

2 the problem

THE PROBLEM

Problem statement:

In an attempt to shift the paradigms that govern the perceptions which are characteristic of mining one must endeavour to explain and investigate the concept of mining accommodated in a larger broader sense, operation and location.

Can a mine as a catalyst introduce represent and integrate the evolving values, spaces and urban areas that are not without meaning and belonging, into the communities that are directly or otherwise affected by mining activities within their vicinity?

Sub- problems

Sub- problem 1:

What is the paradigm shift that is being suggested?

The paradigm shift being suggested is one that allows for the reconciliation between the MINE and the communities around it to function together in a symbiotic relationship. This would allow for the communities around the MINE to benefit from the physical and economic infrastructure put in place for any MINE to operate.

A way of thinking that sees the mining process as a temporary land that will lead to a function that remain utilized and benefit the community's post- closure of the mine. The integration of a MINE as part the surrounding communities.

Sub- problem 2:

How does the paradigm shift suggested affect the MINE?

A paradigm shift in the approach to mining provides several opportunities and some "draw-backs for the MINE."

Opportunities:

- The MINE can inline with the Mining Charter accommodate and fulfill its requirement for local labor employment. As a result of the integrated training services that can be provided for with the integration of the MINE into the community.
- The perceptions surrounding the MINE are vastly altered, as by becoming a part of the community the MINE humanizes its operations and existence.
- The process of appropriation post- closure would be addressed as the community would be able to identify with the MINE
- The question of ghost towns post- closure would be addressed as the integration of the MINE into the community would allow for a secondary industry[s] to happen, grow and mature.
- The MINE would be able to better quantify and validate its contributions in an existing community.

Draw- backs:

- The MINE would have to spread out parts of its operational back up services into the nearest community.
- There would have to be a detailed research conducted per- mining and this would include a number of studies ranging from the urban to social dynamics of the communities that surround the area demarcated for mining.

Sub- problem 3:

How does the incorporation of the MINE into the community affect the urban dynamics, the cultural values and the sense of place in the community?

A paradigm shift in the approach to mining provides several opportunities and some "draw-backs" for the community

Opportunities:

- The upgrading of various existing infrastructure
- The use of the infrastructure that is laid out by the MINE pre-mining. This would include electricity, sewerage systems, roads, offices, training centres, design workshops and the like.
- Up-liftment of the urban fabric within Saulspoot.
- Economic investment.
- Increased understanding between the MINE and the community.

Sub- problem 4:

How does one integrate the MINE into the community?

Through the integration of various operational back- up services that can be relocated into the surrounding community.

Opportunities:

- The introduction of new infrastructure into the community
- Upgrade of the various supporting infrastructure like electricity, sewerage, roads, communal spaces
- Opportunity for appropriation with the MINE closure

Sub-problem 5:

What elements of the MINE would facilitate integration into the community?

- Administration infrastructure and services
- Workshops
- Medical facilities
- Housing
- Commercial facilities
- Storage depots
- Training centres
- Transport interchanges
- Recreational facilities

Sub-problem 6:

How does one translate the community values culture and social dynamics into a feasible proposal that integrates the MINE and or its related activities?

Opportunities:

- The introduction of socio-cultural values and principles into the building language.
- The creation of an "integrated" building system. This would combine both traditionally indigenous materials and principles with modernity.
- The establishment of a stage, a sense of place that allows for appropriation and integration into the community, following the mine closure.

THE HYPOTHESIS

An attempt at the translation of the socio-cultural dynamics, of the Tswana culture and traditions into the present context of Saulspoot. Rituals that remind and allow their memory to translate itself into an activity that becomes relevant in the present context and function. Through this, allowing for the various layers that over time made what the community of Saulspoot what it is; a platform on which derived activities are played out relived appropriated acknowledged. A reflection of the various tensions, represented within these layers.

THE DELIMITATIONS

The study does not cover the effects of the actual MINE infrastructure on the environment rather focuses on the social cultural and economic implications on the communities that surround it, in this instance that community being the town of Saulspoot.

The study does deal with the nature of the actual mining process.

The study does not cover the possible urban growth around the actual MINE.

ASSUMPTIONS

There is a strong Tswana culture predominant in the community of Saulspoot.

The inclination of mining groups to invest and develop the communities directly affected by the MINE

There is a "minor" relationship between the MINE and the communities that surround it.

The MINE will continue with the practice of implementing this paradigm shift and further investigations will be done in the areas not thoroughly addressed by this study.