

## **BEROM WOMEN AND COLONIAL TIN MINING ENTERPRISE: JOS PLATEAU, NORTHERN NIGERIA**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The paper discussed the role of Berom women in tin mining under colonial rule. We observed that women participated as unskilled lowest paid laborers which included carrying, washing, picking tin and pottering as well as auxiliary jobs such as local trade in food, firewood, beer brewing and a host of entertainments that helped retain mine laborers in the camps as long as possible. Tin mining added extra burdens to the traditional roles of Berom women in both domestic and agricultural work. Tin mining activities coupled with massive influx of mine workers from diverse backgrounds resulted in breakdown of Berom communal and traditional life. Women whose husbands participated in tin mining had to do the work that were traditionally considered to be men's job in agriculture such as land clearing, ridging and harvesting and the little wages earned in the tin mines gave them relative economic autonomy from male control but at the expense of increased workload. The net result of the involvement of Berom women in the tin mining industry was the gradual disintegration of the rural communal social ties and gender relations and division of labor it set in motion.

**KEYWORDS:** Women, Mining, Tin, Labor, Berom, Gender