear in multiple sections. The text would benefit from careful editing to improve clarity and readability.

The reference section requires attention as well. Several sources consist of websites, reports, or unpublished documents, while some references lack complete bibliographic information. Greater reliance on peer-reviewed academic literature and standardized citation formatting would improve the scholarly quality of the manuscript.

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Finally, the conclusion reiterates many arguments already developed in the body of the manuscript but offers limited synthesis of the findings. It would benefit from a more structured discussion of the study's contributions, limitations, and implications for future research and policy development.

**Final Recommendation**

**Accept with Minor Revisions**

The manuscript addresses a highly significant issue concerning the social consequences of the mining boom in the Democratic Republic of Congo and raises important questions regarding development, governance, social welfare, and community resilience in mining regions. Its emphasis on the human dimensions of extractive industries provides a useful perspective that complements predominantly economic analyses of the sector.

However, the paper would benefit from substantial improvements in methodological transparency, theoretical grounding, empirical support, scholarly engagement, and academic presentation. Clarifying the concept of moral deprivation, strengthening the evidentiary basis of the arguments, and adopting a more analytical approach would considerably enhance the manuscript's contribution.

With revisions aimed at improving methodological rigor, strengthening engagement with existing scholarship, and refining the overall structure and presentation, the manuscript could make a valuable contribution to discussions on mining, development, and social change in the Democratic Republic of Congo.