



UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE

CHALLENGES FACED BY UNEMPLOYED YOUTHS AND THEIR COPING STRATEGIES (RESPONSES) TO SUSTAIN LIVELIHOODS. CASE STUDY OF MBARE.

A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY.

FACULTY OF SOCIAL STUDIES

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

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AKNWOLEDGEMENTS

To begin with I would like to acknowledge and thank my supervisor Dr Mate for the suitable supervision in producing this research study. My sincere gratitude goes to my family who presented me with chance to pursue my studies under difficult times. Thanks also to my two mothers Alice and Melody Tekwa for being there for me. I would like to thank Admire Chakawa for helping me with the research findings in the not so easy to penetrate suburb of Mbare. Moreover I would like to thank my classmate and brother the late Vitalis Chikomba although you could not get to see your own project as well as this one I hope you are in a better place. Lastly I give thanks and praise to God Almighty.

To all the youths in Mbare, take the initiative; nothing works unless you do!!!

ABSTRACT

The study focuses on the challenges being faced by unemployed youths in Mbare as well as the various responses they engage in to sustain livelihoods and escape poverty in the face of unemployment and economic hardships. The research has recognised unemployment as the major challenge affecting youths in modern society and as a component affecting their livelihoods leaving them vulnerable to poverty. Unemployment amongst youths has led to new livelihood strategies which include selling of CD's and DVD's, drug dealing, back yard studios and gyms as well as prostitution as a livelihood strategies in face of unemployment. The study based its concepts and theoretical underpinnings on Giddens' Structuration theory to deliberate the challenges and how they are handled by youths in society. The findings in this research were gathered through Focus Group Discussions and face to face interviews to allow the participants express their experiences in detail. Relating to the findings of the study the researcher has recommended that youths need to be equipped with knowledge and practical skills that enable them to be absorbed in the labour market. They need to be equipped with the necessities of the industries.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Youth unemployment is a known global phenomenon. Worldwide statistics review that youth are 43.7% of the total unemployed people (ILO, 2010). In the sub-Saharan Africa, it is said that about 60% of the unemployed are youth (ILO, 2010). The situation is no different for Zimbabwe with the Zimbabwe Poverty Assessment study (1995) highlighting that the youth has the highest unemployment rate among all age groups in the labour force in Zimbabwe. The researcher seeks to investigate the challenges faced by unemployed youths and how they sustain their livelihoods.

Notable effects of unemployment on the youth may include their threat to identity, which may lead to the disruption of wishes and self-definition on the individual. Inflation and deep rooted economic collapses have affected nearly every country in Sub-Saharan Africa. The economic demises have had a profoundly negative impact on the general well-being of the entire population in the region (IMF, 2009). Chirisa and Muchini (2011) argue that although diverse age and social groups have been affected in varying scales and degrees by the economic crisis in Zimbabwe, the unemployed youths are the most affected. Zimbabwean economy was the mainly affected by inflation in the years between 2005 and 2008 of more than 500% and economic sanctions that are still prevailing today (Kramarenko, 2010). While it was unfavourable to every Zimbabwean citizen's wellbeing, the young people growing up in the midst of the crisis faced the most challenges. It is then against this background that the researcher seeks to investigate how youths have been affected by unemployment and their coping strategies in face of this dilemma to sustain their livelihoods basing on the findings from the high density suburb of Mbare. "The consequences of such a rate of inflation are absolute desperation, despair and poverty," said, E. Masunungure (2010) (University of Zimbabwe). This research

sought to investigate the socio-economic challenges facing the youths in relation to the skyrocketing unemployment rate which is believed to be at 98%.

1.2 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

Unemployment is seen as the most pervasive challenge faced by youths in Zimbabwe due to the socio-economic and political collapse that pigeonholed the past decade. The overall unemployment rate in Zimbabwe is over 95%, with youth unemployment being nailed at over 70% according to the International Labour Organisation (ILO, 2006). The rate of youth unemployment with regard to both formal and informal sectors of the Zimbabwe economy stood at 19% for females, 11% for males. Youth unemployment is one of the greatest challenges being faced by African economies and Zimbabwe is not exception from this challenge with an unemployment rate of eighty per cent (80%). Sixty-eight per cent (68%) of this figure are youths in the formal sector unemployment stood at 94 per cent of which 67.7 per cent constituted the youth (ILO, 2011)

A youth can be better understood as nothing but a time of transition from the dependence of childhood to adulthood's independence and awareness of one's independence as part of a community. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recognise that the term youth is a more fluid category than a fixed age group thus it should be noted that there is no such thing as universal definition of a youth. Furthermore the United Nations defines the youth as those persons between ages of 15 and 24 years but particular states have their age ranges. The African Youth Charter's however differs from the UN; they categorically defined a youth as every person between the ages of 15 and 35 years. Zimbabwe similarly recognises the African Youth Charter's definition of 15 to 35 as its accepted definition of youths (ZYC 2015). So in employment issues it is this group which is most vulnerable and exposed.

More recent figures indicate that at least out of the country's 12 million people in Zimbabwe, only 480,000 were formally employed in 2008, down from 3.6 million in 2003. Formal unemployment mounted at 94 per cent of which 67.7 per cent constituted the youth. It was during the decade of long political and economic crisis that plagued Zimbabwe since 2000 that youth unemployment peaked to the climax. The unbalanced economic environment during this period led to the proliferation of the informal sector and parallel (black) market which absorbed most young people as agents and dealers.

The increasing segregation of certain sub-groups of young people in the labour market and economic circles has raised unrequited sociological questions as in how they survive as some of them are independent and even have other siblings that depend on them. Youths are a valuable asset to the country and investing in them brings influential social and economic benefits. However the youths across the globe are facing contests such as drug abuse, teenage pregnancies, crime, unemployment and HIV/AIDS and leaves them susceptible creating significant social and economic costs to society rather than development.

Moreover according to the 2008 *Global Employment Trends for Youth* report arranged by the ILO (2008), youth comprise nearly 40 percent of total unemployment worldwide although they only account for one quarter of the total working stage population (ages 15 and over). It is believed that amid the years 1997 and 2007, unemployment of youth worldwide increased from 10.9 to 11.9 percent while the global adult unemployment rate remained level at 4.2 from 1997 to 2007 (ILO, 2008), this clearly indicates that youths find it even more difficult to get employed compared to adults the reason could be the youths would have not gained much labour experience at this stage but then how do they gain labour experience if the chance is not presented to them. Thus, there is the need to study on how these young people are finding a breakthrough in these economic hardships and the other possible challenges posed by unemployment.

The notion of employment involves working, the sharing of ideas, mechanism and planning of resources that influence the expansion outcomes of an individual. Popular participation is an important aspect in the sphere of national development process. Mupedziswa (1998) postulates that, youth employment ought to be viewed as a catalyst for the empowerment and capacity building amongst the groups that are discriminated against in society, in this case the youths in Mbare. Youth employment methodologies rectifies the labour inequalities by helping to retain and redistribute economic benefits hence providing new opportunities for those marginalised.

Participation is viewed as a mechanism by which citizenship rights become reality, not just an ideal, Warming (2006). Participation suggests youth's direct contribution in decision making and that their involvement has the potential to influence outcomes, Sinclair (2004). Young people's opinions should be considered when the responsible authorities are devising policies and decisions that affect them. Involvement of young people in the decision making satisfies their citizenship rights and motivates their perceptions towards actualisation as they thrive to repay their communities for the faith invested in them.

According to ILO (2005) young people are more likely to be unemployed as compared with adult workers. Despite the youth accumulating majority of the population, 47% of the youth remain unemployed hence causing an increase in migration levels. The effects of youth unemployment lead to family disintegration and causes inappropriate behaviours such as dropping out of school, drug abuse, theft and prostitution amongst the young ones. These challenges therefore hinder the behaviour and contributions of youths in Mbare towards the national development of Zimbabwe as a country and their own well-being.

UNFPA (2007) accounts that more than half of all youth survive on less than USD\$1 a day, more than 100 million youths do not attend school, fifteen million youthful girls become

mothers every year, and six thousand young people are infected with HIV every day. Ratios of new female-to-male HIV infections among young people between ages 15 to 24 run as high as 8:1 in South Africa. The statistics above clearly show the idleness of youths that could be a result of unemployment and they end up losing focus on life and their vulnerability to poverty is intensified. Therefore there is a need to identify the strategies engaged by youths to sustain livelihoods in relation to unemployment as well as the challenges they face in the wake of unemployment.

Youth development is a multifaceted, elusive and normative concept that entails a plethora of experiences. Amartya Sen (2008) suggests that, youth development refers to the expansion of the range of things young people can do and be. Youth development implies the dynamics of a transformative change in a multi-dimensional process in social constructions and national institution as well as economic spheres. Development has been viewed as a value word to define the progress of the economic, social and political transformation, Chinsman (1998). Therefore the vulnerable youths on African continent views the informal sector as a new approach that allows them to contribute to personal development and sustenance of livelihoods. Although it is punctured by its own challenges, it is a panacea to the high unemployment problems faced by youths.

1.3 Statement of the problem

Argenti (2002) highlights that youth as a social cluster largely went unnoticed, or marginalised by national and international researchers and policy makers whose methods of analysis and decision making were broadly unresponsive to the challenges facing young people in making the evolution to economic independence. Zimbabwe's Government's efforts to include branches such as youth councils, indigenisation policy and the ministry of youth and empowerment have been deemed a mirage that has fallen short to address the high unemployment rates amongst the youths. These policies are believed to be unresponsive to

the demands of youths, because they have failed to create jobs for unemployed youths. This however limits youth's participation in the national development as well as limiting their livelihoods. The motive behind this study is to understand the challenges posed by unemployment on youths and how they have managed to sustain their livelihoods despite these economic hardships focusing on youths in Mbare.

1.4 Objectives

- To investigate the nature of youth unemployment in Mbare
- To investigate the challenges faced by unemployed youths
- To find livelihood strategies adopted by youths faced with unemployment

1.5 Research questions

1. What are the challenges being faced by unemployed youths in Mbare?
2. What are their strategies to sustain livelihoods in face of unemployment?
3. Which age range is mainly affected by unemployment?
4. Does education level or technical skills matter for one to be employed?
5. What are the measures being taken to tackle youth unemployment and alleviate them from poverty in Mbare?
6. Is unemployment gender specific?

1.6 Justification of the study

According to the population studies in 2012 youths constitute more than 60% of people on the entire world. This shows that much attention is to be given to the young ones because they can be forces of revolutionary change in the society. If their needs are ignored the future

of generations to come could be affected as well. Youths should be regarded and viewed as tomorrow's leaders, parents, professionals and workers and today's assets. Therefore an advocate for their participation in the labour market will improve their livelihoods, families and communities by lifting them out of poverty. This study aims to investigate the challenges faced by unemployed youths and their reactions to sustain livelihoods. The researcher was motivated by recent calls on the sustainable development with emphasis on youth's participation in social, political and economic spheres highlighting that this equips them with necessary life skills. The researcher has chosen Mbare as he saw it to be ideal for meaningful economic development due to economic activities that takes place in the area on a daily basis and its closeness to industries.

1.7 Delimitation of the study

The study largely focused its interests on the challenges facing unemployed youths and their strategies to sustain livelihoods. The researcher focused only on youths who reside in Mbare thus making the study specific to a certain area yet the challenges and strategies engaged by unemployed youths are not universal. People falling outside the age category of 18-25 years will not be eligible to participate in the study.

1.8 Limitation of the study

The researcher was guided by the age group of 18-25 years to avoid biases from other ineligible members of society. The study focused on examining the challenges facing unemployed youths in Mbare and how they have managed to sustain livelihoods without a steady and formal income and it may be difficult to generalise the challenges to other areas and parts of Zimbabwe. Different political affiliations and beliefs have affected the persuasion of the youths participating freely without fear persecution. In spite of assuring them of confidentiality, certain youth clusters were reluctant to be interviewed as they feared

victimisation. Biases from respondents that seem to satisfy everyone involved in the focus group discussion.

1.9 Study assumptions

This study assumed that youths are not employed because of the economic contests facing the country for the past decade as many companies have been closing down and also that youths may not possess adequate professional and technical skills required for them to be absorbed in the labour market. Youths policies are unresponsive to their demands, they do not wholly address the existing challenges.

1.10 Conclusion

The chapter gave a brief introduction to the research objectives and the background of the study at hand. It outlined the justification of the study, assumptions, limitations and delimitations of the study.

CHAPTER 2

2.0 Literature Review

2.1 Introduction

The study examines the lives of young people in Mbare struggling with unemployment and their strategies to sustain livelihoods in the context of unemployment and economic crisis. The literature review is divided into sections. The first section below presents the background on definitions, physiognomies and issues of youth and unemployment as well as sustainable livelihoods. It discusses also the consequences of youth unemployment. The second section discusses the possible explanations of high unemployment among youth, indicating the larger theoretical underpinnings of these explanations.

2.2 Youth and Unemployment, Definitions

The standard UN definition of youth is regarded as those people who are between the ages of 15 and 24 years. O'Higgins (2001) has pointed out that, in exercise, this definition may differ according to the cultural and social characteristics of the framework; however, in industrialized countries, the lesser limit is usually the statutory minimum school leaving age.

There are greater variances across countries in the meaning of the upper limit for example, in Britain youth employment policy covers those aged 16 to 18, while in Southern Italy youth employment policy is directed at people between the ages of 14 and 32 (O'Higgins, 2001). Thus it can be noted from these two different definitions that there is no a standardised or a single definition to what a youth could be but rather it differs across the societal globe.

The standard ILO definition of the unemployed are "people who have not worked more than one hour during the short reference period, which is typically the previous week or day, but who are available for or actively seeking work" (O'Higgins, 1997). Anyone who is not formally receiving wages can be identified as unemployed which has been the case for most youths in Africa and Zimbabwe. However this definition has faced a lot of denigration as it fails to reason for those who are self-employed. In the African context the issue of self-employment is regarded as an escape route for those who have failed to be formally employed thus it cannot be denied that even University graduates can be touts and sell airtime simply because they could not be employed thus they resort to informal sector as a livelihood strategy.

2.3 Characteristics and Issues of Youth Employment and Unemployment

Conferring to the 2008 *Global Employment Trends for Youth* (henceforth referred to as GET Youth, 2008) report prepared by the ILO (2008), youth encompass approximately 40 percent of total unemployment globally although they only account for one quarter of the total working age population. In the decade between 1997 and 2007, unemployment of youth globally increased from 10.9 to 11.9 percent while the global adult unemployment rate stayed close at 4.2 from 1997 to 2007 (ILO, 2008), this clearly indicates that youths find it even more difficult to get employed compared to adults the reason could be the youths would have not gained employment experience at this stage but then how do they gain labour experience if the chance is not presented to them.

The reason for such high rates in youth unemployment could be because most companies in Zimbabwe are retrenching workers whilst others are even closing down. This led many companies to remain with old and experienced management while the inexperienced youths remain unemployed. “The youth are approximately three times more likely to be unemployed than adults, youth-to-adult unemployment rate was 2.8 in 2007, up from 2.6 in 1997” (ILO, 2008). O’ Higgins (2001) noted that youth unemployment rates are generally observed to be higher than adult unemployment rates for every country for which data is available. In both developing and industrialized countries youth are more vulnerable to issues such as long working hours, work with short-term and or informal treaties, low pay and diminutive or no social protection (ILO, 2004).

Moreover supplementary youth employment market indicators recommended by the ILO (2004) to reveal the other layers of the situation of youth include what is recognised as Unemployment Duration which point to longer incantations of unemployment which are found to be directly linked to future poverty and social exclusion (ILO, 2004). Identifying those who experience long-term unemployment is commended in order to design interventions in a timely manner for those who are most vulnerable (ILO, 2004). Furthermore in Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries, unemployment period has decreased from 1993–2000. ILO (2004) argued that this degree is more relevant for advanced countries because youth in developing countries cannot afford to be unemployed for longer periods. However, such a generalization across developing countries may not be true. In some emerging countries, cultural values and social and family ties may allow youth to pass more time unemployed.

Underemployment suggests that employed people are working below a definite cut-off point of hours although they would like to work more if work were available (ILO, 2004).). O’ Higgins (2001) stated that there is a relationship between underemployment and poverty

especially in developing and third world countries. A high level of underemployment among youth might imply that youth lack the power to bargain for more hours or healthier conditions.

2.4 Livelihoods

Livelihoods denote to the social means necessary to make a living as it focuses not on technology, overall food production, but on social means by which employment, incomes, resources are shared, allocated and accessed (Forsyth, Green, and Lunn, 2006). Thus in this regard livelihood strategies refer to the means by which individuals within a society engage in to make a day to day living to sustain the basic needs if not their lives (Chambers & Conway 1992). Livelihood strategy also includes local trading in goods and services for example sewing and wage labour. Literature has noted numerous factors to influence livelihood such as education, practical skills, good health, and ability to work, land, water, forests, transport, shelter, communications, savings, credits, remittances, pensions, and networks, .relationships of trust, feelings of protection, affection and being free (Chambers & Conway 1992). The high density suburb of Mbare in Zimbabwe is located at the heart of the capital of Harare with a population of over 800 000 which makes it the most densely populated suburb in the country Gwisai (2007). Their livelihoods are based mainly on farm produce as it has the largest farm produce known as Mbare musika.

Campbell et al. (2002) postulates that urban poverty in parts of Zimbabwe is the outcome of a 'suite of social, economic and environmental components and processes operating at a range of scales'. These various factors include adverse biophysical conditions, resulting in low agricultural potential and livestock crashes insufficient high-quality land. Furthermore high unemployment rates and HIV and AIDS has contributed to this poverty as many youths grow up without their parents due to the pandemic.

2.5 Livelihoods approach

a livelihoods approach is one that takes as its starting point the actual livelihood strategies of people; it looks at where people are, what they have and what their needs and interests are, Campbell et al. (2002). In order to fully recognise the livelihood of people and groups, their vulnerability context and livelihood assets should be determined. Vulnerability background refers to the external environment in which people live. It includes unpredictable events that can undermine livelihoods and cause households to fall into poverty. Conflicts, forced evictions and dislodgment, idiosyncratic shocks such as illness, including HIV, loss or theft of land and productive resources, and the social and cultural organisations are all elements comprising the vulnerability context Long (2004).

Moreover Chambers (2006) postulates that livelihood assets points to resources that people control or have access to and which serve as the foundation of household livelihoods (human, social, natural, physical and financial assets). Knowing more about the assets of vulnerable individuals is central to identifying appropriate measures and strategies to improve their situation and reduce their vulnerability. A livelihood is considered to be sustainable if it can survive or manage to recuperate from strains, tremors and jolts and maintain or improve its capabilities and assets both now and in the future while not destabilising the natural resource base – thus leading to positive livelihood outcomes Cannon (2004).

2.6 Marginalisation of the youths

It is believed that most youths are surviving and living in a time of deferral between childhood and adulthood which has been termed by Honwana and S Murshed as “Waithood”. Honwana (2009) uses the term waithood to refer to a period of suspension between childhood and adulthood. It is hereby due to unemployment that this waithood is strengthened as youths even at the age of 24 will still be dependent on their parents as they fail to stand their own ground as adults. This thereby entails that youths have a postponement period in which they

are idol and literally have nothing to do or add to the lives be it financially, socially or civil participation. It thereby seems they have to hang up and wait a little bit longer for them to be acknowledged as full citizens and adults. Navtej Dhillon & Tarik Yousef (2009) postulates that waithood encompasses the complex nature of youth transitions to adulthood, which goes past securing a job and spreads to social life and civic participation. If such prospects in life are made accessible at the most desirable time youths might gain a stable living and be able to sustain their livelihoods. Honwana further alludes that it shows that youths in waithood are not inactively “waiting” for their situation to change. Despite the challenges, young people are trying to break free from the socio economic dilemmas they face despite being unemployed they are managing to sustain their day to day needs somehow.

Moreover in Africa, Mamadou Diouf pointed to past and present moral panics adjoining youth. “Not only are young people losing the prestigious status ... but they no longer represent the national priority. . . . Excluded from the arenas of power, work, education, and leisure, young Africans construct places of socialization and new sociabilities whose function is to show their difference, either on the margins of society or at its heart, simultaneously as victims and active agents” (Diouf 2003). Amid this relegation, and in some cases repression, young people in waithood may cultivate a sense of shared identity and group consciousness.

A number of youths in Zimbabwe today are grappling with lack of jobs and deficient education the reason to this is because some of them lack experience to be absorbed into the labour market and also companies retrenching workers not mentioning that some are closing down and the economic challenges facing the country for the past decade. Most of them they fail to get married or establish stable families this has been greatly because to do these things there is need for financial security which is hard to acquire if one has no stable source of income. (Molgat M 2007) recognises youths by social expectations and responsibilities. However in the current Zimbabwean situation all these expectations have since been an

elusive mirage in which they can no longer reach. Poverty has washed away these social expectations amongst unemployed youths. A similar situation has been prevailing in the stir of the economic crisis in Cameroon and the evaporation of transitional pathways for youth that escorted it, politics and economic doubt turned into a new form of social certainty for young people (Nantang Jua 2014). Thus there is a tendency in Africa that diminishes the role of the youths and it further marginalises them from economic, social and political opportunities. Most of these youths are controlled in a vacuum with literally nothing to do and not having any definition for life and survival. This clearly disclose the extent of repression and marginalization that young people in contemporary Africa are going through as the economy is worsening by day. Youths are acutely aware of their marginal structural position, and they scorn and rebel against the abuse and corruption that they observe as the elites get richer and they become poorer.

Honwana contends that youth's inability to access basic resources to become self-governing adults does not result from a failed evolution on the part of the youth themselves but rather from a collapse in the socio-economic system supposed to deliver them with the opportunities to grow up healthy, get good education, find employment, form families and contribute to society as fully fledged citizens. The marginalisation of youths should not be assumed as a problem created by them by rather by disastrous institutions within the society. In the Zimbabwean context youths cannot even attain loans because they are unemployed in light to this they have no funding to start up projects that may sustain their livelihoods. Socio-economic, and political conditions both coerce and permit youths to carve out specific pathways into adulthood.

Moreover, it should be noted that marginalisation and waithood establishes itself differently. There is a minor group of elite youths who are normally able to afford a good education in private schools and abroad and are well connected to networks of the influential that facilitate

their access to secure jobs Honwana 2007. Hence not every youths are finding it hard to get employed and sustain livelihoods thus the need to focus on youths in Mbare a high density were many youths do not enjoy such privileges. For the huge majority of young Africans, however, waithood is involuntary.

Youths are increasingly are forced to endure in an oversaturated informal economy or as informal labour in the formal sector. The complications they experience in one area spill over into other areas and have a devastating effect on their entire lives (Dhillon and Yousef 2007). Thus the problems affecting the youths today has a lasting effect on their whole lives if opportunities are not broadened.

2.7 Youth Unemployment

French sociologist Olivier Galland (1991) investigated three dimensions of youth transitions, skilled transitions from school to work; residential transitions from the parental home to a home of one's own; and relationship transitions from being solo to getting married and forming a family. This has been seen as a general order and stage that most people go through in society. It is evident that this has not been the case for many African youths especially those who are affected by gender, unemployment and social class. Thus undeniably many of these youths they rarely follow the unidirectional pattern projected in Galland's model. Most youths in Mbare are equipped with technical skills and they fail to find jobs because of the closure of many industries in Zimbabwe today and high unemployment rates due to economic and political decay. Some of them are college dropouts so following the Galland's model proves to be problematic as this clear model no longer exists. Some youths have become parents without being employed while some are fixed at their family households as they fail to sustain themselves. Wide disparities in access to opportunities for education and professional and work-related training, employment, and social support mean that the timing and order of these evolutions depend on young people's specific situations (Honwana 2007).

It is clear that not only African adolescences are affected by unemployment and being provided for by their parents. Expressions like the “boomerang” or “yo-yo” generation have been used to label college graduates who return home and continue to depend on their parents. In Japan freeters and parasaito shinguru (parasite singles) point to the growing number of young people who are having problems joining the labour force and starting their own families (Miyamoto 2002; Kosugi 2006). In Italy, the term bamboccioni (big dummy boys) is a mocking term that indicates the rising number of young men in their mid-twenties and thirties who are still unattached and living with their parents. Thus unemployment, should then be perceived as a global phenomenon although it affects more young people in the African society. Young Africans involves a disenfranchised majority, largely barred from major socioeconomic institutions and political processes. It should moreover be noted that whatever their class background, many youths cannot afford to start families and households and are unable to become fully independent and participate in the privileges and tasks of social adulthood.

Anthropologist Marc Sommers postulates that the difficulties faced by young Rwandans trying to achieve financial independence and participate in adult obligations limited contact to land and deficiency of employment opportunities in the countryside drive many kilometres to the capital, Kigali, in search of work (Sommers 2012). Sommers settles that the widespread incapability of young men and women to get employment and full adulthood creates a vast array of social problems, including crime, prostitution, and the spread of HIV/AIDS. These anxieties are shared across the continent. The educational and employment chances available are insufficient to permit the youth to fulfil their basic aspirations, particularly in an economic environment marked by rapid technological revolution and globalization, as well as structural adjustment policies that botched to stimulate economic growth and employment and exacerbated poverty(Sommers 2012,). At the heart of the challenge, is without a doubt,

the unavailability of jobs. In Tunisia, unemployment rates are higher among university graduates. In Tunisia, enormous youth unemployment was the core of the revolution in 2011; and in Mozambique the food riots of 2010 also stem from deficiency of jobs and increasing challenges to make ends meet. Moreover, in all these nations there has been insufficient support for youth entrepreneurs. Moreover in Senegal Liggey, which refers to work in Wolof, the national language of Senegal, is one of the most famous virtues in Senegalese culture. Liggey is celebrated as a significant marker of adulthood because the capacity to work and provide defines a person's self-worth and position in the family. Yet ironically the bulk of young men and women are unable to find work and achieve a socially valued status as responsible men and women, as well as the sense of dignity rooted in the notion of liggey Honwana (2006). Thus youths need unequivocal guidance so they can achieve better heights in life. Pressure increase as their responsibilities multiply. As per African custom the youths after graduating they now have to look after their parents and siblings as a way of recompensing for educating him or her. Thus is no longer the case as the youth fail to get employed and still depend on their retired parents which makes life unbearable as the expectations are high.

Moreover it is manifest that more than an academic degree or professional diploma, personal networks with people at the top, in politics or business, are seen as essential to obtain a job. Young people are responding against these manipulations of power, to high unemployment rates and upsurges in the cost of living.

2.8 Youth Unemployment in Zimbabwe

Masunungure (2007) postulates that Zimbabwe has been facing economic melt down since the millennium. This has resulted in extreme poverty, unemployment and diseases. The 2008 global employment trends for youths it emphasised that youths comprise at least 45% of total unemployed persons. The economic condition in Zimbabwe has made youths vulnerable as

they lead a poor life with no hope for tomorrow. The economic meltdown in Zimbabwe has led to the closure of companies adding to the already existing situation. Nelson Hayes argues that youths are hit hardest by these challenges.

The deteriorating economic environment and high levels of unemployment has left many youths without coping strategies to sustain livelihood. However youths in Zimbabwe have been dynamic and use their skills to negotiate better living conditions even at the helm of poverty and unemployment. Honwana (2005) said that unemployment and waithood has accounted for a diversity of young people's experiences, ranging from daily survival schemes such as street vending, cross border trade and even participation in crime gangs. This is all done to enable the youths to manage their day to day lives. Unemployment has with no doubt affected a number of youths in Zimbabwe today. It represents the contradictions of modernity in which youths expectations and opportunities are constrained and marginalised.

In West Africa, the concept "youth man" is used to denote people who have not attained social adulthood despite their biological age (Abdullah (1998). In Zimbabwe's suburb of Mbare the term "magweja" is a common street name for youths who are unemployed and rather turn to informal dealings or hustles to make a living. It should also be noted that even men aged 40 are still recognised as youths because of their failure to gain a stable livelihood, live independently and marry and form families. African countries are believed to be struggling with economic deterioration, high employment rates and unconfident livelihoods and all of which affects the young ones heftily.

2.9 Poverty

The majority of youths in African countries are affected by poverty more than ordinary adults Molgat (2007). Many youths are grappling with lack of jobs and deficient education. Most of them even fail to accomplish ordinary level education because their parents due to poverty could not help sustain their education. This has supplementary worsened their conditions as it

becomes difficult to be absorbed in the industries without skills. For those who manage to go through school they are failing to get jobs and mostly their parents who are on pension would be looking up to them. Honwana (2007) argues that the youths after they leave school with a few skills they fail to get work or become independent to buy or rent a house or to be recognised socially as adults. Youth are especially defenceless to the structural conditions that generate poverty and limit socioeconomic motion. The youths are believed to operate like Lévi-Strauss's (1962/1966) *bricoleur*, a 'jack-of-all-trades' who manipulates and takes gain of circumstances whenever possible to attain his her own ends. Their actions sound like Michel de Certeau's (1984) strategies, or daily struggles that retort to immediate needs rather than longer-term strategies designed to attain broader ends (Honwana 2006).

A recent study done by World Vision in Epworth Zimbabwe indicates that on a daily basis most individual survive on less than or equivalent to US\$1 on a daily basis which has been concluded as absolute poverty. The lives of unemployed youths in high density Zimbabwe has been characterised by dire poverty and sustaining livelihoods being practically impossible. It is against this background that this research seeks to explore the ways in which they survive to cope with day to day activities. Poverty has limited their chances to be connected to companies or to send their resumes as some cannot even afford a trip to the central business district. Thus increasing poverty has further limited the chances of the unemployed youths in Mbare.

2.10 Age, Gender, Ethnic Origin/Race, Disability, Education and Skill Levels

Nations have distinct outlines in terms of the prevalence of unemployment among young women and men (O'Higgins, 2001). Young women and men experience unlike struggles in their day to day problems although their common denominator is without doubt unemployment and poverty, their coping strategies are different and should be examined differently. For the OECD countries the ratio of female to male youth unemployment

remained stable and close to 1 with slightly higher levels of unemployment for females through the 1990s (O'Higgins, 2001). In developing countries, the designs revealed a different portrait when rural and urban unemployment rates were measured for both genders. In urban areas, female unemployment proved to be much higher than for males (O'Higgins, 2001). O'Higgins (2001) demonstrated that the labour force input rates for females were much lower than males for a significant number of developing countries. Women and impoverished youths may make some of these evolutions much earlier (Molgat 2007) or much later, if at all. Different approaches affect different groups of youth disproportionately thus one has to pay attention to those who are most disadvantaged. Having a gender dimension is almost always important.

Nelson McGregor (2002) points out that violence and patriarchy distresses the life style of African women. He also notes that this cuts across religious and cultural beliefs and it limits the involvement of women even in grass roots decision. Although youths fail to contribute in national development programs and penetrate in the labour market it is noted by McGregor that females are the ones who suffer the most. Masunungure records that young girls in Zimbabwe fail to implement a decent lifestyle as they can do anything to get money this has however led to many of them to resort to prostitution and fluctuated hair dressing. The ones in authority usually request for sexual courtesies in order to help these girls to lead a steady life or to gain access to the reasonable formal employment. Tyson Hayes (2004) also argues that the infiltration of women in the economic and labour market is challenging as they are usually expected to perform house hold duties. Their life is restricted in the home, they have to cook and perform other duties. It is in this regard that one may note young boys and girls are affected differently with unemployment and there by calling for different survival tactics.

Young women and men also use their sexuality as a means of gaining a livelihood by engaging in close relationships with sugar daddies and sugar mamas for money, gifts, and

contact to fashionable goods. Undeniably, as Christian Groes-Green (2011), Mark Hunter (2010) and others have pointed out, these new kinds of relations are replacing prior patterns of intimacy among young people and creating new understandings of masculinity and femininity (Honwana 2012).

Many school leaving youths face imperfect openings for employment due to a poor tie between their skills, formal qualifications and demands of the economy, Bud lender (2006). In Soweto there is high certified unemployment rate of 26.5%, Perkins (2006) aspects influencing the school dropout rate, especially among girls comprise things like teen pregnancies and withdrawal Bridges-Palmer (2002) withdrawal from school is mainly due to the belief that education no longer holds hope for employment or better future. Kambewa (2001) says that in recent surveys done in Africa shows that there is general displeasure with school. It is alleged that girls drop out from school more than boys do. (Gaidzanwa and Mupawaenda 1989). It is professed that girls tend to have a dependency complex that makes them feel boys are far much better. Girls drop out of school to get married and start their families at tender ages than boys do. This study tries to identify strategies adopted to accommodate both boys and girls in the national youth fund.

2.11 Informal sector

Discussions about the informal economy have candied into three dominant schools of thought which are dualism, structuralism, and legalism. Dualist scholars contend that informal components and activities function independently and have few links with the formal economy (Sethuraman1976). Structuralism, in disparity, identifies that the informal and formal economies are intrinsically linked. Organisations in the formal economy can reduce their costs through informal manufacture and employment relationships with the informal sector (Moser 1978; Portes et al. 1989). The legalist method on the other side emphasise on the relationship between informal businesspersons and enterprises and the formal governing

environment and admits that capitalist interests collude with government to set the “rules of the game” (De Soto 1989). Given the heterogeneity of the informal economy, there is some truth in each of these perspectives (Chen 2006).

Honwana (2009) postulates that “rejected by the state and the formal sector of economy, they create new space and mechanisms for survival and operate in subcultures outside the hegemonic structures”. In this vein it’s clear that youths are not just waiting for a miracle but rather are finding ways in which to survive on a daily basis. Their lives are categorised with struggle day in day out rather they are creating “youth scapes” (Miara and Soep 2005) postulates that within these youth scapes they try to subvert authority bypass the encumbrances created by the formal sector and style new ways of operating on their own. In regard to this it is not alarming that the affiliation of youths in Zimbabwe and the formal sector and the state is marked with tension and distrust. Many unemployed people in Zimbabwe, Nigeria and Zambia have resorted to the informal sector for a living. They participate in a variety of activities which include being vendors, pirate taxis and in engaging in music circulated via social media. Police and municipal chase and harass these youths to designated areas to which they retaliate and locate themselves where there is more profit regardless of restrictions. (Sommers 2012) alludes that some formal corporations in Rwanda take advantage of high unemployment rates usually employers reject to sign contracts making many youths informal workers in the formal sector subjected to their bosses’ whims and in permanent fear of instant dismissal. Thus the lives of youths is further exploited by ruthless employers who suck on the labour of youths basing on their vulnerability and taking advantage of the high number of people who seek employment.

Masunungure (2006) postulates that engaging in some unlawful activity is becoming a livelihood strategy for an increasing number of youths in Africa. The most commonly used drugs include alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, bronclear and pills that are not prescribed to them

Goldstein (2011). Thus many youths resort to the selling of these drugs in order for them to make a living.

Illegal emigration has also been a tactic to deal with waithood. Young Mozambicans migrate to South Africa, while Tunisians cross the border to Libya and to Europe. Senegalese youths try to reach Spain by negotiating the desert and taking small fishing boats across the Mediterranean Sea. The same has also been the case in Zimbabwe as citizens migrate to South Africa Zambia and other neighbouring countries in search for greener pastures. Many do not have proper travelling documents and resort to border jumping some perish during this long, dangerous journey, others are apprehended and repatriated and few are able to make it (Lessault and Beauchemin 2009). The common of young migrants are males and aged twenty and twenty-nine years of age (Bassene 2010) who paid small riches to the organizers of the crossing.

Street vendors constitute an essential element of urban economies. Many young Senegalese in waithood, like many across the region, find their livelihood employed in small street kiosks, and others carry their goods on their heads or in bags and satchels and sell to people walking by or in cars caught in traffic jams. Cross border trading is a popular activity carried out by youth in waithood. In Mozambique young women, travel to adjacent South Africa and Swaziland to buy merchandises for resale in local markets. This activity is recognised as mukhero, a term that denotes to the low-level tax evasion practiced by small and middling traders. Youths have since become law absconders in order for them to gain a decent living in the tiring situations they face in the face of impending unemployment.

2.12 Conclusion

The literature sockets out that the majority of youths in Zimbabwe and worldwide today are grappling with lack of jobs. Youths find it even more difficult to get employed compared to adults. The youth are roughly three times more probable to be unemployed than adults, youth

to adult unemployment rate was 2.8 in 2007, up from 2.6 in 1997. Thus it becomes difficult and impossible for them to sustain their livelihoods as they are vulnerable to many shocks thus becoming unsustainable. It has also been pointed that different groups are affected by unemployment and poverty differently thus different approaches affect different groups of youth disproportionately, thus one has to pay attention to those who are most disadvantaged. Having a gender dimension is always important.

CHAPTER 3

3.0 Theoretical frame work

3.1 Introduction

This research was informed by Giddens (1984) structuration theory. Giddens (2001) describes the structuration theory as a two way procedure in which people shape the social world through individual actions and are reshaped by the society at large.

3.2 The structuration theory

Giddens was profound to comprehend how social practices are organised across time and space. In the structuration theory a hermeneutic preliminary point is accepted in so far as it is accepted that the explanation of human activities demands an acquaintance with the forms of life expressed in those activities Antony Giddens (1984). The form of activities in Mbare directly suggest the need for youths to participate in the labour market and get decent employment to sustain a living as Giddens asserts that an individual needs familiarity in the activities that form and shape their life if then youths are denied the familiarity of employment and absorption in the labour market they engage in malicious activities so as to replace the well-known formal way (employment) of earning a living and resort to other means possible. Giddens summarizes that Social structure is drawn upon by agents in their day to day actions and is therefore shaped and reshaped by this action in a social structure as they are intimately destined to each other.

Giddens furthermore outlines that actions are controlled and enabled by structure through traditions and moral values in this research unemployment is seen as the restricting structure that constraints and limits the activities of young people within a society (Mbare). Agency highlights events in which an individual is the instigator because an individual at some point could have chosen to act differently. Thereby the theory in this study refers to the labour market or unemployment as the structure and youths as the agency who can be affected by the form of the structure yet also having the power to produce and reproduce this structure through action. Giddens says that human agency is the capability to make a transformation, in this case the youths have the ability to make a difference in the society despite their failure to be absorbed in the labour market or limitations by unemployment they have found various ways in which to survive. According to Giddens action addresses not only personal moments of doing but accounts as well for the duration of human life and the continuous tide of

conduct. Youths are creative agents who can shape what happens in their society through their daily experiences. Thus the suburb of Mbare has been shaped and restricted by unemployment yet mainly depended on the day to day running of youths and people in it who are escaping unemployment and trying to earn a living.

Collaboration of individuals from various backgrounds adjusts what is acceptable towards the national development process. Giddens, (1991) postulates that continuity is only an artefact of the person's reflexive beliefs about their own biography. In Zimbabwe the society expects the youths to go through school or gain practical skills in order to be successful in his or her future through a form of employment which is sustainable and allows to sustain livelihood. This seems to have changed because of unemployment and dire poverty and most of the youths from high density background engage in different activities that do not have to do with the education or practical skills they have because the labour industry has ceased to absorb them, yet at the same time the need to sustain themselves and their families. Giddens and Pierson, (1998) argues that youths as creative agents influence the accepted structures of society and amend them their own way. Morals and values of a society should be maintained stealing, drug selling and prostitution are punishable offenses but due to hardships of life the youths are forced to engage in these activities so as to find a break through and sustain livelihoods.

Moreover Giddens believes that society is above the individual but the individual affects actions of the society through deviation. He alludes that 'Society only has a form and that form only has effects on people, in so far as structure is produced and reproduced in what people do' Giddens and Pierson (1998) however the societal constructions formulate policies that are reactive to the demands of individuals. Employment policies and youth empowerment blueprints (structure) in Zimbabwe has failed to assist youths and has been largely theoretical other than practical and this has had effects on the agents (youths) Thus a

steady relationship between structure and agency which outlines that the two work hand in glove.

3.3 Structuralism

The root of the theory of Structuration involves the identification of the connection between the individuals and the social forces that act upon them, (The relation between individuals (youths) and the labour market). Moreover, in Giddens' theory of Structuration he attempts to stabilise the role that actors play with their restricted choice of position in history and in the social material they find themselves. In this theory, Giddens proposes that individuals do not have entire preference of their actions and their knowledge is restricted, nevertheless, they are the elements that reconstruct the social structure and produces social change (Craib, 1992,). Hence the youths in Mbare are forced to act in certain ways because they find them restricted by lack of jobs and did not have entire preference of such a situation.

Moreover, it has been noted that structuration is suggested to have two important philosophical components which are Ontology and Epistemology. Ontology is the theory that proposes the existence of some phenomenon and Epistemology stresses the philosophical theory of knowledge, discovering a definition for a phenomenon, recognizing both its sources and establishing its limits (Cloke, 1991), for example, the unemployment phenomenon has restricted many youths in the day to day needs yet it has paved way for informality which has been a breakthrough for the other group. However Giddens is more concerned in proving the existence of the duality between structure and agency than defining what causes or reinforces its existence.

Furthermore he stipulates that structure and agency cannot be separated that they are associated with one another in what Giddens has defined as the 'duality of structure'. Human actors are the fundamentals that enable creation of societal structure by means of invented values, norms or are strengthened through social acceptance. Hitherto, at the same time

people are constrained by their social structure. The system of capitalism and work has long been there yet it has profound effects on the Zimbabwean economy with the youths mainly affected and failing to earn a decent living. An individual is not at the privilege or liberty to cherry-pick who his own parents are or the historical period in which to exist. Giddens thereby explains structure in relation to what he describes to as modalities which are a set of guidelines or regulations and resources or possessions and properties that involves human action. He further clarifies that rules restrict or limit human actions but however the resources facilitate it.

Therefore, Structuration is believed to be the process of structures replicating systems the organisation of interaction exists as an outcome of the structure of the language spoken. The organisation of employment exists as a result of industrialisation and capitalism. This connection is what Giddens refers to as the rules and resources established by structures that enable and reproduce social interaction. Giddens endorse that structures which are traditions, institutions, moral codes, and other arrangements of expectations are universally steady, nevertheless, could be transformed mainly during the unintentional consequences of action. For example, when people begin to pay no consideration to the social norms, replace them, or reproduce them in a different way.

3.4 Types of Structure

Giddens recognises three types of structures in a social system signification, legitimation and domination. In the stratification ideal of structure, Giddens attempts to demonstrate the links between the structure and the system of interaction (Jacobs, 1993). The second measurement of his stratification model, legitimation, yields a moral order via naturalisation of societal norms, values and standards. When discrete agents interact, they exhibit consciously, subconsciously, or unconsciously connotations (Giddens refers to these as sanctions) of their behaviour. Interacting in this way shapes the existing social norms and are weighed against

the moral guidelines of the structure. Therefore, whether or not an action is measured legitimate in the social order is structured by this measurement of legitimation. The final element, Domination, emphasise on the production of (and the exercise of) power, originating from the control of resources, which has been invented by Karl Max as capitalism. This final element of domination and the control of resources has been the route of melting economy leading to high levels of youth unemployment and company closures in Zimbabwe. Thus this type of structure has limited or piled a burden on the agency (youth) specifically in Mbare.

Giddens detects that forces of command and submission exist in the delicate command relationship that Karl Marx is well known for remarking upon. Giddens, like Marx, believes that properties are the vehicles for power. However, Marx is more attentive in the relationship between the means of production in the industrial societies whereas Giddens' objective is to recognise the power relationship as a form of interaction between the actor and the structure. Thus the relationship between youth unemployment and how they sustain livelihoods is based on the resources one has at hand and their access to the means of production. However in this notion, resources can be seen and pointed out as a form of power demonstrated by a manager and worker relationship. Furthermore, it should be noted that resources or positions can also be used in the custom of property notable as the provision of wealth or property which may all depend on the income one acquires the more the income the more the property and resources one control. Thus this relationship proves to be of importance for one's survival and others depended on him/her.

3.5 Agency

The rudimentary human acts and subsequent activities can be seen as the two crucial capabilities of what Giddens's terms the 'Agency'. Giddens differentiates between acts as a separate development of action and action as an unceasing law of participations by different and autonomous human agents (Cloke, 1991. Action or the aptitude to act by the agency is

continuously interacting with power thus many youths in Mbare fail to act against the levels of unemployment because they do not have the necessary power to do so in a Zimbabwean structure. Structuration theory proposes that the agency is the essential element to create any sort of change. Change can be alleged as simple as movement through space to interact with a new environment, there of altering interaction or as a simple voting practise to give a new birth of administration that will open up to new laws and legislature changing the monotonous ways of a given society.

3.6 Micro vs. Macro

Giddens contends that structuration is important theory for the study of micro and macro level studies. At a micro level one cannot choose who their parents are but have the choice to have children. The relationships one create are in continuous interaction and are organised by the individuals themselves. On the other hand Giddens argues that an individual may not be capable of blending and become a member or component of society without the state and social organizations conclusively.

On the macro level, the society is held together by common practices and set of rules and norms of survival which is structured by a set of resolute morals like state laws. However, it is the desire of this research to investigate the survival patterns of unemployed youths in Mbare in the wake of unemployment to see how they have redefined this structure through various activities to sustain their livelihoods. The core of Giddens structuration theory is the shared bond between individuals and exterior forces.

One thing of importance to note in Giddens theory is that the one referred to as the agency does not have absolute authority but however he is constrained and limited by the modality or expectations of the structure which is the societal norms and rules that restrict human freedom. As said previously, structure is not wholly restraining as a result of its rules but also facilitates action through resources. It can also be noted that in the Zimbabwean situation for

example, resources are unevenly distributed. There is a distinct class stratification as the major tool separating between the 'haves' and 'have-nots' forming the basis of class structure in contemporary Zimbabwe.

3.7 Conclusion

The chapter offered the theoretical framework for the study at hand. Giddens structuration theory displays the relationship between structure and agency showing how the two shape and restrict each other. The structure can have profound effects on the agency which can be the individuals within a society. Thus outlining the relationship between unemployment and difficult economy on the youths in Mbare

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

Methodology denotes to the moralities and ideas on which researchers base their procedures and strategies (methods). The objective of this research is to provide a greater understanding of sociological dimensions on youth unemployment and their coping strategies to sustain livelihoods focusing on youths in Mbare. This chapter presents the research methodology. It contains research design, sampling designs and sample size, strategies for data collection

which include interviews, questionnaires and documentary research, data analysis techniques, ethical considerations and data analysis.

4.2 Target Population

Population denotes to the total inhabitants occupying a particular place. The population features of this study was based on a specified age group of youths between (20-28) years and compassion of gender balance to choose those eligible to participate. The population of this study was made up of youths who reside in Mbare thus data obtained in this research is specific to youths in Mbare only. This research thereby investigated the lives of youths both males and females in Mbare educated or uneducated skilled or not who are unemployed and it seeks to inquire how they manage to sustain their livelihoods in face of economic hardships.

4.3 Research Design

The researcher used the qualitative methodology, which defines perspectives and convey feelings and experiences. The key reason for choosing the qualitative design is because Qualitative research targets to gather an in-depth understanding of human behaviour and the reasons that govern such behaviour (Chisnall, 2005). It becomes necessary that the livelihood strategies engaged by youths in Mbare needed to be assessed according to their employment opportunities taking into account how this has enabled them or restricted them from sustaining livelihoods. Qualitative methods permit the researcher to discover issues by following the priorities and actions of those they are researching, thus it became the most appropriate research design to use in such a research.

The qualitative model is based on interpretivism (Altheide and Johnson, 1994) and constructivism (Guba and Lincoln, 1994). The qualitative research design undertakes that there are multiple realities or multiple truths based on one's construction of reality. Reality is socially built (Berger and Luckmann, 1966) and so is constantly changing. Thereby in this

study it is not all youths who may fail to sustain livelihoods because they are unemployed for some things could be going very well depending on livelihood strategies engaged while others are failing to find a break through hence the qualitative research design gives room for all of these aspects to be assessed making it the most appropriate research design in this study. The investigator and the object of study are interactively linked so that discoveries are mutually created within the background of the situation which shapes the inquiry (Guba and Lincoln, 1994; Denzin and Lincoln, 1994). The study sought to examine the lives of unemployed youths who are struggling in sustaining livelihoods in face of the economic dilemma in Zimbabwe. Qualitative research enables the researcher to participate and borrow a day in the lives of the affected youths. Additionally, it seeks to understand a given research problem or topic from the perspectives of the local population it involves. Qualitative research is especially effective in obtaining culturally precise information about the values, opinions, behaviours, and social contexts of particular populations.

The strength of qualitative research is its capability to provide multifaceted textual descriptions of how people experience a given research issue. It provides evidence about the human side of an issue that is, the often inconsistent behaviours, beliefs, opinions, emotions, and relationships of individuals (Denzin and Lincoln, 1994) in this sense the issue of unemployment is a very sensitive issue amongst many youths which is accompanied by a range of emotions thereby to understand all this the qualitative method became the ideal research design. Qualitative methods are also operative in identifying intangible factors, such as social norms, socioeconomic status, gender roles, ethnicity, and religion, whose role in the research issue may not be readily ostensible.

Qualitative methods are stereotypically more flexible that is, they allow greater impulsiveness and adaptation of the interface between the researcher and the study participant (Berger and Luckmann, 1966). In addition, with qualitative methods, the association between

the researcher and the participant is often less formal than in quantitative research. Participants have the opportunity to answer more elaborately and in greater detail than is typically the case with quantitative methods thereby giving a deeper understanding at the subject at hand (unemployment and livelihoods) and the levels of its impact. In turn, researcher have the opportunity to respond immediately to what participant say by tailoring subsequent questions to information the participant has provided.

Furthermore, qualitative research design is Interpretive in nature, the researcher attempts to explain why something is taking place. There is stress on answering “why” and “how” something occurs. Thereby in this case the main question was why are youths unemployed why are they struggling to are get decent jobs and how do they manage to survive this situation how this unemployment has affected their lives could it be in a good or a bad way and are they able to run their day to day errands. Thus, the qualitative research design became suitable for studying youths and unemployment and their coping strategies. There is a focus on meaning rather than specific behaviors.

4.4 Triangulation

Triangulation is the procedure by which several approaches, data sources, theories or researchers are used in the study of a single phenomenon. The concept is believed to have its foundation in the ancient Greek mathematics, in contemporary times it is employed in topographic surveying as a checking system (Denzin 1989). This research thereby uses within method triangulation to confirm the findings generated through a particular method by another. Within method triangulation accepts different strategies or methods but stays within a single paradigm. The researcher used open ended interviews and focus group discussions in the qualitative study at hand such that the two validated each other in order to come up with reliable data. This method is of importance in the study, the main reason being that triangulation can improve validity and overcome biases inherent in one perspective.

4.5 Open ended Interviews

Interviews were used to gather information in the subjects own words from which insights on their understandings were obtained. The researcher is tried to obtain understandings from unemployed youths and how they sustained livelihoods thus to gather such information open ended interviews became the ideal tools. Moreover, they helped the researcher to understand the impact of unemployment in youths and how they had countered the dilemma. Qualitative researchers generally use open ended interview techniques because they allow respondents to speak freely and getting finer details about experiences, feelings and beliefs.

In this study, the researcher was required to ask subjects to respond to questions freely and on a personal scale without any bias. Structure of questions and order of presentation were determined by the researcher. Questions thereby had been open ended resting upon the reflections of the respondents. The interviewer will recorded the essence of each response.

The interviews consisted of a list of open-ended questions based on the topic area the researcher intended to study which was unemployment and sustenance of livelihoods amongst youths in Mbare. The advantage of open interviews in the research was that it gave room for the researcher to understand the impact to which unemployment had limited the opportunities of youths in Mbare. The open-ended nature of the questions provided opportunities for both the interviewee and the interviewer to probe and add understanding to the issues presented.

4.6 Focus Group Discussions

Focus group discussion is a qualitative research method which consists of 6-10 persons responding to the questions of the study. These aides the researcher to compare the responses from different youth participants and it allows for new ideas to be expressed. The participants were selected purposively to guarantee the homogeneity of the group. The researcher assembled a focus group of seven people and the researcher guided the focus group

discussions to allow members to talk freely and spontaneously about their everyday challenges in face of unemployment. In the focus group discussions the researcher utilised open-ended questions that put participants at ease and encourage them to express and explain their experiences as a group with similar circumstantial experiences. Focus groups discussions are free configured and allow the researcher pursue unexpected avenues that are relevant to the study, which could not be foreseen beforehand.

With limitations of financial resources, the researcher decided to make use of focus group discussions that is feasible for use in field research as more people were interviewed at the same time frame and using lesser resources. The researcher made use of 2 focus group discussions each comprising of 7 participants. The technique may uncover rich information of the concept of unemployment and ways in which youths are sustaining livelihoods, as well as perceptions and ideas of a group.

4.7 Documentary search

Journal articles, government publications were used to unpick the challenges faced by youths in different parts of the country this was done so as to compare if there are any similarities in the issues of youth unemployment elsewhere in Zimbabwe and that of Mbare. The researcher made use of documentary research as to see if unemployment had become a universal norm in Zimbabwe as a nation or that it is much witnessed in the oldest high density of the country and hence if the livelihood strategies are the same. It also unravelled the projects in place that aim to alleviate unemployment and poverty amongst youth. The other purpose for documentary research had been to see if the country had faced similar sky rocketing unemployment and to see how it was contained also if these strategies are feasible in the current situation. Thereby documentary research proves to be of importance in this study.

4.8 Observations

A non-participant observation was carried out in-order to observe strategies to sustain livelihoods done by different youths in Mbare. The observations findings were united with those of other tools like interviews to check descriptions against reality. An observation schedule was designed incorporating details of dates, venue, time and the main focus of observation. For this method, the researcher employed a convenient or attentiveness sampling technique interchangeably. This means that the method was performed mainly at places where most youths gather and scribe their daily activities. Some field notes were written down especially on most appearing and distinctive strategy of sustaining livelihoods.

4.9 Ethical considerations

Ethical considerations are highlighted as the researcher's obligations towards the people under study. The following ethical guidelines defined how the study will be carried out. Research evidence was held in strictest confidence. Names of the participants were not released unless the participant is comfortable. This confidence was assured by using numbers as names of the participants or codes in place of the name of the participant.

4.10 Confidentiality

Confidentiality is a vigorous attempt to eliminate from the research records any elements that might indicate the subjects' identities (Berg, 2001). In a verbatim sense, anonymity means that the subjects remain nameless (Berg, 2001). The researcher sought the permission of participants as a preservation of privacy. The researcher promised to treat private information from the participants as confidential and guaranteed the protection of privacy by use of pseudonyms. Privacy and anonymity was upheld by the use of pseudonyms and other identification details as recommended by Richards and Schwartz (2002) to make it difficult for society to trace the participants' contributions. The 1979 Belmont Report on the protection of human subjects specifies that researcher must "maximise possible benefits and

minimise possible harms". This study minimised possible harms by avoiding political affiliations of youth in this study.

Researcher guaranteed subjects that anything deliberated between them will be kept in strict confidence. It should be noted that the issue of reassuring confidentiality to the participants in this study decreased biases in the research if not the case the despondence will give half backed data as they are afraid of being exposed. Even if people are incorrect about their determination of who is being acknowledged, the results may nonetheless make people wary of cooperating in future research. Thus this research on youths was carried out in the strictest confidence to allow validity of the data obtained.

4.11 Informed consent

The researcher also made sure the respondents will be aware of the consequences, demands and risks (if any) of participating in the study. This ethic has gone hand in hand with the other one of avoiding coercion of any individual to participate in the study. Before asking questions, the researcher sought for approval from the participants. The respondents were told how the research was going to proceed, how the data collected was going to be used and how his or her contribution is of significance to the study. The researcher avoided invasion of privacy of subjects. Questions which seem to cause any discomfort on the subjects were avoided.

4.12 Data analysis

Data analysis in qualitative studies is known to be inductive. Analysis of the qualitative data acquired in this research involved organisation, classification, categorisation, a search for patterns, and synthesis. Thereby the information was arranged to related age group respondents and their livelihood strategies having particular eye on those successful in sustaining livelihoods and those facing challenges. The researcher took into account the three important strategies used for qualitative analysis which are constant comparison, negative

case analysis, and analytic induction. This guided the organisation of the attained data for this research.

Furthermore the researcher looked for patterns that appear from the data. It is understood that in qualitative data analysis, there are no pre-defined variables to center on for analysis. The variables are acknowledged through review of the data. The researcher thoroughly searched the data so that he may identify and become acquainted with the data and key themes, this was useful in that it prompted the researcher if he managed to obtain relevant data to the study of youths and unemployment and how they sustain their livelihoods. Moreover the researcher described the data in depth to offer detailed descriptions of the setting, participants, happenings, and classify, categorize and program data by grouping data into themes, integrate and interpret synthesize the organized data into general conclusions.

The major use of such an analysis is to offer the depiction of the people, events and setting so that the reader will have a vivid understanding of the framework in which the research was carried. This focuses on painting a verbal picture thick, rich description that describes the unemployed youths in Mbare as viewed from the participants' perspective (emic).

4.13 Constant -comparison

The researcher compared recognized themes and concepts to regulate distinctive features so they can be placed in the appropriate categories. As a new topic or idea is identified, it is associated to the existing categories. Categories are then added or improved to fit the new data then tested with additional data. Data was inspected for categories, patterns, consistencies and inconsistencies. Steps in this method comprise the collection of data from several cases, classify important issues or recurring events and use them to create categories. This helped the researcher identify patterns and relationships in youth unemployment and their livelihood strategies, develop a theory by continuing to collect and compare data and refining categories and relationships.

4.14 Chapter summary

This chapter has presented the methodology which was applied to obtain data from the respondents. The chapter also highlighted the reason why the researcher chose qualitative technique and its advantages. Furthermore noting how the obtained data will be analysed.

CHAPTER 5

5.0 PRESENTATION OF RESEARCH FINDINGS

5.1 Introduction

The chapter focuses on the presentation and interpretation research findings. Data was gathered through open ended interviews, focus group discussions and observations. The thematic based approach is used in presenting the findings of this study. The researcher purposively excluded other youths who had no residence in Mbare or those who are on transit. The chapter will focus first on the challenges met by unemployed youths before taking into account their livelihood strategies in face of unemployment.

5.2 Family and societal pressure

The respondents have shared the view that education is a means for social flexibility and economic prosperity for the common people. When young people have completed their graduate and technical studies, most of young people are not involved in any productive activity yet they are expected to be the bread winners for the family and households. In many African states the economic possessions of the middle and lower-middle class families are exhausted in educating their children, so, they are certainly expected to give economic support to their families afterwards Honwana (2009). But owing to less income prospects now-a-days they are unable to accomplish this anticipation. Consequently they become reliant on on their family for their economic needs. Responded no3 a 26year old youth in Mbare National highlighted that as a graduate at Bindura state university he is facing a lot of pressure from the family as well as society at large.

“Mukoma vangu zvinhu hazvina kumira bho makatonditarisa kudai ndakagruater paBindura university muna 2013. Unoona mukoma vangu vabereki vangu vose vakashaya Takakura tichichengetwa nababamukuru haa manje vakabuda basa nekuti makore avo anga akwana manje parizvino vanhu vose kusanganisira vanun’una vangu votarisirawo kuti

ndivabetserewo. Ndakazamawo kutsvaga basa asi zvikuramba manje maI pressure yacho.

(My brother things are not good for me, I graduated in 2013 and my parents are both deceased and my uncle paid for my fees. I have been unemployed since then not even for a week. Things went out of hand when he retired and I still hand nothing to offer. My younger brothers' as well as my uncle look up to me I have tried everything in my capacity to find work but nothing came up the pressure on me is just too much)

The respondents shared that regularly a person becomes stressed and pressured when he remained unemployed for a long period of time. He also highlighted that family disputes where inevitable especially when they come home empty handed. During the research interview some of the respondents seemed not to be bothered anymore with the problem of unemployment.

Dzimwe nguva zvakaoma kusvika paden usina kana chawakabata mukoma. Pauno svika usina kana chinhu haaa wega unozviona kuti pamba pari kurema rinotonetsa kudzikisa remusi iwowo. (Sometimes it is just hard to go home empty handed without you can actually feel it on your own that the atmosphere is tense).

Thus with the mentioned above the researcher noted that one of the greatest challenges that unemployed youths face is denial by the family and society as they fail to fulfil the socio economic needs that are expected of them. This can also be noted as the reason why most youths especially in Mbare engage in illicit activities it could be because of this pressure and denial.

5.3 Lack of Work Experience for Fresh Graduates

The respondents highlighted that employers are unconvinced about young people's capability to apply the skills they learn in schools to the practical challenges of the workplace. The challenge faced by young graduates in Mbare is the prerequisite of job experience. Many

corporations require work experience for a certain period of time in order to hire or employ an individual and this has pushed the young people to the side-lines of the show. Young graduates fail to fulfil this criteria as the internship opportunities in Zimbabwe are limited. In a focus group discussion one of the respondents a 24 year old lady had this to say

“most of the times our qualifications go in line with the requirements of the job but however the number of years of working experience is a great challenge for us since we recently graduated and have no work experience at all, the employers prefer those with working experience”

The research findings is a clear revelation that work experience is one of the greatest challenges being faced by unemployed youths in order for them to get a job as they keep on playing second fiddle to the older ones who have the qualifications and work experience required. University students interviewed by the researcher lamented over the deficiency of certain technical and professional skills required to get jobs. They said that they lack adequate training and thus cannot compete in the job market. The young ones in Mbare see these challenges as a substantial barrier to the productivity of inexperienced young people not just in Mbare but in the country as a whole.

5.4 NEGATIVE BEHAVIOURS

The researcher also observed that unemployment has led to negative behaviours among youths in Mbare. Joblessness is normally escorted by negative lifestyle such as use of alcohol, nicotine and other substances (Harris and Mar 2001). This is no different to the situation and challenges affecting unemployed youths in Mbare. The researcher visited several places within Mbare popularly known as *mabase*. *Mabase* are places where youths from different parts of Mbare would spent much of their time in engaging in smoking marijuana, cigarettes, drinking cough syrup known as Broncho, histalix and taking pills meant to be prescribed to those with violent mental dysfunctions. The researcher observed

that at these places entertainment is provided for those who come by which include Zimdancehall and Dancehall music and snooker tables. Moreover all of the illicit drugs mentioned above are sold to them by a person known as a Bhuyamani. So for every base there is a bhuyamani who is readily available to sell these drugs to those who need them. The researcher gathered this information through observations of the 5 drug bases in Mbare. Furthermore the researcher also observed that there is gender balance at these places as women are also present taking drugs as well as soliciting for potential customers for their vendors.

Furthermore the researcher got lucky to interview one of the youths at a base in the majoburg area who frequented the area and seemed to be stable and coming from a better background through his dressing and he had this to say

Ahh unotoona kuti kugara pamba pacho mazino kuswera wakangotarisana nemarata mdara, magraft hakuna apa mari yacho haisi kubatika futi ndikatouya pano pagullyside ndinotombofambisa nguva.(staying at home becomes boring and depressing, there are no jobs out there and there is no money so if I come here I occupy myself for a while)

The youths in Mbare could have given up on the economic challenges and majority of young people wander around and waste their time without being involved in any productive activity. There is a common saying in religious circles which says “an idle mind is the devil’s workshop” this can be true to the observations made by the researcher. The unemployed youths engage in these activities probably not because they want to but simply because they literally have nothing to do.

5.5 Reduction of Self-esteem

The respondents have shared that they grieve from low self-esteem due to unemployment.

The unemployed youths feel themselves as useless and unimportant and the negative

response of the family aggravates this feeling. In an interview with one the youths who graduated with a diploma in I.T at Kwekwe polytechnic. He highlighted that he felt his esteem has been lowered simply because he has been unemployed for 2years now and that his other college colleagues are living a decent life. He further on alluded that he changed even his friends as he felt he could no longer fit in. however the researcher was quite shocked by the fact that the respondent claimed not to be participating in any social media platforms as he said it made him feel more useless as many people would showcasing their stable lives yet things are going the other way for him.

Things have been difficult for the past 2years as most of my friends I was with at college seem to be doing well, I can no longer fit in from the dressing and even the phones they use. You just feel useless when you are unemployed actually you cannot even do things at your own pace rather someone whose financially stable does it just kills the real you. Even on social media colleagues post good pictures of a good life but for me it's just the opposite I deleted all of those applications.

Furthermore research has also highlighted that unemployed people are more likely suffer substantially poorer mental and physical health. Economic dependency and humiliation leads to negative self-esteem. Reduction of self-esteem during unemployment should be noted as one of the greatest challenges faced by youths in Mbare. Lower self-esteem can be regarded psychologically risky for the future life of a person.

5.6 Failure to establish families

The researcher through focus group discussion in the Matapi area noted that unemployed youths are failing to establish stable families as they claim not to afford the responsibilities that come with it. Molgat M (2007) identifies youths by social expectations and responsibilities such as becoming financially independent as well as marriage. The majority

of youths in Mbare today are grappling with lack of jobs and deficient education. Most of them they fail to get married or establish stable families.

A 26year old female respondent in a focus group discussion highlighted that getting married was not one of her top priorities but rather to get a steady job and be independent first before she can think of starting a family.

“nekuoma kwakaita zvinhu uku ukaenda pamurume usina kana chaunacho unochema chete ndopaanokuudza kuti ndakakuwana usina kana chinhu. Zvirinane nditange ndambounganidza twangu. Chero ukada kumuuita mwana wacho unomupei?”(Things are tough if you get married without any source of income it might be problematic and the husband might take advantage and ill-treat you simply because you have nothing, even if you want to have a baby and start up a family what will you feed that baby with?)

The societal expectations to the young people of today in Mbare have since been an elusive mirage in which they can no longer reach. Poverty has washed away these social expectations amongst unemployed youths as the fear to start their own families continue to grow as they lack the adequate resources to see them through.

A 27 year old male in the same focus group discussion highlighted that starting up a family just worsens the already dire situation that they find themselves in.

“mukadzi futi mdara nemwana ndozvinhu zvisingambodiwe izvezvi woti hauna basa ukutotadza kukwanirwa nekamari kaunowana uri one woda kuwedzera nhamo pamusoro peimwe” (a wife at this point and having children is not essential. I am already in poverty and you want me to add another burden on top of that)

The researcher then noted that young unemployed youths do want to start up families and get married however they are finding it difficult because they do not have the sufficient resources

to sustain their own families. Thus one of the gravest challenges facing unemployed youths is the failure to get married or establish families not because they do not want to but they are financially incapable as they do not have the required source of income.

5.7 Nepotism, favouritism and corruption

The notion of nepotism is considered one of the, major challenges for unemployed youths in Mbare and they have claimed it is the reason they stay unemployed for longer periods of time. The respondents accused those in managerial and administrative positions in companies of favouritism and nepotism. The respondents highlighted that those with relatives in influential positions are most likely to be employed as they can be easily referenced for vacant posts compared to them. A 24year old female respondent in Matagarika area highlighted that nepotism and favouritism has led her to be unemployed for longer period.

I have a secretarial diploma and have employed before unfortunately the firm closed down. Since then around 2015 I have found it difficult to get a job. Yes at times they may call you for interviews but this is for formalities only you will find that someone with lesser qualifications may get the job simply because they know someone within the structures. I know what am talking about this has happened several times.

Favouritism and nepotism are the biggest hurdles and the job placements take place on reference basis. Corruption is yet another obstacle for unemployed youths in getting jobs. Respondents have highlighted that at times you need to bribe someone in order to get a job. They have highlighted that sometimes these bribe fees would not be available and sometimes people get conned trying to bribe someone to get a job. A 26 year old male respondent in Mbare national had this to say,

Dambudziko ratosangana naro nderekuti kana usina waunoziva pacompany or wekupa chioko muhomwe zvinonetsa kuti uwane basa. Vanhu vazhinji ndoskiri ravari kupinda naro

magraft but vamwe vanovharwa nematsotsi. (The problem is if you don't know anyone or bribe someone within a company it's hard to get a job. Nowadays people have lost money to conman)

The buckled economic situation has further hardened the lives of unemployed youths as they highlight that they fail to get jobs on the basis that they do not know anyone within the companies. Corruption has greatly affected the country at large yet placing another heavy weight on the unemployed youths.

5.8 Livelihood strategies by Unemployed youths in Mbare

Attention is increasingly shifting towards pronouncing the divergent and complex nature of poverty and vulnerability among urban youth (UNFPA 2011). The demographic importance of young people is increasingly taking centre stage in discussions about sustainable socioeconomic development. For example, it can be noted that five of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) communicate directly to improving the situation of young people, universal access to primary education; gender equality in access to education; maternal health; HIV, AIDS and other diseases; and employment creation.

5.9 Studios and back yard gyms

The majority of youths in Mbare have opened up backyard recording studios which harbours zimdancehall artist. Many of these studios are substandard and lack proper organisation. The researcher also learnt that this studios are not recognised by the authorities of their existence. The recording studios seem to be a major source of income for Mbare youths as the researcher visited over eight studios who actually record at the same scale. One of the studio owners and producer popularly known as Fire King highlighted that he made decent amount of money enough to see him through the day

“The studio has been my source of survival, I started recording in my bedroom at home until I had to move out and rent a place as the volumes of artists who came by kept on rising day

by day. We charge \$25 and \$15 for a recording session. On a good day 10 to 12 artists can come through. The studio keeps me going and is my major source of income.”

The number of recording studios in Mbare is very high and the researcher managed to visit eight of the studios and interviewed three of the owners. They exhibited same strategies in terms of luring their customers and indeed they view the studios as their source of income. The other producer at a studio in Mbare national known as Hot Property studio said that he has a family to cater for and for now the studio has managed to bring to the table the needs of his family.

To add on back yard gyms have been sources of income for youths residing in Mbare. The back yard gym range from \$7 to \$12 a month for a single member. These gyms have become places where unemployed and employed youths visit regularly in order for their bodies to stay in shape. Owners of the backyard gyms are largely the youths themselves. In an interview with one of the owners he said that he earned a decent living through the weights he has although most of the gym weights seemed unbalanced people flooded the place. He has a membership of 28 people who pay \$10 a month.

“muchindiona ndiri pano nditori pabasa hakuna kumwe kwandinoinda mhuri yangu I notodya nesimbi idzodzi dzamuri kuona,ndave nenguva yakareba ndichiita zvegym iyi ko tingadii hakuna mabasa”(there is no any other work place I can be at, this is my work place, the gym has been my only source of revenue my family depends on this)

The youths in Mbare have resorted to different livelihood strategies in face of the economic hardships the country has been facing for the past decade. Backyard studios and backyard gyms have been sources of income for the majority of the youths.

5.10 Zimdancehall Music

The music industry has been flooded by youths in Mbare trying to find a break through to the hard economic times. The youths have engaged in different artistic skills in order to please the audience. Many of the zimdancehall artist are known to be originating from Mbare. The researcher noticed that zimdancehall genre is comprised of youths as young as 11years to at least 32 years. Many of the artists have taken the opportunity to share how they survived in the poverty stricken high density suburb. However the artists have said that it is not that easy to come up with a piece that pleases everyone and they have admitted that music has fed their families and made them live a decent life. The researcher interviewed one of the artist a 27year old popularly known as silent killer and he had this to say

“mangoma ndiwo anoita nditenge chingwa ndiwo anoita ndiwane chekupfeka ndikasarova ngoma mhuri yangu inofa nenzara” (music is my source of income my family rely on the revenue I make out of music for survival)

This clearly shows that the youths rely on music for their survival. Music industry has sustained livelihoods of many youths and families in Mbare. Silent killer also said that music has brought a new picture of the real lives of youths in Mbare. He said that Mbare was well known as a place of thugs and high crime rate, but it is through music people now see them differently and take them seriously. He highlighted that much of the money come through shows because their music is pirated so they never make money through cd.

“Mashow ndoanotiraramisa, dzimwe nguva mashow anotanga Thursday kana zvichifaya unogona kuita four mashow in a single night.”(we mainly survive on shows at times if it’s a good day you can have four shows in a single night)

Music has been a source of livelihood for many youths in Mbare as they fail to get employed and get decent education. Zimdancehall music is much popular in Mbare and young people

now rely on this genre to sustain themselves and the families they stay with. Thus youths may have responded to unemployment worse through music.

5.11 Vending

Mbare is well known for having the biggest farm produce market in Zimbabwe popularly known as Mbare Musika. At this place farmers deliver their fresh crops every morning around the wee hours of the morning and some travel from faraway places like Mutare, and Kariba to sell their produce. Most of these farmers would sell their products in bulk and vendors will sell them in small quantities.

Vending as a livelihood strategy is not confined to Mbare only, the central business district of Harare has also been filtered with vendors who resist the authorities so as to earn a living. Maria a 26 year old vendor postulated that she survives on vending and that her two children are able to go to school through the revenue she raises.

“tinohodha zvirimwa zvedu nemutengo wakaderera kuvarimi mangwanani chaiwo zvekuma 4am tozvitengesa chidambu chidambu zvekuti unoitawo profit irinane. Ndiri single parent vana vangu vanotoinda kuchikoro nemari yekutengesa yandinowana”(we buy our farm fresh produce from the farmers in bulk at a lower price early in the morning around 4am then we sell in smaller quantities, that's how I raise school fees for my children)

Furthermore she alluded that even her rent and rates she affords to settle them as she gets enough money through vending. However she has said that the rainy season is always problematic as the volumes of people decreases due to weather yet having greater volumes of the farm produce. Vending is one of the ways in which youths in Mbare have managed to sustain their livelihoods in face of the economic dilemma.

Furthermore apart from the farm produce vending the researcher visited the Mupedzanhamo market (a Shona word lightly translated as "The finisher of quandaries"). Mupedzanhamo is a

market for low-priced clothes, with shirts and T-shirts available for as little as \$1 U.S, or second-hand pair of shoes for \$5 US. The market is frequented by people from Mbare and the surrounding area but has become a popular shopping location for middle class. The majority of touts and people who sell products there are the young people. Blessing a 24 year old young man said that on a day he gets at least \$10 profit for the clothes that he would have sold. He insisted that he started vending in mupedzanhamo after he finished his A level at Harare high and could not proceed because of financial shortages. He said that he tried to find a job but to no avail hence resorting to vending in Mupedzanhamo.

“Selling clothes here is my only source of income I look after my mother who is ill and I can manage to buy here the necessary medication. Of cause at times things get tough with the council seeking money but at the end of the day we manage to survive.”

Mupedzanhamo and Mbare musika have then contributed to the sustenance of livelihood for many youthful vendors who have not managed to get employed. They face various challenges in vending which include bribing the council but however vending has become a livelihood strategy for many youths in Mbare.

5.12 Craftsman

Furthermore youths with technical skills have sustained their livelihoods through another market known as Magaba. Magaba is a market place for metal goods and other craftsmanship which include wood work. Many youths with technical skills who do not have jobs have started doing their own things and making their money through making products such as chairs, tables and beds to mention a few. Tau a 24 year old carpenter said that he was retrenched at Nyore Nyore Zimbabwe furnishers and faced a difficult time after that. He later on found a spot at Magaba and started making wooden products such as chairs, beds and coffee tables.

“Everything is well here I once was hurt when my job ended just like that but now I think am doing much better than before. The money I get here is enough for everything including having beers nearly every weekend I have become my own boss”

The youths in Mbare thereby are making a decent living through craftsmanship in order to sustain their livelihoods. Tau highlighted that people flood the place because they have the chance to customise and personalise any product they need. He sees this as an advantage over the well-known furnisher shops who have specific designs which may not suite individuals.

“ I make everything from scratch and usually for customised furnisher I charge an extra amount, some will have designs they have seen in a magazine and I will produce it as it is, moreover people have the right to negotiate here than in town”

The Magaba area a hub for promising entrepreneurs and artists, making products such as cooking pots, cups, and carpentry work such as tables, beds, chairs, display units and coffins. These activities provide a livelihood for a substantial portion of the population of youths in Mbare.

5.13 Drug Dealing

Drug dealing has become a livelihood strategy for unemployed youths in Mbare. Masunungure (2006) alludes that engaging in some illicit activity is becoming a livelihood strategy for an increasing number of youths in Africa. Although it can be undermined and neglected by many researchers drug dealing has become a popular livelihood strategy for youths in Mbare. The researcher who once was a resident of Mbare used his familiarity with the place to conduct interviews with the drug dealers. In the first interview a drug load resided in Majoburg area said that he gets his revenue through selling marijuana.

“I sell marijuana for a living and many people who use this drug need it on a daily basis so it's just like buying bread they can't do without it. Usually a bulk paper bag of marijuana

coasts me \$35-\$50 us dollars depending on the grade. Some grades sell faster than others and some are more intoxicating than others. Normally in return I get at least \$100-\$120 per paper bag because I sell One small portion from \$0.50c to us \$1 at most per day I sell 3 to 40 paper bags of marijuana”

Researchers have established that youths start using drugs for four main reasons which include improving their mood, to escape the effects of idleness and unemployment, to reduce negative feelings and to avoid social rejection Engels (2005). Brave unemployed youths in Mbare have taken advantage of this situation and they are now making a living through selling these drugs regardless of the age or gender to whom they sell. The drug dealers also highlighted that not only youths use marijuana but even some members of the military and police force come to their services. In another interview with a drug dealer a female this time around whose 27 years old and popularly known as “Masister” she said that she bought a car and pays her rentals for both where she lives and sells drugs through revenue from drug dealing.

“Look I drive my own car I feed my family and do not live in the streets it’s all because I have a brave heart. I only have 20 levels and couldn’t get any decent work. I started by selling marijuana then I doubled it with bronclear or bronco. A box of 50 bottles of bronco coasts me 90 us dollars and I sell a bottle for \$3. It’s a fair profit I have almost three years in this business and I managed to buy my own car. Ghetto youths love bronco and a day I sell 3 to 4 boxes. If the police comes by we just give them a few dollars to walk away.”

The selling of drugs has become a popular phenomenon in many high density suburbs. The drug dealers take advantage of the prevailing economic hardships and stressed unemployed youths and sell them these feel good drugs. Many youths are engaging in the selling of drugs as a livelihood strategy.

Apart from bronco and marijuana the researcher noted that those with lesser cash go to other drug dealers who sell prescribed pills known as ‘mangemba’. These pills comprise of a blue and a pink pill. Many youths have engaged in the selling of these low value but harmful pills which are well known for relaxing capabilities. Research shows that these pills are normally prescribed to violent mentally disturbed patients in order for them to be calm. One of the dealers of these pills postulated that he makes a living through selling these drugs. Asked on how they get them he was not willing to disclose but had this to say,

“a box of the blue ones contains 100 pills and costs at least \$2 to \$3 us dollars while on the market I sell them for 10 cents each, the pink pill the stronger one I buy them \$3 to \$4 us and sell them at 20c each” people who cannot afford bronco usually resort to these pills, that’s how I have survived for the past 2 years, I don’t regret being unemployed.”

Drug dealing is one of the main livelihood strategies adopted by unemployed youths in Mbare Harris and Mar (2001) in his study concluded that joblessness is accompanied by negative lifestyle such as use of alcohol, nicotine and other substances. These negative lifestyles have however become sources of survival for some youths in Mbare as they ensure the availability of drugs to their customers whenever they need them. Kids are being sent to school, people buy cars and clothes through drug dealing.

Pirating CDs

A number of youths in Mbare are surviving on pirating musical cd’s, movies and series. A number of them sell these disks in town or in Mbare closer to shopping centres. The respondents highlighted that they at least make a profit of \$0.50 cents or less per every two cds they sell. Tau a 24 year older cd dealer had this to say

Tinowanzo kuisa musika wemadisk angu kuma 3 masikati vanhu vazhinji ndopavanenge vakufamba. Madisc anoita \$1 us for two. Madvd haana profit yakanyanya nekuti anodhura kutohodha asi ndiwo anodikanwa nevanhu vakawanda. Ndave nemakore maviri tichitengesa macd ndoanondiraramisa muhupenyu. (I start selling my disc around 3 in the afternoon that

time a number of people will be frequenting the shopping centre. The discs coast \$1 for two although we don't make enough profit on DVDS they are the ones on demand. I now have two years selling cds and it's my source of survival).

Thus the researcher noted that youths in Mbare engage in various economic activities to make a living despite the fact that they are not employed and the economic hardships instead they bulldoze their way out. Selling pirated CDs has been a livelihood strategy amongst youths in Mbare and has comforted them in the face of unemployment.

5.15 Conclusion

The respondents highlighted that they face numerous challenges arising from unemployment which include family and societal pressure, failing to establish families and to be independent, idleness and negative behaviours to mention a few. On the other hand they have adopted livelihood strategies which include vending, selling drugs and singing dancehall music to make a living.

CHAPTER SIX

6.0 DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Introduction

The focus of this chapter is to summarise the research project as a whole. It concludes the data gathered by this study in regard to youth unemployment and their responses to sustain livelihoods. It also focuses on the conclusions of the whole research and the necessary recommendations.

6.2 Summary of the research

The research commences by highlighting the objective of the study which were used as guidelines in obtaining data. The research used Glidden's Structuration theory as the theoretical frame work that guides the research and analyse the data that was collected on the challenges facing unemployed youths and their survival strategies to in face of the economic dilemma. Related literature was of importance to this study as it conveyed out the findings of other researchers in relation to the study at hand. The study employed different methods in gathering data which include unstructured interviews and focus group discussions and open ended questioners as part of the methodology used in the collection of information. Furthermore the research used qualitative paradigm to help bring out detailed information by the respondents. Findings in this research brought out the different challenges faced by unemployed youths in Mbare.

The major purpose of the study was to investigate the challenges being faced by unemployed youths in Mbare as well as their various undertakings to sustain livelihoods. Relating on the findings of this research it showed that unemployed youths in Mbare face various challenges that include family and pressure, low self-esteem, negative behaviours, lack of experience needed to get a job just to mention a few. The findings also show that youths engage in various life survival strategies in face of unemployment which include, backyard studios and

gyms, selling of drugs such as marijuana, production of zimdancehall music and vending. Lack of technical and professional skills further alienates them from employment because of deficient education is another challenge faced by unemployed youths in Mbare.

6.3 Unemployment

Unemployment has affected an enormous number of youths in the high density suburb of Mbare. Unemployment distresses the economic development by squandering the abilities of youth. This has led to a number of challenges affecting the youths. Unemployment does not just affect an individual's personal life but generally the whole society at large has to suffer and also an entire economy of the nation is destroyed to some extent. The researcher noted that unemployment led to the disintegration of families as some youths can be forced to migrate from their parents to neighbouring countries or cities in search for employment. Empowerment programs that support the participation of youths in the economic and labour market is essential so as to alleviate them from poverty and change their lives and of those to follow. Research findings of youths in Mbare in this study shows that youth unemployment breaks down one's morale, destroys the courage in the young ones, tempers with their confidence and ambition, and lastly leads to poverty. A person's social life is unpleasantly affected due to unemployment.

The 2008 global employment trends for youths postulates that youths comprise roughly 45% of total unemployed persons yet they constitute at least 60% of the total population. In respect to this the researcher advocates for strategies that invest in the employment of young ones preparing them with necessary practical and technical skills that allow them to be absorbed in the labour market. Youths in Mbare highlight that unemployment is the norm of the current order in Zimbabwe such that they have become used to it and many of them have resorted to singing dance hall music in order to gain a living. The ILO also revealed that the youths are best likely three times more to be unemployed than adults, youth to adult unemployment rate

was 2.8 in 2009 compared to 2.6 in 2007. Thus the researcher argues that not only does unemployment affect the present day of the young ones but it has scathing effects that may be capable of ruining someone's life for good if not properly dealt with. Turning a deaf ear to the challenges facing the unemployed youths will lead to many problems in society which may include the spread of HIV and AIDS as well as high crime rates as youths may resort to any means possible to sustain their livelihoods. The respondents in this study shared that normally a person becomes reckless and careless when he remained unemployed for a long period of time. Thus some of the negative behaviours being displayed by unemployed youths is not because it is naturally in them to be this way but simply because they literally have nothing to do.

6.4 Lack of skills and knowledge

Youths displayed lacking relevant and adequate skills in relation to job requirements and the demands of the labour market. Some of the youths are school drop outs as highlighted in the previous chapters thus finding it difficult to get employed as they demonstrate a lack of skills that might attract the employer this then makes it more difficult for them to get employed. This route ensures the youths in Mbare face more problems in getting employed. It is in this regard that youths lament over their lack of skills and education as the main hindrance to them finding a proper job. Hence to overcome this situation there is a need to conduct public workshops that give insight to youths on what they are required to be better positioned for employment.

6.5 Work Experience Prerequisite.

For those who have the skills and necessary requirements they have lamented over the prerequisite of work experience in order to get a job. Previous job experience to get hired is yet another obstacle for fresh or inexperienced candidates in getting jobs (Mitchell's 2012). This prerequisite has placed the much elderly people with experience above them thus

worsening the chances of the fresh graduated youths to get a job. The number of corporate internships appears not to tally with the number of graduates produced yearly in Zimbabwe. After interviewing a number of young people and knowing their perceptions and ideas to the high unemployment rate the researcher noted that on an economic level, it is a big loss to the country if the young people continue not playing their due role in the economic sector. The big problem for young graduates in Mbare is the prerequisite of job experience. Young graduates from various parts of Mbare fail to fulfil this criteria as the internship opportunities are also limited. The university graduates often lack certain technical and specialised skills required to get jobs. They lack proper training and thus cannot compete in the job market.

6.6 Nepotism and corruption

Nepotism and corruption in getting a job in Zimbabwe has scathing effects on the youths in Mbare who come from third class families and do not have relatives and anyone they know in managerial roles in companies. This further distances them from the prospects of getting a job. They also displayed a lack of financial resources that could be essential for bribing in get jobs. Yes of cause the present Zimbabwe has become much of who you know other than what you know. Getting a job has become a scarce commodity in Zimbabwe that has been commercialised to suit the individual needs of those who have and control the means of production. It is in the regard that Giddens defines structuration as a two way process that people shape the social world through individual action. The participating of every individual is significant to shaping the society; thereby the participation of youths in the labour and economic market is vital.

6.7 Livelihood strategies

The various livelihood strategies adopted by a number of youths in Mbare are informal and most of them illegal. Most of the youths resort to vending as a coping strategy but the face numerous challenges which include dodging from the authorities on a daily basis. The spread

of contaminated diseases has also been on the rise in Mbare because of the poor facilities in which farm produce is being sold in. The respondents said that the authorities need certain amount of money on a daily or weekly basis which clearly shows a rogue element in the law enforcers of the country. Such things should be dealt with to ensure legitimacy and moral strength within the society.

Furthermore the youths also resort to criminal activities such as the selling of toxic drugs for a living. Yes they could be making money out of it now but it should be noted that drugs have an everlasting effects on an individual as well as the society at large. The effects of these drugs have been revealed to be causing mental illness as well as deaths thus there is need for strategies to lower these activities. Those who sell bronco claim that it is imported from South Africa yet in Zimbabwe this cough syrup has been banned. The alarming thing is that it continues to flood the black market which can show that the emigration department is not doing well to the smuggling of these harmful products. On the other hand the police instead of arresting these people who sell these drugs they rather chose to collect bribes on a daily or weekly basis resulting in more people dealing in the drug because they know there are no harsh consequences to it. It is hereby that the researcher noted that unemployment does not only have long lasting effects on the recipients (youths) only but the society at large and the nation. This research has also seen the rogue elements that are brought by unemployment and could coast generations if proper policies and measures are not put to work.

6.8 Recommendations

- Training programs should be implemented to equip the youth with knowledge and skills pertaining the chances of employability.

- The researcher recommends the accessibility of internships programs that can accommodate the number of graduates so as to equip them with professional and technical skills bettering their chances of getting a job.
- The government should come up with clear empowerment programs and policies that are for the youths who come from poor backgrounds as they are the ones who suffer the most and this reduces youth's idleness.
- The researcher recommends that the Zimbabwean government need to strategies the informal sector by opening more markets where the youth will be involved in semi-skilled jobs in Mbare.
- The government should come up with clear youth empowerment programmes that are specifically made for the youth who come from poor backgrounds. Thus these programmes should not enquire a joining fee or any subscription.
- There is need to come up with drug awareness workshops that should encourage youths to desist from drug abuse and engage in more developmental programs.
- There is need to come up with strategies to counter corruption and hefty penalties for those who engage in bribes.

6.9 Conclusion

The chapter managed to summarise the research and concluded the findings. The researcher made recommendations prior to the findings in a bid to improve and tackle the challenges faced by unemployed youths as well as to improve their participation in the labour market.

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