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**THE IMPACT OF PERSONAL VIABILITY  
TRAINING ON GENDER RELATIONS IN MINING  
COMMUNITIES: THE CASE OF LIHIR, PAPUA  
NEW GUINEA**

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**2010**

**The Impact of Personal Viability training on Gender  
Relations in Mining Communities:  
The Case of Lihir, Papua New Guinea**

A Thesis presented in partial fulfilment  
of the requirements for the degree of  
Master of Philosophy in Development Studies  
at Massey University, New Zealand.

**Bernadette Vaita HARO**

**2010**

## **DEDICATION**

*This thesis is a special dedication to my darling daughter, Elma Alstonia Ahoro Haro. I know the Lord in His own Divine way, has healed you completely from your ill-health. You have been the special reason and motivation in my life to keep focused and complete this thesis without any major extended time. I hold you dearly in my heart, but more so, I know the Lord is holding you even closer, in His bosom.*

## **ABSTRACT**

Personal Viability (PV), an entrepreneurial skills and personal development training program, has become a national phenomenon in Papua New Guinea since its introduction in the country in 1995. With the support of various key leaders in Government, civic and social organisations, the Government of Papua New Guinea officially launched the program in 1996 mandating the Entrepreneurial Development Training Centre (EDTC) to carry out the training in all 20 provinces of the country. This thesis is concerned with the influence of PV training in the context of large-scale natural resource development, with the focus on Lihir, an open-cut gold mine community in the New Ireland province of Papua New Guinea. Since the gold mine operation started on the island, Lihir has experienced dramatic social, economic and political changes as a society. One element of this has been the effect on traditional gender roles and relations as a result of people's increased engagement in the global capitalist economy. As PV is promoted as a contemporary strategy for economic development thus motivating people to cultivate a spirit of entrepreneurship, this thesis explores its influence on the lives of women and men in Lihir, and in particular their attitude and behaviour toward the usage and management of wealth and resources; their participation in customary activities; and changes in their traditional gender roles and relations.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to the following individuals, families, groups and organisations for the completion of this thesis. It has truly been a privilege. Words cannot express my deepest gratitude and I remain indebted to you all.

The primary research participants in Kunaiye 1 and Zuen communities in Lihir who shared their personal stories, insights, experiences and time, of whom without their participation, this thesis would lack valuable results and remain incomplete. A special thank you to Peter Suar and Charles Suar, who provided initial discussion and advice regarding the communities and helped identify PV participants, especially from Kunaiye 1. *Apet.*

The various leaders whom I met and interviewed as my secondary research participants, in particular John Bosco and Jacquelyn Membyo, who shared openly with me about their views regarding PV in Lihir as well as important issues they face as leaders in Lihir. *Apet!*

To the Government of Papua New Guinea through the Department of Personnel Management and the National Training Council for initial selection and recommendation to the New Zealand High Commission, for me to be a recipient of the NZAID scholarship.

To the Government of New Zealand through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade who provided the scholarship for my studies and for giving me the opportunity to study and experience life in New Zealand, particularly in Palmerston North.

To my Supervisor, Dr. Glenn Banks who constantly gave valuable and constructive feedback, which challenged my own assumptions and perceptions and made me think critically about my own writing. Also to Dr. Rochelle Stewart-Withers for her constructive feedback on the final draft and to Dr. Nawal ElGack who initially provided alternative references and valuable insights from her own experiences.

Professor Regina Scheyvens who provided initial feedback on the first draft of my thesis proposal, provided support and understanding throughout my entire studies, and allowed me to go home earlier than usual for my field research, due to the ill-health of my daughter. Thank you also to the other academic staff in IDS who supported me in my situation.

Sylvia Hooker, Susan Flynn and Olive Pimentel – the tremendous and tireless support, advice, and encouragement I received from the International Student Support Office (ISSO) has been truly amazing, given my situation. I cannot thank you enough!

Sam Tam (Jr.) from EDTC who willingly shared information on the Personal Viability program as well as the vision that EDTC has for the nation of Papua New Guinea.

Dr. Nicholas Bainton who was my initial contact in Lihir; for sharing his work and providing me with all relevant literature/references, both his own work and the work of others, on Lihir. Also for giving me directions, advice and introducing me to certain people I needed to meet and interview in Lihir. Thank you for your time and support.

Serah Ricky and her family for providing accommodation throughout my stay in Lihir. Special thank you to little Michael, for being my knowledgeable guide around Zuen community. *Apet.*

The staff of the Community Relations Office of LGL who welcomed me into their office and offered a temporary office space to do my work, after returning from the field. A special thank you to those staff who were willing to be interviewed and be part of this research.

To Karin Bruckner for proofreading and feedback on the initial and final drafts of the thesis.

To my dear sister in the Lord and friend, Sesimani Havea, for the inspiration and prayer times shared together. May the Lord reward you richly for the time you have spent praying and upholding me in prayer.

Lastly but not the least to my wonderful and supportive family; my husband Arilla for inspiration and encouragement to pursue further studies despite our struggle with the ill-health of our daughter. And to my two beautiful daughters, Elma and Peniel who gave me inner strength and motivation throughout my studies.

To my dear sister Hazel, who kept the house together during my absence in PNG. You are not only a sister, but a friend and will continue to hold a special place in my heart. To my parents Vaita and Laukavare Navuru and all my siblings for their undoubted support through prayer.

Above all else to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ my Source of strength and inspiration and from whom all blessings flow. All Glory, Honour and Praise, be to Him.

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## **MAPS**

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## **LIST OF ACRONYMS**

AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
BSP	Bank of South Pacific
CRO	Community Relations Office
DFCD	Department For Community Development
DoC	Department of Commerce
EDTC	Entrepreneurial Development Training Centre
FODE	Flexible and Open Distant Education
GAD	Gender and Development
GNP	Gross National Product
IBP	Integrated Benefit Package
IDS	Institute of Development Studies
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ISSO	International Student Support Office
IT	Information Technology
JNC	Joint Negotiating Committee
LGL	Lihir Gold Limited
LMALA	Lihir Mining Area Landowners Association
LMC	Lihir Management Company
LMIC	Lower Middle Income Country
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas
LSDL	Lihir Sustainability Development Limited
LSDP	Lihir Sustainable Development Program
MTDS	Medium Term Development Strategy
MUHEC	Massey University Human Ethics Committee
NCD	National Capital District
NCDC	National Capital District Commission
NCS	Niolam Catering Services
NGO	Non Governmental Organisations
NRLLG	Nimamar Rural Local Level Government
NZAID	New Zealand Agency for International Development
PIDP	Pacific Islands Development Program
PMV	Public Motor Vehicle
PNG	Papua New Guinea
PV	Personal Viability
PWA	Petztorne Women's Association

SML	Special Mining Lease
SSI	Semi-Structured Interview
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNHDR	United Nations Human Development Report
WB	World Bank
WID	Women in Development