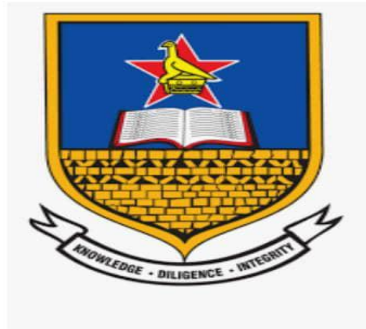


**YOUTHS, LIVELIHOODS AND COVID-19. THE OLD HIGHFIELDS CASE IN
HARARE, ZIMBABWE.**

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**A thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of Master of
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DECLARATION

I Shingirirai Cain Nzvere declare this thesis as my own research work which has not been submitted at any institution before. The work was done under the supervision of Dr Tafadzwa Chevo in the Department of Community and Social Development.

Signed:

Date:

DEDICATION

To youths in Old Highfields who are struggling to make ends meet. To my late parents Aaron and Bertha Nzvere who did not live to see the fruition of their labour. In loving memory of Soul Jah Love, your lyrics *“ndati kokanai, mese foneranai, hama dzese unganai, mumbosvika pano, toda kumboponda nhamo, tisvike kumagumo, hatichamuda pano, vachazotaura dzava ngano”* calling for poverty alleviation to all ghetto youths.

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ACRONYMS

BVTA:	Bulawayo Vendors Traders Association.
CBD:	Central Business District.
COVID-19:	Coronavirus.
GoZ:	Government of Zimbabwe.
ICBT:	Informal Cross Border Traders.
ILO:	International Labour Organization.
MCBA:	Masvingo Cross Border Association.
MITA:	Masvingo Industrialisation and Trade Association.
MoH:	Ministry of Health.
SADC:	Southern African Development Community.
SME:	Small to Medium Enterprises.
STELLAR:	Strengthening the Livelihoods and Resilience of Youth.
UN:	United Nations.
UNDP:	United Nations Development Programme.
VISET:	Vendors Initiative for Social and Economic Transformation.
WHO:	World Health Organisation.
WPAY:	World Programme of Action for Youth.
ZBC:	Zimbabwe Broadcasting Cooperation.
ZUPCO:	Zimbabwe United Passenger Company.
ZHRC:	Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission.

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ABSTRACT

Despite the vast existence of several studies on youths and livelihoods, there is dearth of research on COVID-19 pandemic and national lockdown effects on youths in the informal sector. The purpose of this research was to ascertain the youth's knowledge and practice of COVID-19 in Old Highfields, Harare. This qualitative study explored the main issues raised by youths in the informal sector in regard to the challenges they are facing due to COVID-19 public health response as mandated by Statutory Instrument 83 of 2020. All participants were from Old Highfields operating at Machipisa shopping centre, Nyandoro main road and Willovale road. The Resilience Theory was used as the main theoretical framework guiding this study. Participants were purposively selected and fourteen in-depth semi-structured online interviews and an online focus group discussion were conducted. Data were analysed from recurring themes during collection. The study revealed that youths in Old Highfield had rich knowledge and practice on COVID-19 symptoms and preventative measures. Online interviews with youths in the informal sector revealed a decline in their livelihoods and rights due to the induced national lockdown. Youths in the informal sector are being disregarded and are not included as essential workers. The study revealed that Zimbabwe's government has no respect for human rights, and youth is one of the categories of society whose socio-economic rights are not recognised. It was found in the study that youth are showing their full potentials of channeling in new modes of survival and quickly adapting to technology when doing business. From youths' experiences, one can therefore, conclude that many of them are languishing in poverty due to their physical business premises being closed because of COVID-19 induced national lockdown. There is need for further research focusing on COVID-19 and its impacts on all sectors of society and marginalised groups.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.0. Introduction

This study seeks to document knowledge and practices regarding the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The study also aims to unpack the challenges faced by youth as a result of the current Coronavirus pandemic and the response led by the government in the form of lockdown. The study focuses on how these youths survive, how they meet their needs, and various strategies they use to overcome obstacles. It also seeks to ascertain the outcomes that youth face when attempting to restore and sustain their livelihoods and rights. Because of political and economic factors, the youth have been undermined, underrepresented and face challenges. Although several researches have previously focused on the livelihood strategies of youths in urban Zimbabwe such as those conducted by Mhazo (2020) in Bulawayo, Chipenda (2018) in Harare, and Honwana (2013) in Senegal, Mozambique, Tunisia and South Africa youth in the informal sector in Old Highfields Zimbabwe's second largest high density slum have been examined in depth. As a result, the purpose of this research is to shed light on the plight of today's youth in the midst of a pandemic, that has gone unnoticed for far too long. Youths continue to bear the stigma of being stereotyped as rebels, drug addicts, and are subjected to oppression to map their own lives and livelihood developments (Sommer, 2010). According to Mate's (2009) study in Beitbridge, Zimbabwe's crisis has led to an increase in the number of youths to be involved in the informal sector to earn subsistence and supplement their economic well-being. Mate (2009) emphasizes that the visibility of youths in public appears to be idle while also flouting national laws and by-laws. The manifestations of the informal activities by the youth have served as foundation for them to be stereotyped as lazy people, disorganized, and labelled as criminals.

1.1. The Study's context

Globally, the Coronavirus pandemic had a significant and devastating effects on people's lives. There were 6 898 613 confirmed cases and 399 831 confirmed deaths as of June 7, 2020 (WHO 2020:3). According to Chevo et al. (2020), the coronavirus is still stretching around the world, with over 33 million confirmed cases as of September 30, 2020, and 7,837 confirmed cases in Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe, like other low- and middle-income African countries, is at high risk of a full-fledged pandemic (Mackworth-Young et al., 2020). To contain the epidemic, the Zimbabwean government declared the COVID-19 epidemic a national disaster on March 23, 2020. It began implementing a number of prevention and

control measures, such as information, education and communication to promote good hand hygiene practices, covering mouth when coughing, wearing face masks in public places, and social/physical distancing (GoZ, 2020). Chevo et al. (2020) published a study report that provided accurate and up-to-date knowledge of practices that can help to prevent COVID-19 transmission which is critical for individuals to protect themselves as much as possible from being exposed to the disease. The government passed the Public Health Regulations, which included additional measures such as restrictions on public transportation and movement, the prohibition of gatherings, and mandatory testing and detention of suspected cases (GoZ; 2020).

Moving on to the youth, Banks (2016) notes that since the 1970s, there has been an over-representation of young people among the unemployed in both developed and developing countries, leading some to argue that youth have become a significant part of an underclass. According to statistics, there are 1.2 billion young people worldwide, with 85 percent living in developing countries (ILO, 2012b). Across the Commonwealth, youths account for roughly one-third of the total labor force, with youth unemployment rates ranging from 30% to 50% or higher of total unemployment (Commonwealth Youth Charter, 2006). In Zimbabwe, accessing social and economic rights for both male and female youth entails seeking livelihoods through formal employment, informal economic activities, and agriculture. Youths have participated in various programs to combat poverty, but these programs have only provided a hand-to-mouth income, making them unsustainable. To cope with stress, young people have turned to drugs and prostitution, among other things. The pursuit of a decent living through employing oneself and entrepreneurial activities has recently risen to be at the top of the priority list when it comes to development. However, the public health response to COVID-19, in the form of a national lockdown, was implemented in the context of a highly formalized economy, with standard unemployment rates exceeding 94%. (Mlambo, 2017).

The informal economy employs most young people as both a first and last resort, with 3.5 million small businesses providing 5.7 million jobs (Mujeyi and Sadomba, 2019). In Zimbabwe, informal youth's livelihoods in Harare are frequently threatened by evictions from public places, where they are frequently alleged of going against city by-laws and urban planning laws (Kamete, 2012). During the COVID-19 pandemic, similar clashes between informal youths and urban authorities were reported in Uganda (Parkes, 2020) and Ethiopia (Guday Emirie, 2020). Despite the frequent clashes, harassment, arrests, and evictions, young

people have continued to challenge authorities through covert and overt livelihood strategies (Kamete, 2012). Some of these strategies include Night Street vending, whistling communication with one another when authorities are and other means. Arrests and confiscation of goods put youth at risk during the public health response, which takes the form of a national lockdown accompanied by travel restrictions and the stay-at-home mantra, given that the majority of informal sector workers rely on daily wages for subsistence. Thus, the goal of this study is to focus on youth (male and female) living in the low-income, high-density urban area of Old Highfield, to investigate their knowledge and practice of COVID-19, as well as how the epidemic has affected their livelihoods and the national health risk mitigation measures put in place to manage the situation

1.2 Statement of the problem.

Mate (2009) studies in Beitbridge, Sommers (2010) overview in Africa, Mhazo (2019) in Bulawayo and Chazovachi (2020) in Masvingo have documented the plight of vulnerable groups like youths and women prior to and during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Ssali (2020), the coronavirus and the national lockdown had a negative effect on the income of youths. In Uganda. Mukhaye (2020) discovered that female youth street food vendors who attempted to work during the lockdown were beaten by security personnel. exposing human rights violations. The Chazovachi (2020) study revealed the malignant state of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the public health response to youth, older women who differentially abled orphans and children. Chazovachi's (2020) research took a broader spectrum approach, whereas this research takes a localized spectrum approach providing an in-depth. The study also aims to spark further thought and research on the COVID-19 public health response in the form of a national lockdown and livelihoods. The study purpose is to contribute to the discussions of youth and livelihoods in the era of a coronavirus pandemic and urban Zimbabwe mitigation strategies.

1.3 Objectives of the research.

- To ascertain the young people's knowledge and practice on COVID-19 in Old High Field Harare.
- To examine the challenges young people in Old Highfield, Harare's, informal sector encounter within a COVID-19 public health response context.
- To investigate young people's strategies and processes engaged in Old Highfield, Harare's informal sector, to restore and secure livelihoods during the COVID-19 public health response

- To assess the outcomes of young people's strategies and processes in Old Highfield, Harare's informal sector, restoring and securing livelihoods within a context of COVID-19 public health response

1.4 Research Questions.

- What are young people's knowledge and practice on COVID-19 in Old Highfield, Harare's informal sector?

- What challenges young people engaged in Old Highfield, Harare's informal sector, face within the context of a COVID-19 public health response?

- What are the strategies and processes used by young people in Old Highfield, Harare's informal sector, to restore and secure livelihoods during the COVID-19 public health response?

- What are the outcomes of strategies and processes engaged by young people's in Old Highfield, Harare's informal sector, in restoring and securing livelihoods within a context of COVID-19 public health response?

1.5 Study's Justification

This study will investigate how public health measures to combat COVID-19 have affected youth livelihoods and their responses, given that a large proportion of youths rely on informal sector livelihoods and daily income to survive. Furthermore, the study will provide an overview of youth perceptions of the COVID-19 public health response and measures to increase adherence as well as address how youth livelihoods can be adapted and made more resilient to covariate shocks COVID-19 crisis. As a result, the study, will provide policymakers with information on how to ensure that public health responses to COVID-19 and other similar epidemics can coexist with their livelihoods. Influencing policy will make it easier for those international statutory instruments that provide guidance on the all instruments that will be put in place to enhance youth livelihoods at the national level, for example the Africa Youth Charter, United Nations Resolution of 2250 on Youth Peace and Security, and the United Nations World Programme of Action for Youth, to be domesticated and operationalized in Zimbabwe during the COVID-19 period.

1.6. Thesis Outline.

Chapter one provides a brief summary of the research Youths, Livelihoods and COVID-19 demonstrating precarious nature of Youth livelihoods and the survival mechanisms used by these undocumented youth in Old Highfield. Following the introduction to the research,

chapter two provides a review of the literature on coronavirus and how it has affected youths, gendered nature of coronavirus effects and public health response, and challenges faced by documented youths in Uganda, Ethiopia, and Zimbabwe.

The third chapter focuses on the research's theoretical framework. The research is illuminated through a multidisciplinary lens by (Van Breda, 2018) Resilience theory, which has its origins in the study of adversities and characteristics on how adverse life experiences affects people negatively. Adversity, outcomes, and mediating factors are all intertwined in resilience research. The fourth chapter describes the methodology, which includes the purposive sampling technique, semi-structured online interviews, focus group online discussions, thematic data analysis, and various ethical considerations such as the right to privacy, informed consent, and confidentiality to protect the youth under study.

Chapter five contains a presentation of the findings. It is divided into four main themes that address the study's four research objectives, which are to find discover the youths' knowledge and practice on coronavirus and the government response of calling for a national lockdown, as well as to find discover the adversities, mediating processes, and outcomes that youth are experiencing in the lockdown in the low-income high-density suburb of Old Highfield. Chapter six will discuss the research findings are going to be discussed, relating them to the analytical framework so that research questions raised in the first chapter can be answered.

1.7. Summary of the chapter.

The chapter introduced the main issues and context of the youth research study, including livelihoods, rights, and COVID-19. It concentrated on research questions, study objectives, problem statement, feasibility of the study, novelty and necessity of the research, and the overall research organization.

CHAPTER 2: REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 Introduction.

This section will provide a brief summary of contextually- relevant youth experiences that occurred prior to and during the COVID-19 era. The literature on the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic is fairly extensive, studies on youths and livelihoods during the COVID-19 crisis period, are extremely limited. This section will review the literature on Youths, Livelihoods and COVID-19 under study, including pragmatic and theoretical findings as well as critical debates.

2.2 Issue Conceptualization

2.2.1 Zimbabwean youth

Young people are defined as people around the age of 15 and 35 in Zimbabwe's Constitution Amendment number 20, Act 2013, Section 20, and are navigated Africa Youth Charter, to where Zimbabwe is a member (ZHRC, 2020). Section 20 of the Zimbabwean constitution establishes youth agenda for the human rights of youths in Zimbabwe, highlighting that institutions and agencies at all levels in the country must take reasonable measures, including affirmative action, to make sure that young people do have equal accessibility to formal education and training, opportunity to affiliate, represented, and participating in economic, social and politics in the country and other aspects of life, (ZHRC,2020) The section concludes by emphasizing the importance of all of these measures being inclusive, nonpartisan, and national.. Youths are more vulnerable to a variety of problems because their lives are in transition and they face numerous decision-making challenges. According to Magona (2007) the youth are the most important component of society because they represent the nation's future.

2.2.2 Subsistence

Livelihoods are the abilities, assets, and activities required for a way of life. Livelihoods can be sustainable if they can deal effectively with and recover from stresses and shocks, and if they can better their abilities and assets in the present and, in the coming future, without depleting the natural resource base. Chambers and Cornway, (1992) define formalized people use a variety of livelihood strategies to live and survive the daily turmoil that they face day-

to-day upheavals of life. In light of the above foregoing, Makaso (2003) explains that livelihood strategies are economical because they provide financial support for oneself. People's livelihoods are moving, and they fit and change in response to inside and outside stressors. Finally, prosperous means of providing necessities in life converts assets into money, rank, agency and improving living conditions, which are required for alleviating poverty. Livelihoods are common to everyone, which means that both the rich people and poor pursue livelihoods to make a living. However, poor and marginalized people's basic needs, capabilities, and rights are increasingly threatened and eroded by adverse economic conditions, droughts, climate change, and poverty reshaping their livelihoods (UNDP 2007; Adger 2010; Quinn et al. 2011)

2.2.3 COVID-19

Coronavirus is a zoonotic virus, that belongs to the Coronaviridae family of the Nidovirales order (de Oliveira Lima, 2020). It is a virus family that causes respiratory infections. Coronavirus infection has a wide clinical spectrum, ranging from a simple cold to severe pneumonia., COVID-19 manifests clinically as a flu-like syndrome at first. Individuals infected with coronavirus typically starts to have symptoms, such as gentle respiratory sickness and unending fever, 5 to 6 days after infection ranging up to 2 weeks. In contrast to the progressive decline seen in influenza cases, the fever is persistent. WHO-China Joint Mission on Coronavirus Disease (2019) reported the following signs and symptoms based on a study of 55,924 confirmed cases: fever was recorded 87.9 percent, on dry cough 67.8 percent, on fatigue 38.5 percent, on sputum production 34.4 percent , on dyspnea 15.6 percent, on sore throat 14.7 percent, and headache 13.6 percent , (de Oliveira Lima, 2020). According to the study report by Rohan et al. (2020), COVID-19 is still spreading globally, with over 33 million confirmed cases worldwide as of September 30, 2020, and 7,837 confirmed cases in Zimbabwe.

2.3.1 The global context on COVID-19.

COVID-19 in the United Kingdom, the government health response in the United Kingdom, like in other countries, had involved a slew of serious changes that have highlighted the already available inequalities. These comprises of mandatory shutdowns of most industries such as hospitals and retails, schools and also nursery closures (Blundell, 2020). All these consequences of these changes have not been felt equally by all members of the population. The government ordered the shutdown of entire sectors of the economy in order to stop the virus from spreading. United Kingdom, like other countries, this comprised of retails that are

non-food, non-pharmaceutical such as arts, restaurants and hotels. Passenger transportation has also been significantly minimized as a result of lockdown orders, and a traveling using airplanes had been suspended. As a result, the economic impacts of the lockdown have mainly affected workers in the industries that were forced to shut-down. The workers affected by the lockdown are mainly female, youths, and poor wage earners. Information gathered since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic agrees on a survey of 4,000 individuals that was conducted at the end of March 2020. According to Adams Prassl et al. (2020) found that youths workers and those who work on low incomes are most likely to have lose their job due to the coronavirus, and have been experiencing a decrease in their daily earnings, than those with good paying jobs. A research that was conducted of over 17,400 participants from the ‘Understanding Society’ panel discovered that the huge drop in employment was massive amongst the youths particularly those with no education and youths who are self-employed experienced the greatest drop in hours worked. Youths from poorer families have suffered the most as a result of school shut downs, and those who had started working this year face consequences coming from the labor market collapse. However, according to the UN (2010) report, youth problems within the developed countries and those youth problems in third world countries somewhat varies because their socioeconomic statuses primarily shape their challenges. The study in the United Kingdom appears as an abstract to the inequalities brought about by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and did not fully cover the plight of the Youths who reside in poor high-density urban areas, and this study will fill that gap because the challenges that youth face differ in terms of time and space.

2.4.1 Prior to COVID-19, Youth and Livelihoods.

According to Porter et al. (2018), youths are mainly present in Ghana and Malawi selling phones, lines and juice cards, chargers and repairing cellphones, accessories, offering mobile money services. This has been an appealing opportunity because it only needs less capital and no formal skill. According to the study, about nineteen youth in Ghana and twenty-three in Malawi highlighted that they own business of selling airtime, with other five in Ghana and eighty in Malawi owning their business of selling phones, and such livelihood strategies have provided an adequate income for them. According to Porter et al (2018), A young woman aged 20 years of age, for example, highlighted that she is sales airtime and it has enabled her to take care of herself and pay for her education and she continues with her business ,as she saving money for her entrance into nursing college. In urban Malawi, young people reported same stories of prosperous livelihoods. In a study conducted by Porter et al (2018) in urban

Malawi, a young man aged 20 years of age, who repairs phones and electronic gadgets for over three years stated that he is making money and is not complaining at all. The 20-year-old man not only supports himself, but also some of his extended family. According to the study, the youth do not have enough financial resources to move away from disadvantaged areas. Another issue is that youths are impoverished, which is worsened by sending money back to rural homes.

Between 2008 and 2012, Alcinda Honwana (2013) conducted a study with participants from Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa, and Tunisia, discovered that youths rich and developing nations face same problems of being excluded and their futures limited., despite differences in their material, cultural, and political circumstances. The study found that youths in Africa are not represented and majority of them are largely excluded from major socio-economic organizations and processes of politics. Many young people regardless of their socio-economic background, are unable to start families and households and hence are failing to become fully independent and become responsible adults. According to the study, a young man aged 30 who is from Soweto, South Africa, has been failing to find a stable job since finishing his high school diploma years ago. The man subsists on temporary work, mainly stocking shelves in retails and supermarkets. According to the study, non-existing job opportunities in rural areas have driven youths to migrate to the cities, where they can find work and a stable livelihood though chances are very slim. Despite the fact that an increasing number of youths are finishing high school and even enrolling in university, the imbalance on educational systems and the labor markets is leaving many youths unemployed and are resorting to the informal economy (Chen 2006). Youths have coined phrases to describe the hostile and unstable nature of their lives. Participants in the study stated that they 'had evolved into "jack-of -all-trades" as they manipulate taking advantage of the situation whenever necessary to achieve one's goals.'" In Howwana's (2013) study youths engage in cross border trade, vending and the smuggling of goods shared their experiences., In the study, sexuality was portrayed as a survival strategy as they involve themselves in having sexual relationships with old men and women in exchange for cash and other resources.

According to Mabala (2011) research, youth are generally vilified as enemies and threats to the stability and development of the country. As a result, youths have been neglected or mistreated by the state. Youth have become a threat to the status quo's supporters. According to Mabala (2011) the majority of Africans are out of school, are failing to find work, and are forced to reside in informal settlements where they are disconnected from any organization.

According to the study, the problem of youth begins with the definitions that different countries have. According to the study youth are regarded as people who are around the ages of 15 and 24, and youth bulge theorists who believe that youths are dangerous, youth are seen as people aged 15 and 30, and their identity crisis has led to injustices because the issue is not fully addressed. According to the study, youth unemployment is much more prevalent in cities. According to the study employed youths are likely to work longer hours under harsh and work arrangements without protection and security, with low productivity and earnings that are inadequate (Mabala, 2011). According to the research, young women are working for longer hours than young men, and most of them are underemployed and out of the labor force. According to Mabala (2011), most migrants are young people. They constitute the most of those compelled to stay in informal settlement areas without amenities and social services. Many of these slum youths not formally employed. These youths survive on small entrepreneur activities in the informal jobs sector, and few have access to any youth development programming that may be available. However, the study was conducted during a time when many industries were normally in operation. As a result, this study on youths, livelihoods, and COVID-19 will fill a void left by the closure of many industries and businesses, which may have exacerbated the situation.

Marc Sommer's (2010), study on urban youth in Africa, hypothesized that work or the need to find work dominated much of the lives of urban youth. According to the study, many urban dweller's livelihoods are technically illegal, in many, if not most, cases. Sommers (2010), agrees with Mhazo (2019) because the study found that finding formal sector work can be especially difficult for urban youth, due to a lack of jobs and many youths lacking the qualifications that formal sector work frequently requires. Sommers (2010), described the difficulties in Sierra Leone, where only 9% of the working population was employed in the formal sector and opportunities for youth were significantly limited. As an alternative, the study reported that many urban, African youths, both male and female, are engaged in work that often provides insufficient money for adequate survival. Sommers (2010), emphasized the importance of religion in providing structure, support, and a wealth of resources and activities, as well as possibly in finding housing or a job for young people. In the study, urban youth who rejected mainstream tradition and religion were frequently chastised. According to the study, being out of school and unemployed or in and out of work invites perceptions of young people as destitute, thieves, and prostitutes, and such labels have made the youth feel excluded. However, Sommer (2010) focused only on the problem of societal perceptions of

youth, whereas this study it will cover the perceptions of youths have toward the COVID-19 public health response in the form of a lockdown, which is now the new challenge for them.

2.5 Youth Prior COVID-19 pandemic

According to Malepe (2015) 's study on youth inequalities and challenges, youths lack necessary financial resources mainly because of their young age, which is an impediment for youths to being able to fully engage in economic activities. The study uncovered the Botswana and Zimbabwean Youth Development Funds, which provide insufficient funds to unemployed youth in order for them to establish sustainable and competitive businesses. Most young people lack management in the finance and skills for marketing that required to begin and running a business. For instance, approximately 60 % of youth not formally employed who are targeted by the Zimbabwe Youth Fund cannot write standard business proposals. Governments, in most cases, are failing to provide such writing skills. Malepe (2015) study clearly demonstrated that youth unemployment and poverty are widespread. According to Machadu and Jena (2015), in 2014 August, most youth who are active members of the Zimbabwe opposition parties faced arrests and beatings after leading demonstrations with the theme 'Occupy Africa Unity Square' on their banners. The young protesters were fervently challenging and asking the government to fulfill its obligations and promises to improve the accessibility to proper healthcare and education and employment.

The failures of the government completely violate the rights of youth to a decent standard of living. As a result, youth are more likely to be involved in criminal activities, alcohol, drug and substance abuse, low morality, poor health and political instability. According to Malepe (2015), absence of formal employment is widespread across SADC, and even countries with more resources such as South Africa and Namibia have failed to close the wealth gap and alleviate poverty, making the youth poorer. In countries like South Africa, youths particularly black, are at the bottom of the food chain, underpaid and not benefiting significantly. Youths who not formally employed in the region are not receiving welfare in the form of cash transfers to purchase necessities such as clothes, food and shelter (Machadu & Jena, 2015). According to the study, youth policies and programs in SADC countries are failing to address or providing solutions to problems being faced by youths. The main negative social consequences of youth unemployment stem from indolence. For instance, unemployed young people resort to deviant means of earning a living, as well as drug abuse, the outcome of which comprises addiction, cases of suicide, and inevitable mental health issues. The study, however, took a broader spectrum approach by looking at SADC countries, whereas this

study will take a more localized approach by understanding the challenges faced by youth in old Highfield during the COVID-19 lockdown.

2.6 Youth challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic in Uganda and Ethiopia.

The researcher chose Uganda as part of the literature review because it has similar political governance to Zimbabwe, where governance is capitalistic in nature and there is no respect for human rights. The first confirmed coronavirus case in Uganda got discovered in March, 2020, and their first death from COVID-19 occurred on July 23, 2020. According to the Ministry of Health (MoH 2020), Uganda has 7,777 COVID-19 cases with 75 deaths. Uganda's COVID-19 response strategy, implemented prior to the first case being detected, included a phased lockdown on March 18, 2020; a hard lockdown on March 20, 2020; school decongestion; rampant testing of the virus to people in quarantine and at country borders and surveys in communities (Bongomin, 2020). Currently, the lockdown is being relaxed. However, high-density areas such as schools and public gatherings (churches and rallies) continue to be restricted. The COVID-19 response strategy resulted in mass unemployment and the loss of livelihoods for many of the country's youths.

2.6.2 The effects of the lockdown on nature are gendered.

According to Ssali (2020), the Uganda economy created by neoliberal economic reforms was largely small scale and service -oriented, with the majority of businesses being self-owned (Asiimwe, 2018). As a result of the lockdown, many of these businesses closed, either as a result of the requirement or due to a lack of customers. For example, informal sector traders, and craftspeople in the tourism sector were out of work, while those employed formally, particularly women, were placed on forced leave. For example, the Kampala Serena Hotel placed 350 employees on forced leave (Kwesiga, 2020), and the Hotel Africana considered halving its workforce when hotel occupancy rates fell from 75% to 25%. (Kulabako,2020). Many private education institutions (from primary to tertiary) followed suit, suspending the teachers' services until the institutions reopened (Atulinda 2020). With the exception of the health sector and food markets, the majority of essential services that remained open, such as truck driving, motorcycle and bicycle riding, security, media, and construction were dominated by men (Ramos 2020). Women and youth predominated in the service sectors such as tourism, hospitality, and infant educators, as well as the informal economy as petty traders, vendors in markets, traders who operate in roadsides, hawkers, and lastly cleaning services (Uganda Bureau of Statistics UBOS 2019), the majority of which were forced to close (Media Centre, 2020). Without earnings and social safety nets the situation became

extremely precarious, particularly for especially female -headed households (YigaNystrand and Tamm 2018), (Yoga 2020a). However, Ssali's (2020) study did not thoroughly focus on the adaptation and survival strategies of other vulnerable groups, such as youths, during the COVID-19 pandemic, on which this study is solely focused on.

2.6.3 The lockdown's negative impact on youth.

According to Ssali (2020), the majority of the young people interviewed described the negative effects of the lockdown on their families' income and livelihood. Many people have still had enough basic food to eat, because they have been able to rely on food from their gardens, with some remarking that the last harvest was a good one, implying that they still have enough food to live on (Ssali, 2020). However, for the majority of them, their incomes have been significantly reduced, either because their parents' work has ceased due to the lockdown, or because the income from their work had been reduced. As a result, many young people and their families have been unable to purchase basic necessities such as sugar, salt, or soap. Participants in the study such as Kiprotich, were able to continue with subsistence farming and while he felt the impact was minor, he still lost some income because he could no longer sell bricks. Musisi, had to stop working as a bricklayer and was struggling to pay his rent. Linda, along with her mother and sister, went days without eating because they couldn't find work (Ssali, 2020). Adikini and Tawana, both young mothers, lost their jobs in as waitresses and in a wedding decoration business, with Adikini now digging in neighbors' gardens to earn a little few dollars to support her child and herself. When some of the core participants were able to engage in finding part-time work, they reported being exploited by their employer, who due to their own lower incomes, failed to pay them or paid them less than agreed. The study, however, did not go into detail about the rights of both male and female youth, which is where this study seeks to fill the gap.

2.6.4 The livelihoods and rights of disabled youth during the lockdown.

The researcher chose Ethiopian experience as part of the literature review because it declared the coronavirus case on March 13, 2020, the same month that Zimbabwe did, and while the number of their confirmed cases had been low, in July 2020, confirmed cases numbers went as far as 13,000, including 200 people recorded dead. A study conducted by Guday Emirie (2020), conducted a study that revealed that while some youth who are differentially abled in the research were staying with their parents who had reasonable economies to sustain their families, some were living on their own and were independent and responsible for their own

survival. Within the research a youth aged 17 years who lives with a visual impairment explained Gunday Emirie ,2020), the participant sometimes went a day without food, due to a lack of any source of income, and they used to eat for 3 times a day at a school that had the service, unfortunately due to the public health response , it had been discontinued. In the study, youth parents were reported to be in absolute poverty and staying in the rural areas, failing to take care of their vulnerable children with disabilities, and these youths are now completely reliant on community support in their compound. (Marshall, 2020). Youth who are differentially abled who make a subsistence on the street, for example, those who are in the business of shining shoes, emphasized that their earnings had been largely reduced, in most cases chronic, following the pandemic outbreak. Most of them found themselves without work to do because the local authorities barred them from working in the streets. (Yadete,2020). 'A large number of disabled youths also stated that they are now closed between trying to make sure that their income and survival is still available but on the one side of the situation trying by all means to protect themselves from coronavirus. (Gunday Emirie ,2020).

2.7 Youths in Zimbabwe

Many young people in urban Zimbabwe have resorted to precarious means of subsistence (Kamete, 2010). According to Kamete (2010) 's research, young people's survival strategies on Harare's streets include defying official land use planning controls and opposing the often-violent restoration of order by authorities such as the Zimbabwe Republic Police and Council Officers. Youth who work in the informal sector are considered illegal because their occupation of the spaces violates property laws. Youth have devised survival strategies in which they oppose land use controls, by directly challenging the planning system that is legitimately tasked with the public production of space. During these clashes with officials, the study revealed that youth were subjected to raids by city authorities, and their reaction to these raids was to flee. Participants in the study stated that when they saw the police, they would 'scatter like birds from all directions, each one taking as much personal property as he or she could." They would then stand helplessly and passively in a distant location, watching as the police destroyed their shacks and confiscated their merchandise. According to Kamete (2010) research, when youth are apprehended and their property is seized, they peacefully go to the Harare Metropolitan Police (HMP) headquarters to plead with the officers and pay fine for breaking some section of some by-law. On some sites, the youth were able to engage in some form of negotiation with the authorities. In all cases, the negotiations began with

petitions, in which the youth enlisted the help of an influential person to mediate their disputes with the authorities.

According to Mate (2009), the visibility of youths practicing informal activities and dealing in Zimbabwe's streets heavily resulted in a public complain about the insecurities that came with it as young people created self-employment by offering forced services and exploiting the public threatening them and practice of violence or property damage if services rendered were not fairly paid for. Scoones (2019) deconstructed that as well, writing that while many youths adapt and fit, others note the effects on mental illness, self-esteem, and rank, leading to substance and alcohol abuse and crime for most of the youth. Mate (2009) discovered that youth in the informal sector use guerrilla tactics such as demanding food to pedestrians in the streets who will be carrying goods and food. Youths also snatch and spit at the food to force people to give it up. They were also the reporting of youths demanding to guard and wash people's cars for a fee and also carrying goods by head and pushcarts for travelers. Mate (2009) found that the activities done by youth created and benefited from the informal economy where livelihoods were based on the principle of *kukiya-kiya*, which seeks to explain hustling in the streets doing little activities to earn subsistence. Youths began working in a variety of occupations, including informal mining, sex work, doing scam activities and cross border trading. According to Scoones (2019), all these *kukiya-kukiya* activities do not provide a safe environment because they are harsh and they do not provide sustainable adequate incomes.

Homeless youths on the streets earned some income by keeping standing in the line for birth certificates, passports, drivers licenses and national identity applications for late comers who would like to use the service. Mate (2009) found hustling and opportunism in the form of touting relating to public transportation system and it is done for a fee by gangs that are sometimes unknown to the owners of the minibuses (Mate, 2009). Youth in the touting business earn income by advertising, shouting the route, bus fare, and helping to load it. Their main job is to get people into a vehicle and loading bags and goods so that the vehicle fills full quickly and the tout can be given money by the driver. According to Scoones (2019), youth are engaging in a wide range of activities, including piecework laboring, trading and. This, however, had run afoul of the authorities, as Kamete (2006) pointed out, as it had resulted in complaints about public safety. However, Mate's study was conducted when COVID-19 was not in the picture, so times have changed. The focus of this research is to document the experiences of youth livelihoods during COVID-19 crisis, filling the gap.

Mhazo (2019) conducted a study in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe's second largest capital, which revealed a lack of job opportunities for the graduate youth. The majority of job opportunities in Bulawayo were reported to be for unskilled and semi-skilled individuals, making them unsuitable for the graduate youth interviewed. The study revealed that employment as a means of subsistence for the youth is a major challenge, as participants noted that job opportunities were widely available in Harare, implying that local companies, governmental departments, and multinational corporations are all present in the capital city. Because the youth did not live in Harare applying for jobs in these companies was deemed difficult. According to Mhazo (2019), the youth find it difficult to find jobs due to nepotism, and because Bulawayo has a fewer jobs than the capital city Harare, one had to have a connection or a social network linked to a job vacancy in order to obtain a job. According to the study's participants, social capital is a source of or the only way to obtain a job. According to the study, youth also lack experience for jobs for which they are qualified, some have no industrial attachment, and those who do have employers do not consider it. The study emphasized the difficulties that young people face in finding work because most jobs require at least two years of experience. However, in extreme economic landscapes, youth have resorted to hustling, which is defined as the everyday livelihood strategies employed by marginalized youths to capitalize on opportunities to earn money. (Munive 2010; Thieme 2013).

2.8. Strategies adopted by youth in the city of Bulawayo in response to exclusion from the formal sector.

Cross-border trading was mentioned, and some of the interviewees participated in it by purchasing goods from South Africa and Botswana to sell in Bulawayo. This was made possible by the ease with which Bulawayo and the two countries can be reached. Youths stated that they travel to South Africa and Botswana to purchase electronics, clothing, and groceries that are not available in the country or are prohibitively expensive in Bulawayo. Other young people in the study were selling everything, including cosmetics, based on the orders they have received. Cross-border traders emphasized street vending as a method of selling their wares. They would either hire people to do street vending or do it themselves. This is consistent with Mwaura (2016), who discovered that for educated youth, dealing and hustling was perceived to be providing opportunities for youths. Mhazo's (2019) study, youths would sell a collection of similar items such as new and used clothes purchased in Mozambique, jewelry, books, and building materials. With the increase in the number of commuters daily and the failure of public city taxes and buses to absorb this population, some

youth have engaged in a small passenger pirate business services transporting people during the day and night. Participants in the study drove their parents' cars in what is 'known as mushika-shika, a term used to describe unregistered taxi drivers. According to Mwaura (2016), youth transitioning from diverse activities to other shows that how they grab unforeseen labor market benefits while staying alert on future benefits. In the study, forex dealers faced variety of threats from the police, who frequently conducted clean -up operations that resulted in the arrest of youth on the streets. According to the findings of the study, the youth's livelihoods are not sustainable as a result of the government's monetary policy reforms, which have a significant impact on those in the black market, leading to the business's demise. However, Mhazo's (2019) study was conducted prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and forced public health response because people were still illegally operating much of their businesses in the CBD, this study will fill the gap because there are now travel restrictions.

Chipenda (2018), discovered that youths in Harare are doing variety of income -generating activities so that they supplement their incomes. According to research, car washing became a very common and popular business for youths in Harare city. As a survival strategy, youths can be viewed washing cars in the street, parking bays, car parks, and at bus stops throughout Harare. For identification, youth in this type of business explained that there is a need to find a busy place more visible to motorists. The youths in the study preferred this type of livelihood because it requires less capital to purchase buckets, have access to water, detergents, brushes, cloths, and wax polish to get started. According to the study, as the business grows, the youth can afford to buy themselves some vacuum gadget cleaners, pressurized pump, and some generators, critical to clean cars on the inside and exterior (Chipenda, 2018). A 21-year-old man who runs a car washing business stated that he chose this business after experiencing five years of being unemployed when graduating from high school and after noticing some young people doing it who appeared successful.

This is in line with the findings of Mwaura (2016), who discovered that when formal employment ceases to exist, youths who are educated are choosing jobs that allow them to develop new survival strategies also known as doing and creating "work for myself." As a result, the neoliberalism ideas of self-creation (Durham ,2007), competition solipsism (Standing 2011), and multiple identities are generally used (Schwiter, 2016). The study also highlighted the difficulties that foreign currency trading dealers face. The huge number of youths trading in united states dollars and other foreign currencies, which continued to rise

due to the country's high levels of unemployment., was having a negative impact on business. However, Chipenda (2018) conducted his research while nightclubs, bars, and kombi transportation were still legal. As a result, this study on Youth, livelihoods and COVID-19 will reveal whether the COVID-19 public health response in the form of a lockdown has worsened or negatively affected the youth's livelihoods.

2.9 COVID-19 public health response involving lockdown and livelihoods.

Masvingo Urban's Vulnerable Groups conducted a study on Understanding Strategies for Resilient Livelihoods. Within coronavirus pandemic in Zimbabwe, Chazovachi (2020), findings discovered the nature of the pandemic to the young people, women particularly the elderly and those who are differentially abled, orphans and children due to the study's broad-spectrum approach. According to Masvingo City Council reports, cross -border traders, chitima fruit and vegetable dealers, informal money market dealers, informal transport dealers, small general dealers, and those in educational support services were the most vulnerable groups (Chazovachi,2020). These vulnerable groups were divided into two groups: the Masvingo Cross Border Association (MCBA) and the Masvingo Industrialization and Trade Association (MITA). The MCBA was made up of people living with disabilities, orphans and vulnerable children, youth, the elderly, and women working in small general dealers and educational support services. People with disabilities, orphans and vulnerable children, youth, the elderly, and women working in fruit and vegetable farms, informal money markets, and informal commuter transport dealers made up the MITAs. (Chazovachi,2020).

A focus group discussion with women, youth, orphaned entrepreneurs, and disabled cross -border traders and their associations revealed that informal cross -border trade necessitates traders crossing the border to sell goods and services in South Africa and Botswana. According to the study, trade across physical border posts, much of which was small-scale and informal, and required the movement of people, had come to an abrupt halt (Chazovachi,2020). This is in agreement with the the study of Kudejira's (2020), study, which found that restrictions on mobility and border closures resulted in a loss of employment and income for traders. Such trade had been diverted to unofficial routes, putting cross border travel at risk. While some forward-thinking traders shifted to online marketing and payment for their goods, many more informal cross-border traders were left behind because they continued to rely on face -to -face and person -to -person contact, as well as cash-based transactions, all of which were prohibited under COVID-19 measures. According to the

study, many traders did not have sanitizing products to protect themselves (Chazovachi,2020). Border closures posed a significant threat to their family's survival. Perishable agricultural products such as tomatoes, pepper, cassava, fish, and eggs. comprised the majority of the goods for cross-border traders. Because they received notices to prepare for border closures very late, informal traders had much of their stock spoil, resulting in significant losses (Chazovachi,2020). According to Kudejira (2020), the lockdown, meant being "locked out" of the youth's basic means of survival. According to Kudejira (2020) the lockdown decision not only failed to contextualize the situation of the most vulnerable households, but it also resulted in the expansion and strengthening of networks of 'informality' among various Informal Cross Border Traders (ICBT) players who have resorted to illicit methods of continuing their businesses. However, studies by Kudejira (2020) and Chazovachi (2020) were limited in providing the aftermath of the Youth's livelihoods in the urban setting, whereas this study seeks to expose the plight of the youths following the COVID-19 public health response in the form of a national lockdown.

The dreams of some Masvingo youth, women, and elderly entrepreneurs were dashed on April 25, 2020, when 35 tonnes of tomatoes and 21 tonnes of avocados and pears got rotted as the Masvingo Fruit and Vegetables Market remained closed to trade to prevent the spread of COVID-19 (Chazovachi,2020). The majority of the youth, orphans, and disabled people, as well as Chitima entrepreneurs, lacked transportation to engage in mobile trading of perishable goods. As a result, their produce perished, and business ceased. Communication devices, such as cell phones, posed a challenge making online purchasing difficult for many. The market closure harmed the majority of fruit and vegetable farmers, whose prospects became bleak (Chazovachi,2020). This is consistent with the UN (2020) report on the Global Humanitarian Response Plan, which stated that daily workers, small farmers, petty traders, and other informal sector participants are failing to have accessibility to their workplace, farms, and their markets due to travel restrictions leading for them to fail to secure the income they need to meet their normal basic needs. The closure of roads to Chitima shut eliminated all opportunities for young people and women to sell and trade fruits and vegetables. According to key informants in the study, transforming structures and processes entails government pronouncements on the extension of the lockdown and the enforcement of laws through institutions such as the police. Such laws have an impact on asset access as well as their long-term utilization.

Sustainable asset utilization in accordance with state policies, laws, and institutions, influences livelihood strategies. The restrictions imposed by law enforcement agencies, which forced people to stay indoors, resulted in more vulnerability rather than resilient pathways. (Chazovachi,2020). The path to recovery is difficult to find. The nature of the reaction to the disturbance caused more harm than good, as travel restrictions, the stay -at -home mantra, and market closures led to the collapse of the entrepreneurial spirit among young women in business. This is consistent with Kudejira's (2020) argument that youths continue to work not because they are stubbornly opposed to the law, but because 'of "the stubborn realities" of being "locked-down" for more than a month without a source of income (Kudejira, 2020). This is consistent with Mackworth-Young (2020), who stated that income for the youth usually was made via "day to day sales" and people lacked enough money to stop buying their food stuffs on a daily basis because people usually depend on hand to mouth means for their survival and stay at home rule is not an option. Staying at home posed many risks to people's basic needs and health. As a result, food insecurity and malnutrition have persisted in these households. (Chazovachi, 2020).

2.10. COVID-19 national lockdown results.

The qualitative study on Politicizing the COVID-19 Pandemic in Zimbabwe conducted by Kemist Shumba (2020) revealed some perceptions of the Zimbabwean populace on the COVID-19 pandemic. Concerns were also raised about the government's ability to control the coronavirus pandemic, with others claiming that there was no clear information in the way coronavirus confirmed cases were reported. Dishonesty was not new news in the country's response to pandemics. People active on Twitter showed that the government was hiding the true number of COVID-19 infected population. It was discovered that there was a lack of trust. Shumba (2020) agrees with Mackworth-Young (2020)), who stated that people highlighted that they excessively receiving information about the virus, through social media platforms such as,WhatsApp ,Facebook, Twitter, YouTube ,radio, television mainly on Zimbabwe Broadcasting Cooperation (ZBC). Others reported that they get information from the government announcements, diaspora relatives living abroad, and others through face-to-face conversations with neighbors, such as while waiting in line for waffles. Furthermore, there were concerns that following the prescribed coronavirus measures, such as physical and social distance and practicing hygiene, would be difficult given Zimbabwe's current macroeconomic challenges. Long lines have formed as citizens scramble to purchase the few goods that are available due to a shortage of basic commodities. Some critics claim that the

government has failed to uphold and protect important human rights, particularly the right to have access to clean safe and available water. The government has failed to improve the life for its people, leaving Zimbabwe as a nation with no room for human rights.

Zimbabwe is confronted with macroeconomic challenges, as a result of informal economy being dominated by youths and women (Oosterom, 2019). Over 65 percent of informal cross-border traders between Zimbabwe and South Africa are largely women (Bout, Pace, & Glauber, 2018). Zimbabwe is one of the countries with many informal sector participants in Africa, accounting for 61 % of the economy (Ruwisi, 2020). Many people survives form a hand to mouth basis, and concerns about the stableness of livelihoods during the lockdown are reasonable. According to the study, women are clearly more prone to economic challenges as compared to men. The situation has been observed in disasters before coronavirus pandemic in Zimbabwe, where women usually suffer at a greater extent than men (Bwerinofa & Chiweshe, 2017). The coronavirus pandemic and lockdowns in Zimbabwe and in other countries have a negative effect on women, increasing their chances of being prone to it when they go about vending. Participants the study noted that gender responsive policies must be a prioritized! Many municipalities in Zimbabwe conducted clean-up operations during the COVID-19-induced lockdown, vandalizing vending structures in urban areas. The majority of these structures were labelled informal and would potentially cause health risks.

Due to the rampant informal sector activities in Zimbabwe, the ban of vending structures jeopardized many urban dwellers' livelihoods. Because vending structures were destroyed, vending remained illegal, even after the lockdown ended, worsening the vulnerability of youth and women in the informal trade. Other participants asserted that municipal officials look into legalizing vending in designated areas. The use of disproportionate force by law enforcement agents in forcing people to follow up with coronavirus lockdown rules has been documented (Davies, 2020; Burger, 2020). This was a violation of constitutional human rights, mainly the rights of youths who dominates the informal sector. The vandalizing of goods by the local authorities such as the police, according to the participants, was "unnecessary, given the suffering of the masses." The local authorities should have informed the people to put their belongings behind. Police brutality treatment of people will not raise the economy.' Women in in the country struggle to provide for their households as a result of the lockdown. Government intervention such as giving people some social grants and social relief should help to alleviate poverty. According to participants, they said such initiatives can make people follow coronavirus lockdown rules and regulations. Commercial sex work is

a significant source of income that supports livelihoods (Vearey, Richter, Nez, & Moyo, 2011). Despite the fact that the trade in sex work is a crime in Zimbabwe (Busza et al., 2017), most young men and women continue to take part in this trade in pursuit of ending poverty and unemployment.

Youths and women in this trade lost income as a result of travel restrictions imposed by the government. According to one tweet, the lockdown has been affecting their trade in sex work. Participants reported that clients are no longer coming. It's challenging. In these trying times., youth and women must be protected. The study, on the other hand, did not expose the plight of youths, both males and females, during the COVID-19 period, which this study will fill by balancing all genders in the study

2.11 Conclusion

Prior to and during the COVID-19 lockdowns, this chapter reviewed literature on youth, rights and livelihoods. The review of literature unpacked youth current experiences in global, regional, and local contexts. It has been discovered that youth, particularly in Africa, are denied access to formal employment. To make a living, young people have turned to informal activities. According to the literature, the emergency of COVID-19 has resulted in national lockdowns in the United Kingdom, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Zimbabwe.

CHAPTER 3: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

3.1 Resilience Theory

3.1.2 Major ideas of the Resilience Theory

Resilience theory is becoming increasingly popular in research, across both nations and disciplines. Resilience theory has its roots in the study of adversity and an interest in how adverse life experiences impact people's harm. Resilience research involves three connected components: adversity, outcomes and mediating factors. The researcher chose resilience theory because COVID-19 is adverse that affects the youth's livelihoods, and the youth are practicing coping mechanisms to survive. It is not possible to think about or research resilience without considering all three components. Resilience is the 'capability to regain original shape or position after bending, stretching, compression, or other deformation' (Korber, Rod & McNaughton, 2017). Entrepreneurial resilience is augmented by enhanced networks and formation of professional network of mentors, accepting that change is part of life, and avoiding seeing crises as 'insurmountable' (Van Breda, 2018). It is the capacity of individuals to navigate their way to the psychological, social, cultural, and physical resources that sustain their well-being and their capacity individually and collectively to negotiate for these resources to be provided and experienced in culturally meaningful ways' (Greene, Galambos & Lee, 2004). The extent of entrepreneurial resilience depends on internal or personal characteristics, and structural and external factors. It is adaptive resilience that involves a process of continuous transformation and learning in the aftermath of disruptions.

3.2 Operationalizing resilience theory

Resilience is a process that leads to an outcome, in which the study focuses on exposing the living experiences of youth during this COVID-19 pandemic. The central focus of resilience theory is on the mediating processes. Hence, one could say that a person or social system is 'resilient' because they promise good outcomes in the face of adversity. The theory helps appreciate the complexity of coping mechanisms that the youth are doing to survive in this COVID-19 pandemic situation. Resilience incorporates three components which include: adversity, mediating processes and positive outcomes. The term resilience is understood as a multilevel process that the systems engage in to obtain better-than-expected outcomes in the face of adversity. In this regard, multilevel' implies that resilience processes occur across various fields or levels of the social ecology or person-in-environment, rather than only in the individual. Therefore, it entails family network and the community, and, in this research, the other objective of the research was to find out what should be done by families, community and the Government to restore and secure youth livelihoods. The community can encompass the social environment, which captures institutions, either state or non-state entities. The theory postulates that patterns of adversity can be divided roughly into two categories, that are chronic and 'acute' (Van Breda, 2018). In this qualitative research various patterns of adversity will emerge as reality will be subjective and unique to the individual. Chronic and acute patterns of adversity are levels of vulnerability contexts which can be in the form of shocks, stress, trends and seasonality. Hence, in this context the adversity is the COVID-19 emergency and the mediating processes are the Youths entrepreneur' capacity, assets, and the transforming structures and processes employed to redress the worsening conditions of vulnerability.

The resilience process encompasses mediating. The mediating process involves emotional intelligence, problem -solving skills, emotional intelligence, motivation to succeed, faith and hope (Van Breda, 2018) and in this research, youth opened up to their experiences based on their capabilities. However, one should note that individuals are responsible for dealing with collective challenges that should be dealt with by collective structures such as the state. Relationships in people's lives with other sectors or actors are crucial mediating factors in the face of adversities. Resilience also found in networks of social relationships such as family, school and neighbourhood. The resilience process does not lie in the individual or the environment but in the how the two transact. Hence the researcher found it fit to use the theory because when researching the informal sector, it is most definitely to see both the

environmental situation and money transactions between youth traders and customers. The social environment is critical for the sustainability of individuals and family success during hard times. The results of good social relationships during adversities are the restoration of better outcomes, as revealed by the quality of the lives of the affected communities of the entrepreneurial poor (Chazovachii, Chitongo, Tagarirofa & Rukomwe, 2020). Resilience theory will also explain the challenges and coping strategies that youth in Old Highfield practice for survival during the COVID-19 pandemic.

3.3 Possible challenges that might come with using resilience theory

Resilience theory pays inadequate attention to how society's conditions (such as improvements in human health and livelihoods) can come at the cost of environmental services (Turner, 2010). This is partly due to the failure to distinguish between the resilience of functions and the structures to achieve them. For instance, a constant total ban on informal activities due to COVID-19 may be desirable to combat the virus's spread, but the resilience on the youth livelihoods may not be catered for. The focus on building resilience to shocks and ignoring long term stress may lead to robustness which inhibits adaptability and transformability' (Smith and Stirling, 2010: 4). Those studying resilience in the context of psychology make a similar point, arguing that responses may resemble features of resilience and positive adaptation in the short term but yield very different results in the long term. Trade-offs can also be made between types of shock or hazard, meaning that resilience to one kind of disturbance might lead to vulnerability to another kind (Béné et al., 2012). The interpretation and definition of resilience are ambiguous, then naturally, measurement becomes contested and a significant challenge. The choice of resilience indicators will depend, to some extent, on the system, subsystem or target group that is of interest. Assessing the resilience of an entire city and its economy during the COVID-19 pandemic era will not necessarily reflect the resilience of a particular group or sector's resilience, for example, slum-dwellers or the informal economy.

3.5 Chapter conclusion

The chapter explained the resilience theory, how will be operationalised and the challenges that might emerge by using this theory. The resilience theory is highly linked to the qualitative methodology selected for the study, as presented in the next chapter.

CHAPTER 4: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

The focus of this section is to interrogate the way in which this study is to be conducted. According to Taylor et al. (2016), research methodology is a way in which a researcher approaches problem and seeks answers. In this section, there is a description of the way of conducting this study. Specific focus is on the research paradigm, research design, data collection procedures, data analysis and presentation procedures, validity, and ethical considerations.

4.2 Research Design

Barben and Morton (2008) define research design as a plan or blueprint that informs how the study is to be conducted. In other words, a research design is a strategic plan for gathering data. It is a concept of ideas to frame the study in a way to understand some meanings by specific methods and methodology to specific issues. This research is based on the traditions of qualitative methodology. Qualitative research constitutes a subjective assessment of attitudes, behavior and opinions which was very important for the study. Qualitative research reinforces the importance of looking at variables and it seeks to understand human beings interpretive about their perceptions in their real environments and values. According to Cresswell (2009), qualitative research focuses on studying phenomena in their natural setting thus allowing the researcher to construct theoretical insights and conclusions from academic debate rather than quantitative research which rely on theoretical positions which are then supported by research data. Therefore, qualitative research or research methods were useful

in capturing the true or actual knowledge and practice youth have on COVID-19 in Old Highfield whose livelihoods and rights have been put into jeopardy by the COVID-19 and public health response by the Zimbabwean government. Hays (2001) notes that qualitative research is sensitive to the human situation and, also involves an emphatic dialogue with the subjects being studied therefore, it was a uniquely powerful method for capturing experiences and lived meanings of the youths whose livelihoods and rights have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the national lockdown . It also allowed for the researched to convey to the researcher, their experiences from their own perception towards the COVID-19 pandemic and the public health response and in their own words. To add on, qualitative methods are flexible as one has the freedom to probe further or change questions as they come to mind around issues being investigated. This methodology was suitable for studying complex and sensitive issues that characterize this research. This study sought to understand the challenges youth face due to COVID-19 and COVID-19 induced Public health response induced under the statutory instrument 83 of 2020. The study also to examine knowledge and practice that these youths (both males and females) do towards COVID-19 thus, the use of qualitative methods was justifiable and relevant. Through its interpretive and descriptive tradition, qualitative methodology allowed this research to fulfil its purpose of capturing and exploring different perceptions of youths towards these trying times.

4.3 Study site

The study was conducted in Old Highfields which is the largest and second oldest high-density suburb or township in Harare established in 1930. The neighbourhood is located South within the West of Harare and is bordered by Waterfalls, Willovale, Glen Norah and Southerton. Highfield is located 11km from the central business district (CBD) via Willovale Road and Simon Mazorodze. The major factor for choosing this suburb was because it is a high-density suburb with a greater youth population surviving on informal activities.

4.3.2 Maps of Old Highfield and selected areas.

Figure 4.1 Map of Old Highfield

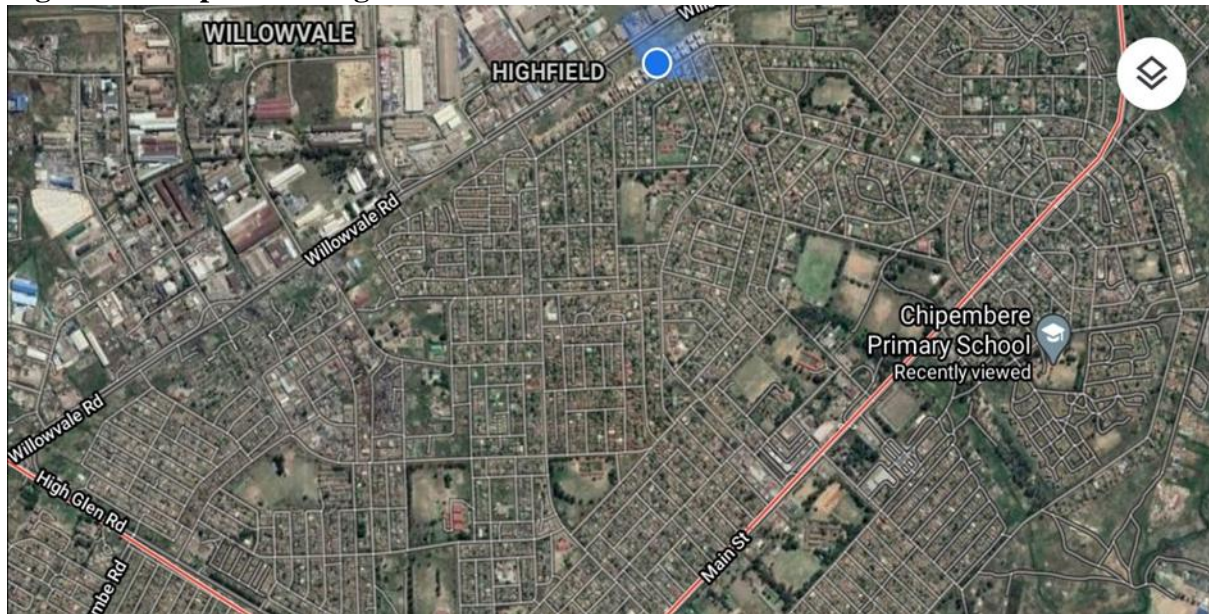
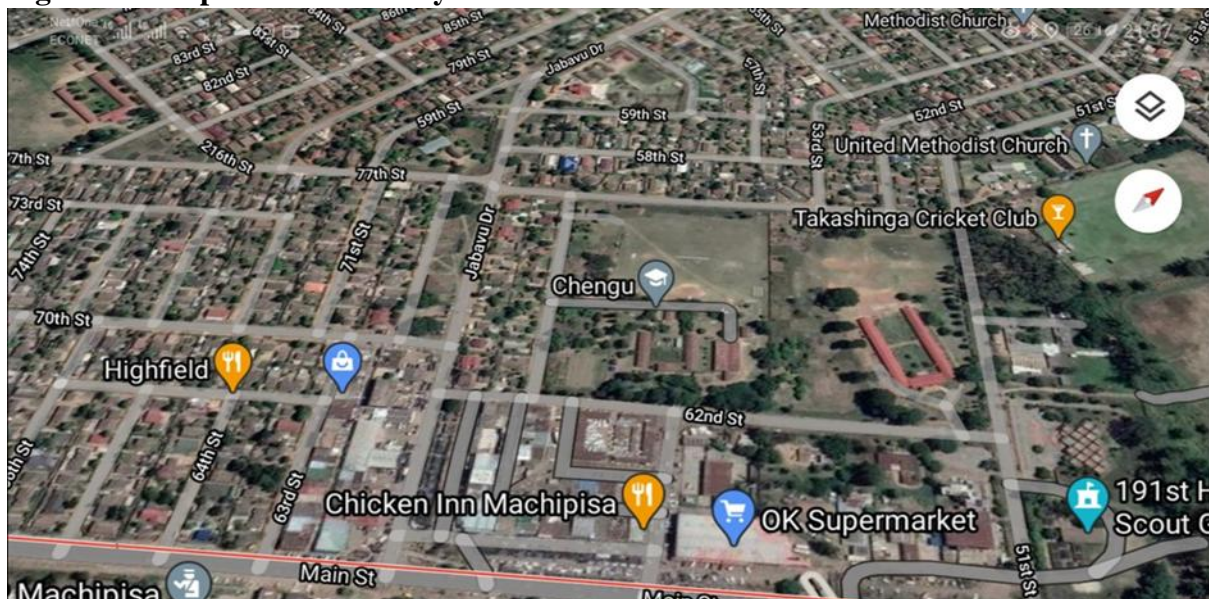


Figure 4.2 Map of selected study areas.



KEY

A= Machipisa shopping centre.

B= Nyandoro main road

C= Willowvale road

(Source: Google Maps 2020)

4.4 Selected sampling technique

4.4.1 Purposive Sampling

For the study to achieve its targeted sample, the researcher engaged and applied purposive sampling. Purposive sampling is a non-probability sample that is selected based on characteristics of a population and the objective of the study. Tongco (2007) stated that, purposive sampling involves the selection of participants with common characteristics for a specific purpose. Creswell (2007) notes that selecting of individual, time and settings are crucial as they provide information that is critical in order to answer research question and this is the most vital consideration in qualitative sampling decision. Within the study, the researcher made use of purposive sampling in the selection of the study site. Since the researcher was interested in youths and livelihoods during the COVID-19 pandemic and the public health response, the researcher purposively selected the high-density suburb of Old Highfield. The researcher purposively chose Machipisa Shopping centre which is hub of livelihoods. place for the youths in Highfield. This place is where youth vendors, money changers, crafts makers and car washers are highly located and concentrated. The location was appropriate to the researcher because it was near and easily available and transport was cheaper. Purposive sampling was used to select times of research for this study. Due to lack of resources, limited time and COVID-19 travel restrictions, the researcher chose a small sample of 14 participants. Amongst the 14 participants, the researcher made sure that there is an equal number of males and females participating for the online semi-structured interviews and online focus group discussions. Strauss and Glaser (1967) argue that an appropriate sample size in qualitative study can make one reach data saturation and the goal of qualitative researchers should be the attainment of saturation. The researcher found it necessary to conduct online interviews and online focus group discussion in the evening because respondents were likely to be more available than during the day where they will be hustling and conducting their businesses.

4.5 Selected data collection methods

4.5.1 Primary data source.

4.5.1.1 Online semi-structured interviews

Most of qualitative research typically relies on face to face interaction, focus group discussions and field work but due to COVID-19 public health response in the form of lockdown online semi-structured interviews were used. Online interviews are used for primary Internet-mediated research (IMR), that is, they are used to gather original data via the Internet with the intention of subjecting them to analysis to provide new evidence in relation

to a specific research question (Hewson, 2010). Scholarly online interviews are conducted in accordance with ethical research guidelines, verifiable research participants provide informed consent before participating in any interview. Fourteen online semi-structured interviews were conducted. The use of online semi-structured interviews helped the researcher in identifying pertinent key areas critical to be discussed. The use of online semi-structured interviews also gave provision for respondents to add more vital information which had not been thought of by the researcher. Prior the interviews, the researcher created an interview guide with questions for the research. Information obtained during the process was used to put data into themes. Research questions were divided into six parts which had separate themes. Research questions order was not strictly followed during the interviews. Semi-structured online interviews are open-ended which made participants to respond in an unconstrained manner and there was no time restriction. This was particularly valuable for the research because youth in Old Highfield are located in different geographical zones and others were busy during the time, they received the research questions. WhatsApp and Facebook messenger were used in the research to construct an almost instantaneous dialogue between researcher and participants. WhatsApp was chosen by the researcher because it is a mobile instant messaging application and is cheap to use. The application allowed for the virtual replication of a face-to-face interview or focus group and it is widely used in Old Highfield. English language was used in the interviews positioned with research ethics that are required when one is doing a study.

4.5.1.2. Online focus group discussions

Online focus group discussions are an appealing option for collecting data in qualitative research particularly when participants are geographically dispersed (Rivaz, 2019). The nature of focus groups and social interactions motivates individuals to speak up, which eventually leads to data promotion. Online focus group can be defined as a selected group of individuals who have volunteered to participate in a research in order to explore a particular topic for the purpose of research (Rivaz, 2019). The researcher conducted a synchronous online focus group discussion with six participants via WhatsApp group as it provided live and simultaneous communication for the researcher and participants. The researcher before conducting the online focus group discussion, the researcher created a safe space for the participants by telling them that the information was going to be confidential. The online focus group discussion in the research was critical because there is lack of physical presence and anonymity, averting issues to do stigma or people with body image issues. Although

online focus group discussions are commonly used to generate data, in this study the researcher used it to establish the credibility of the data

4.6 Data analysis and presentation.

Qualitative data was analysed using thematic analysis. Thematic analysis is a qualitative data analysis technique, which collects data from various sources and classifies it into themes (Creswell 2014). The method is qualitative analytical for identifying, analysing, and reporting patterns within the data. Thematic analysis organizes and describes the data into sets. A theme captures something important about the data in relation to the research question and represents some level of patterned response or meaning within the data set (Taylor et al, 2016). Clark (2015) puts across that thematic analysis provides accessible and systematic procedures for generating codes and themes from qualitative data. Codes are the smallest unit of analysis that capture interesting features of the data relevant to the research question. Thematic analysis can be used to identify patterns within and across data in relation to participants lived experiences, views and perspectives, and behaviour and practices which all seeks to understand what participants' think, feel and do. In the study thematic analysis was relevant because one of the research objectives was to find out the knowledge and practice that youths (both males and females) do have towards COVID-19 national lockdown, in Old Highfield. Thematic analysis can be used to analyse large and small datasets from case study research with 1-2 participants to large interview studies with 60 or more participants including homogenous and heterogeneous samples. Thematic analysis can be used for both inductive and deductive analyses, and to capture both manifest and latent meanings. Lastly one of the hallmarks of thematic analysis is its flexibility with regards to framing theory, research questions and research design. The interpretation of data was done in conjunction with the Resilience Theory by Van Breda (2018).

4.7 Ethical considerations.

This study was conducted adhering to the rules, regulations and ethics that governs social research. The first ethical principle that was respected is that of informed consent. Participants were informed about the nature of the study, its objectives, benefits, risks (social, political, economic and psychological), and consent was definitely sought. The privacy of participants was respected. In the online interview, the privacy of participants was never compromised. Participants were informed that the issue of livelihoods during COVID-19 pandemic and the public health response in the form of national lockdown by the Zimbabwean government was of paramount importance and they were supposed to feel free

and contribute to the worthy cause. In addition, there was assurance that only the participating individuals were going to have the details of the discussions. The participants were not asked to provide their real names and their physical addresses. Raw data was not shared with anyone. The researcher promised that the names of the participants were not going to be divulged in any part of the research reports. According to Dooly (2017) researchers should also take into consideration how they are going to ensure privacy and confidentiality to participants. Participants were informed about their rights to withdraw from the research should they feel uncomfortable. Participants were informed that their participation was based on voluntarism.

4.9 Limitation of the study

The study was limited due to the national lockdown which came with travel restriction and stay at home mantra leading to the researcher failing to go in the field. Non-Participant observation was not feasible for the researcher because of fear of being exposed to COVID-19. Due to COVID-19 lockdown the researcher could not conduct face to face interviews and face to face focus group discussing due to WHO regulations on social distancing and also in fear that participants would not want to expose themselves to the virus whilst being researched. Therefore, the researcher resorted to use online semi-structured interviews and online focus group discussions to gather data. Some of the participants failed to respond to the interview questions because of their busy schedules, but the researcher worked with those who were available and active.

4.10 Chapter Conclusion

This chapter provided a description of the study's methodology specifically the research design; study site; selection of study participants; methods of data collection and analysis; as well as the ethical considerations that the researcher will adhere to throughout the study. The next chapter will present findings of the study.

CHAPTER 5: PRESENTATION OF DATA.

5.1 Introduction.

The following chapter will present the findings of the field research in Old Highfield high - density suburb. The presentation of the data within this chapter is going to be in thematic form. Data in this chapter was collected using online semi-structured interviews via WhatsApp and Facebook messenger

5.2 The knowledge that youth have on COVID-19

5.2.1 Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Old Highfield youths did not provide a homogenous answer towards their knowledge on COVID-19. There were various definitions of COVID-19 as youth were exposed to various kind of information dissemination about the virus. Respondent 3 in the study said that COVID-19 is a global pandemic. Respondent 2 highlighted that COVID-19 is a virus that originated from China, and the person can get affected mainly through the nose, mouth and eyes. Respondent 1, highlighted that the virus has killed millions of people to date, and vaccines have been developed to boost the immune system that will fight against the virus.

Respondent 6, a trader who is in the business of selling tempered glass, charging cables and protective pouches for cell phones, highlighted that COVID-19 is a virus that affects the respiratory system and causes flu-like symptoms but severe as the virus is so contagious. Respondent 5 highlighted that COVID-19 is a deadly virus causing dry coughing, fever, tiredness and pains. Respondent 4 highlighted that COVID-19 is an unending virus that has left nations without any clue on its cure. Other participants highlighted that COVID-19 affected European countries because people who live there are more mobile than those in Africa. Participants highlighted that, here in Zimbabwe, COVID-19 killed only less than one thousand people and yet in the world, over one million people died.

5.2.2 Signs and Symptoms.

Respondent 2, highlighted that COVID-19 significant symptoms are fever and sore throat, minor symptoms are running nose, stomach and joints ache. Respondent 8, highlighted that COVID-19 it is a virus with symptoms noticeable, such as difficulty breathing, talking, and having the appetite to eat. With regard to this issue respondent 8 asserted to the following statement:

"COVID-19 symptoms are plenty, it can be beach all over the body and pain.

Nasal congestions, headaches, rash on skins and discolouration of fingers and toes".

(Online interview 20/01/21).

Respondent 3 highlighted that some do get the virus, but they do not sick. The participant highlighted that he knows that most people recover from the disease without needing special treatment or hospitalisation, and some they test positive but do not show any symptoms. Older people and people with underlying medical conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and chronic respiratory illnesses are at high risk of catching the diseases and become seriously ill. Respondent 3 highlighted that COVID-19 affects people aged 50 and above as their mortality rate due to the virus is around 70 per cent compared to people under the age of 25, whose mortality rate due to the virus is 18-20 per cent.

5.3 Youth practice towards the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

5.3.1 Social Distance and wearing of masks

In the study, the participants noted that they are practicing social or physical distance when they are indoors and outdoors. Respondents highlighted that they are obeying the one metre apart social distancing regulation as a preventative measure. Participants noted that they had alienated themselves from a lifestyle of spending many times in overcrowded spaces and

physically contacting one another like they used to do before coronavirus. Wearing of masks in public spaces was reported by participants. Respondent 10, highlighted that face masks protects her from contracting the virus, and she had this to say:

“Face masks they protect me and others from getting the virus, because surgical Masks (not reusable) provide 85% protection, fashion masks 20% (reusable) and then k96 masks 95 %. (not reusable)” (online interview ,21-01-21)

5.3.2 Washing of hands and use of hand sanitisers.

Respondents in the study reported that they are regularly washing their hands with soap and running water. The use of hand sanitisers was mentioned as a prerequisite that they are frequently doing. Respondent 14 highlighted that she wakes up in the morning and then sanitises her mobile phone, door handles, and lights switch as they are prone to keep the virus as they are easily accessed and touched by everyone in her homestead. Sanitisers in the study were reported as the most flexible preventative measure as they can easily be carried in handbags and pockets, unlike soap which needs running water. Respondent 11 who was interviewed online, asserted the following statement:

“I carry my sanitiser whenever I am going out to do my business because of its flexibility, .and in our homestead, we have another one at the main entrance for my other family members to sanitise theirs when they are coming from outside the house.”.

(online focus group discussion ,22-01-21)

Respondents highlighted that they are using Jik (a household bleach), Domestos (thick bleach), and methylated spirit on all the goods they buy from the supermarkets, tuck-shops, and the street because goods are exposed to many people who will touch and leave for others to buy. Jik and Domestos bleach is used in the washing of hands and cleaning of the house. Respondent 6, concerning this issue asserted that:

“Goods from supermarkets are no longer safe as they get into many hands before reaching the one who will buy and use the them. So, as a safety precaution, I resorted to the use of Jik bleach, Domestos bleach and methylated spirit as they claim that they kill germs and bacteria by 99,9 %.” (online interview ,22-01-21).

5.3.4 Improved Diet and use of herbs.

Respondent 7 highlighted that he and his siblings have improved their homestead diet as they are now, including ginger, garlic (both soup and tea), lemongrass, mint, and woody shrub leaves. These types of foods have been arguably presented as protective from getting coronavirus (COVID-19). When everyone feels that they have a sore throat, a concoction is made of these perceived protective foods. Participants highlighted a unique practice of "kunatira" whereby one boils woody shrub leaves and inhales its steam whilst covering oneself whole body with a blanket or sheet. Respondent 9, reported that she is drinking warm water every day. This is happening due to herbalists and other medical practitioners' recommendations.

5.4 Challenges faced by youth to restore and secure livelihoods.

This section presents data in relation to objective number two of the study which seeks to examine the challenges young people in Old Highfield, Harare's, informal sector encounter within a COVID-19 public health response context.

5.4.1 National lockdown.

Participants in this line of business reported that the national lockdown had compromised their business and income. Respondent 1, a hairstylist and makeup artist at Machipisa Shopping centre, reported that the industry is not considered an essential service, making it so difficult to move around and meet with clients since our physical business premises have been shut down. Other respondents in this business reported that travel restrictions and the ban of occasions such as weddings, parties and university graduation ceremonies hamper their business because they provide their services at their client's homes. Most respondents in this industry reported that due to the Beitbridge border's closure has worsened their business as they are failing to buy hair extensions, fake nails, makeup and lip kits from South Africa so that to sell to their customers who usually come for their services. Respondent 1, who was interviewed via WhatsApp, asserted the following statement:

"As you can see, the lockdown has affected me a lot, I used to travel from place to place delivering my services, but due to the travel and occasion restrictions, people are no longer doing white weddings and parties where new hair styling and make up will be on -demand, the struggle is real." (online interview ,22-01-21).

Respondent 3 in the Avon business selling skin lotions, bath foams, soaps, deodorants and makeup kits complained about the number of hours that they were now working due to the

lockdown. Respondent 3, alluded that she is now severely limited because she cannot access many of her customers as she used to do before the pandemic. Respondents in this Avon business highlighted that their customers no longer tolerate home deliveries as people are now afraid of contracting the virus from visitors. Scarcity of profits was highlighted as participants alluded that the money they used to attain from their business before the pandemic and national lockdown would last them for the whole month, but now as they are earning a little, the little money they are getting is going straight to the payment of rents and food. Landlords have also been highlighted as a significant problem because most of them are not going to work because of the lockdown, so they are no longer interested in renting their apartments to people who are not formally employed or those whom the government does not regard as providers of essential services. Respondent 3 interviewed online, asserted the following statement:

"The lockdown has bred a many problem as we are now living from hand to mouth basis, our landlords they now scornful to me as I am delaying giving them rental money, so I have been given a three-month notice of the vacation. (online focus group discussion ,21-01-21).

Respondent 8 from this Avon business explained the difficulties of going the central business district (CBD) to deposit their money to order the products they want online using the account that would have been created. Every month Avon launches a brochure, and one orders the stuff that will be available in the catalogue, but the national lockdown. has hampered this. Avon business enables one to make profit by recruiting other people to join as one can accumulate R180 per individual recruit, but due to the national lockdown, people have adopted the mantra of staying at home so recruits cannot be accessible. Respondents highlighted that the lockdown had compromised their benefits as members of the Avon business because being a member comes with benefits when you order your products, they will be 15% to 30% discount depending on how big your order is. The national lockdown has made a closure to these benefits as the border have been shut down.

5.4.2 Decline in demand for products.

Respondent 11 and 4, who operates at Machipisa shopping centre, highlighted that their business is experiencing a shrinkage. The national lockdown has led Zimpost Shopping Mall, Kwame Nkrumah Mall and Gulf complex, where they get their products from the middlemen who buy from China and the United Arab Emirate. The closure of international travel

globally has led to the unavailability of stuff to sell, and the already existing stuff from their runners is now very costly because of scarcity. Other participants from the same business line who sell accessories that comprise protective pouches, tempered glasses, charging cables, and earphones alluded that wholesalers are now selling their products at an expensive price time two that a retailer can do due to COVID-19 national lockdown. Respondent 11, concerning this issue, asserted to the following statement:

"mobile phone and accessories prices are now high; our runners have increased their prices because they have been not going to China and Dubai to get more stuff, so for them to sustain their livelihood, they are increasing prizes and it is affecting us as we rely on them". (online interview, 23-01-21)

Respondent 4, who also venture into website building explained that he mainly design websites for small businesses such as stanleybrux.com who want to stand out in their marketing strategies, but for him to do that, he needs a computer and a network, but due to lockdown, he is surviving because most of the website building is done online. The major problem is when he tries to meet clients because of movement restrictions. Website building is being affected because he is forced to hold every meeting online, which consumes many costly data in Zimbabwe.

5.4.3 Decline in demand for public transport.

Respondent 9 in the study reported that commuting business had been affected a lot as the government had banned minibus business in favour of the Zimbabwe United Passenger Company (ZUPCO). Respondents in this business highlighted that they are now limited to operating on local routes only, transporting people from Highfield to neighbouring high-density suburbs such as Glen Norah, Glenview, Budiro, Respondent 9, an operator in this business concerning this issue, had this to say:

"our minibuses have been banned by the police and council officers to get into Town, so I have resorted to local routes, but there is high competition and few customers travelling because most of these routes are a walkable distance and people are avoiding public transport due to COVID-19". (online focus group)

discussion 22- 01-21)

Respondent 5 in this same business who transport people from Highfield to Southlea Park and Chitungwiza using Machipisa Shopping Centre rank, complained about raids from the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) who are near the mushika-shika rank. Mushika-shika is a term used to explain the illegal transport of unregistered minibuses and private cars. Police are patrolling in a truck arresting every operator who is commuting locally. After they get arrested, the police are demanding bribes of 10 or 15 united states dollars for the operator's release and the minibus, which is costly for the business. Respondent 5, concerning this issue, asserted to the following statement:

"Raids from the police have always been there before the lockdown, but now the situation has become more worse and the police are too serious on unreasonable bribes, maybe it's because we are in the lockdown which is affecting everyone including them. we are troubled in the 'mushika shika business'".

(online, interview, 22-01-21)

5.4.4 Police and Council raids and arrests.

Interviewees from fruits and vegetable business reported that they are in real trouble with the council officers. Those who sell their goods around Willovale road, Nyandoro main road and Machipisa Shopping centre at TM, Choppies and OK supermarket doors reported that they have been raided and arrested by the council and sometimes their goods are confiscated. They highlighted that they are being accused of going against the World Health Organisation regulations about social distancing due to COVID-19. Youth interviewees reported that their rights are being abused because when conducting business, they observe the COVID-19 regulations, but when they get arrested, they are exposed to COVID-19. This is how respondents explained this challenge:

"As street vendors, our health is being compromised because when we get arrested we are being put in a small council vehicle truck in our large numbers, and there is no social distancing, and some people will be coughing Furthermore, talking too much. But when conducting our business, we will be observing and abiding by the WHO regulation of practising social distancing and

wearing of masks Our local authorities do not make sense at all, and they do not even practice their professions as people who went to school and have logical mindsets. (online interview, 11-01-21).

The other challenge raised by young people in this trade was that they are now forced to operate around 1700 pm because most of these council officers will be off duty, and this is when people will buy vegetables preparing for supper. Fruits are now difficult to sell during the afternoons because of council raids. Limited working hours leads them to lose lots of profits and some of the goods are becoming rotten.

5.4.5 Unfair rent payments to the council

The respondent who operates from the Mukambo open market at the Machipisa shopping centre reported that they had been forced to shut down their operations, which has led many of the youth rent there to be bankrupt. Mukambo open market is well known for selling hardware, and it saves many people from travelling to the central business district to get the hardware. Participants reported that their livelihoods and rights had been abused because they pay rentals to the council, but they are not allowed to open for business. Youth in hardware business are experiencing a drop in their household livelihoods and well-being during the national lockdown. Respondent 10, who sells kitchen appliances, had this to say:

*"The lockdown has led to the closure of my table at Mukambo market.
and I have no other hustle besides that, so I am in a deep financial crisis.
Moreover, I am looking after my young sibling who is writing her ordinary
levels this year. At Mukambo, I have been trying to make ends meet,
but now I am in a difficult situation because I cannot move around
selling kitchen appliances as they are heavy to lift, and people usually
come to the market to buy.* (focus group discussion, 22-01-21).

5.4.6 Failure to reach target customers.

In the study, respondents who dominated in street vending highlighted that they failed to reach their target customers due to the lockdown travel restrictions. Street vendors operating around Willovale road highlighted that they are now avoiding crowded places in fear of raids and arrests. Many of them reported that they are visiting customers and advertising their

goods. Willowdale flats or apartments area is now where many of them are going, but they face resistance as people are not willing to open their doors due to fear of COVID-19. One respondent had this to say:

"At Willovale flats, us vendors we are not highly welcomed because the flats are usually occupied with people who work for the government, so, they are afraid of contracting COVID-19, so most of them are not opening the doors for us." (online interviews, 12-01-21)

Other respondents selling frozen drinking water, cream doughnuts, peanuts and cooked maize cob at Gaza land home industry highlighted that their customers are no longer available at their workplaces and fail to sell their food in a time when it is fresh and new due to the lockdown. Others who sell cobra floor polish, brooms and dusters reported the difficulties they are face to travel to Mbare Musika, where they order their stuff and sell in Highfield. Those in the business of selling fresh vegetables complained about the council's raids who confiscate their goods, and some they get dirty and broken during the arrests. Stiff market competition was raised, and respondents explained it as follows:

"as you can see, we are in our large number here in a similar way that we were in the CBD, with the stiffening of the lockdown most vendors who used to operate in the CBD are now locally based, which has resulted in less profits because we are now too many on a little customer population in the ghetto "(online interview 12-01-21).

5.5 Youth mediating processes to the challenges they are facing.

This section presents data in relation to the objective number three of the study which seeks to investigate young people's strategies and processes engaged in Old Highfield, Harare's informal sector, to restore and secure livelihoods during the COVID-19 public health response.

5.5.2 Online business.

Respondents in the study highlighted that they are now resorting to online business, selling their goods to people. WhatsApp, Facebook and Instagram advertising were reported as a

new model of doing business with the outside world during the national lockdown. Respondents noted that due to the COVID-19 national lockdown, consumers are now accessing everything they need online. Social media platforms are now where people are spending much of their time interacting. Online business has made clients make orders, and the respondents deliver them using FedEx, Hindi, and other respondents reported that they do home deliveries on their own. Concerning this issue, one participant asserted the following explanation:

"Online advertising has enabled my businesses to move forward because it is cheap as I cannot be raided or arrested by the council, which often leads to confiscation of goods and payment of bribes for me to be released. Online business has enabled me to do home deliveries. I charge an extra fee for the distances that are above 15 km. (22-01-21, online interviews)

Respondents noted that they are taking full advantage of the prominent and famous Facebook and Instagram pages such as Zimceleb official page, Pachopisa TV. Nash paints TV, Zimcitizennews and Zimwhitewedding page when advertising. More than 350 000 people follow these social media pages. Respondents asserted to the following statement:

"As you can see, Facebook and Instagram are no longer about posting pictures and bible verses, it has turned out to be a business arena to advertise my Avon products in the comment section of Zimceleb and Pachopisa TV official page and it has proved to be working because later on customers come to my inbox" " (focus group discussion, 22-01-21).

5.5.3 Home Deliveries

Respondents highlighted that due to travel restrictions caused by the national lockdown, they have resorted to doing home delivery to their clients. Home deliveries are becoming a success because respondents highlighted that they add an extra fee to transport logistics. Customers

within a radius of 10 to 15 km are not charged an extra fee. Regarding this issue respondent 8 asserted to the following explanation:

"as we are in the lockdown, people are avoiding inconveniences with the local authorities, and some are not willing to come to Machipisa shopping centre due to the fear of getting exposed to the virus. In this situation, my clientele places their orders and then delivers them to their respective physical addresses. Yes, it is troublesome, but it is worth it. I am surviving. (22-01-21, online interview).

Respondents from the Avon business and mobile phone retail highlighted that they are now dealing with various home delivery companies such as FedEx Harare and Hindi courier companies. They noted that these companies had helped them move forward with their businesses despite the national lockdown travel restrictions as their customers are located outside Harare. Concerning this issue, respondent 5 explained the following:

"Courier companies such as FedEx and, Hindi has enabled me to run my business despite the travel restrictions and complete shut down of my workplace. If a customer buys a phone worth maybe 110 united states dollars, I can charge an extra 30 that will cater for the courier's company service expense. (21-01-21, online interview)

5.5.4 Family support

Two respondents highlighted that due to their failures in their livelihoods castigated by the national lockdown, they receive financial support from their family members. Respondent 2 (female) on attachment and selling jewellery and deodorants at her formal workplace, noted that she had lost both her attachment job and clients from the workplace due to companies' closure. Her family is now supporting her full time to pay her rentals and food. The other respondent highlighted that she survives with remittances that her brother in South Africa often sends via Mukuru remittance company, which helps people move money around Africa

and send it for an instant collection. Concerning this issue, participants asserted the following statement:

"I am home full-time due to lockdown, my brother, who is working as a farmer in South Africa, is the one, I am relying on. Each 1st week of the month, I receive money via Mukuru for my upkeep. (Online interview, 22-01-21).

5.5.5 Changing business operation time

Respondents highlighted that due to raids and arrested from the council, they have opted to adjust their time of conducting business. It was highlighted that the police and the council usually operate from 11 am to around 03:30 pm, and that is when they will be patrolling in a small white truck arresting people and confiscating their properties and goods. Respondents highlighted that, they are now selling their stuff during the nights and early in the morning before authorities on duty come for them to avert the cat and mouse situation between them and the local authorities. Concerning this issue, it was explained in the following statement:

"to be safe and safeguarding my livelihood, I now operate in the evening, because in the afternoon if conduct my business it will help a lame move because I am risking myself from getting arrested and encountering losses. (online focus group discussion, 21-01-21).

5.5.6 Diversification of livelihoods.

Respondent 4 highlighted that he had become the jack of all trades to survive in the national lockdown. Before the lockdown, the respondent mainly focused on selling of second -hand clothes in the Harare CBD at Copa cabana. Due to the travel restrictions, the participant reported that he is now venturing into the car wash business and selling herbs such as Zumbani and Tsunami, which is trending in the lockdown. The respondent asserted to the following statement:

"The lockdown has taught me not to rely on a single livelihood but rather to adapt and learn new skills for survival, I now have a car wash where I stay and, if God permits by the end of the year, will buy a hoover cleaner and

an air pressure gun for my business to grow. (online interview, 23-01-21)

The other respondent highlighted that he is now venturing into gardening, cultivating vegetables such as rape, spinach and cabbages. He alluded that vegetables in his area are on demand because most people who reside around him are formally employed, and they usually do not have time to have and do garden work as they spend most of their days at workplaces. Other learned respondents highlighted that they are now conducting extra lessons for primary and secondary pupils who are not going to school. Conducting extra lessons as a livelihood has become a stable livelihood because it does not demand one to be mobile and facing arrests by the council and police.

5.6 Outcomes to sustain livelihoods during COVID-19 national lockdown.

This section presents data in relation to the final objective of the research, which seeks to assess the outcomes of young people's strategies and processes in Old Highfield, Harare's informal sector, restoring and securing livelihoods within a context of COVID-19 public health.

5.6.1 Positive outcomes

5.6.1.1. Improved profit -making.

Respondents highlighted a considerable improvement in their profits due to the use of social media platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook and Instagram when advertising and reaching out to distant customers. Participants reported that before they adapted to doing business using technology, they used to experience losses being caused by raids and incarceration by the local authorities. Due to travel restrictions, participants highlighted that they are saving transport money and most of their customers are not travelling as well, so they are still relying on them, which is good for business. Concerning this issue, one respondent asserted the following statement:

"The lockdown has made my business to flourish more than in the normal times, many informal sector business people are technologically shy, they are slow to embrace new forms of doing business. This has led to the improvement of my business because I am fully utilising all my social media platforms and I have managed to create huge profits and clientele with that." (Online interview, 21-01-

21)

Other respondents highlighted that they are now able to raise capital for other businesses to grow big in business. Others highlighted that they can now pay their rentals in advance as well and buy food in bulk to eat for the following months. Respondents 2 and respondent 13 have noted improved profits as something huge that has improved their lifestyles. Other respondents highlighted that they can employ others as runners who deliver their goods to their customers. Concerning this issue, respondent 13, highlighted that:

"lockdown has come as a blessing in disguise, I am getting more and more clients day by day. I am now failing to run all my business errands so I am employing my younger brother who is waiting to go to polytechnic next year as my 'runner' who deliver goods to my customers, and I pay him on commission." (online interview, 22-01-21)

5.6.1.2. Consumption Smoothing

Two respondents highlighted that they are now breadwinners in their families providing food and paying bills because their parents are old, and some have been retrenched, fired and on forced leave due to national lockdown, which has resulted in the closing of many sectors that employ people. Participants highlighted that with the little they are getting from their businesses, they and their families learned to adjust their living condition and progress. Concerning this issue, the other respondent asserted to the following statement:

"as an informal sector participant in my family I am the only one who is making a penny in this lockdown, my family rely on me. We have learnt to adjust our lifestyles , and we are surviving on the little money I get from my hustles. Basic stuff that are needed for survival I am providing." (online focus group discussion, 23-01-21)

One respondent in the car wash business at Machipisa shopping centre highlighted that he is creating employment for his extended family members affected by the current lockdown. Concerning this issue, he said:

Right now, I am employing my cousins to work with me because sometimes customers can come in their numbers at the same time for my services, so for me not

to lose money, I have my cousins in place to deliver because our policy is that a car should be washed and become clean within 30 minutes. (online interview,24-01-21)

5.6.1.3 Intensified use of Social Networks

Respondents highlighted that they had created social networks than before due to the use of social media platforms. Respondents noted that they have also joined various organisations representing informal sector participants, such as Vendors Initiative for Social Economic Transformation (VISET), Bulawayo Vendors Traders Association (BVTa) a project called STELLAR Urban Youth. Respondents reported that STELLAR means strengthening the livelihoods and resilience of urban youth. Respondents highlighted that STELLAR project is an exciting, safe, and open space for young informal traders to interact and share ideas on how best they can nourish their businesses. Respondents reported that these social networks had envisioned the opening of business spaces and opportunities for them. Concerning this issue, one respondent asserted to the following statement:

"The lockdown has improved my social network as I am joining clubs and organisations that represent young people in the informal sector. These organisations have helped a lot in marketing my products through interactions I am having with people around the country's corners via WhatsApp. (online interview, 25-01-21)

5.6.2 Negative outcomes.

5.6.2.1 Lockdown induced poverty.

Respondents highlighted that their survival is now difficult, and they are becoming poorer each day. Participants reported that their economic turmoil's root cause is that their livelihoods have been cut off by the local authorities, prohibiting them to from operating from their informal designated places at Machipisa shopping centre. Participants highlighted that their poverty is now chronic because they are not receiving any form of aid from both the government and relatives. Shortage of basic needs such as food and clothing were highlighted, and participants complained about the unreasonable food prices in supermarkets and small -medium enterprises. Concerning this issue, respondents explained the following:

"the national lockdown has cut off my livelihood, and I am failing to put food on the

table for my family. When I used to have my business before the lockdown, I used to buy food in bulk at Mohammed Moussa and N Richards wholesale shops, but it is no longer feasible as I am not earning anything.” (online interview, 23-01-21)

Respondent 1 highlighted that not having money stiffened, especially in January after the festive season in what she called the 'January disease', an expression of harsh economic conditions she experienced in that month. Concerning this issue, respondent 1 had this to say:

"things were really complicated in January. I was just trying to make ends meets. It has not been easy at all" (online focus group discussions ,23-01-21).

5.6.2.2. Total closure of business

Respondents in the phone retailing business highlighted that their business had been put to an end without a recovery because they have run out of stuff. Others reported that they were still relying on the stuff they ordered in 2019, and now it has depleted. The closure of borders and Robert Mugabe International airport has blocked their runners from travelling to China and United Arab Emirate to get new stuff. Those in the selling accessories business only reported on the similarly highlighting that for accessories to be bought, there is a need or a mobile phone first, and their staff has depleted. Concerning this issue, respondent 7 had this to say:

"My livelihood has been put to an end because of the travel restriction induced by countries globally, all the mobile phones I bought from my runners in 2019 have been bought and I can't get access to new stuff, no one is travelling to China and Dubai at the moment ". (online focus group discussion, 25-01-21).

5.6.2.3 High costs on home deliveries.

Respondents highlighted that home delivery using courier companies such as FedEx and Hindi are sometimes expensive, especially when they are very long. These courier companies are expensive because of the high demand they get from various traders around the country. Respondent also noted that, goods could become lost along the way to delivery, and as a trader, you will be the one who will replace the lost or broken goods to the customer. Concerning this issue, respondent 11 explained the following:

"There is stiff competition on partnering with courier companies, and this has led for

them to increase the expense of doing business with them. I have no choice because of travel restriction, business should not stop " (online interview, 25-01-21)

Others reported that home deliveries using courier companies has resulted in sending goods to the wrong destination. Concerning this issue, one respondent asserted the following statement:

"sometimes goods that are supposed to be delivered in Kwekwe, they will end up going to Mutare because of the mistakes that comes with home delivery companies leading to unnecessary cost." (online interview, 25-01-21).

5.8 Chapter conclusion

This chapter presented the research findings into themes. The chapter highlighted the knowledge that youth have on coronavirus (COVID-19), a practice they are doing, challenges they are facing, mediating processes to their challenges and lastly, the outcomes that came with their attempt to restore and secure their livelihoods.

CHAPTER 6: DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

6.1 Introduction:

This chapter presents a critical analysis of the findings and explains youth, livelihood and COVID-19 in Old Highfield high-density suburb. The data analysis is in thematic form and has been completed based on using the ideas that are found in Chapter Five. This chapter is divided into various sections and sub-topics presented concerning the topic under study.

6.2 Youth perceptions on Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The study depicted that youth had rich knowledge and practice on COVID-19 symptoms and preventative measures. The most common knowledge that the participants reported was that, COVID-19 is a very deadly virus that was first discovered in Wuhan, China, in 2019. Since then, it has been spreading so fast to other parts of the world. Countries worldwide are fighting so hard to control and prevent its continuous spreading and deaths it causes. Youth in the study showed excellent knowledge on the common symptoms of COVID-19, which comprises fever, dry coughing, and fatigue that may lead to severe symptoms, such as difficulty in breathing, chest pain, difficulty in talking, and moving. These findings are in line with Rohan et al. (2020), who noted that the correct identification of signs and symptoms of COVID-19 is critical to take appropriate action when unwell. Participants in the study showed their devotion in abiding by World Health Organization (WHO) regulations on COVID-19, which involves washing of hands with running water and soap, wearing a mask, avoiding touching eyes, mouth and nose, covering one's mouth and nose with your bent elbow when sneezing, staying at home and lastly avoiding crowds.

Results of the study show knowledge and practice on COVID-19 being successfully reaching youth. Participants showed great awareness of how the virus spread through the droplets from the infected person's nose and mouth and get into another person's mouth, eyes or nose. Participants showed that they are well versed in the knowledge on who is more vulnerable to contracting coronavirus. The elderly and people with underlying conditions were depicted as under a massive threat from the coronavirus. This is in agreement with the study by Rohan et al (2020), who reported on the risk factor groups noting that COVID-19 affects the elderly and those with certain pre-existing conditions (such as obesity and diabetes) more than other groups, both in terms of susceptibility and severity of disease, as well as mortality risk. The study also highlighted the alternatives not proven by the World Health organization (WHO), that the youth are now doing as a preventative measure to contracting COVID-19. The use of wood shrubs named Zumbani and Tsunami showed a high trend. Drinking of warm water, garlic tea, ginger, and lemon crush were some practices that show that youth are taking extra precautionary measures to protect themselves and society at large from coronavirus. Overall, knowledge of COVID-19 signs and symptoms, preventive practices, risk groups, and actions was high among the youth.

6.3 Declining Livelihoods and socio-economic rights of the youth.

The study unpacked the youth's plight, highlighting a decline in their livelihoods and rights due to the induced national lockdown under the statutory instrument 83 of 2020. Youth in the informal sector business have experienced complete shutdown of their livelihoods because of travel restrictions set. Informal sector participants are being disregarded and are not included as essential workers. According to Resilience theory by Van Breda (2018), the social environment is critical for the sustainability of individuals and family success during hard times. Unfortunately, in the study, youth highlighted that the environment that they are operating in had put them in a difficult situation as the local authorities are arresting and raiding anyone who attempts to conduct their business. The government of Zimbabwe has failed to create employment for the youth, and at the same time, they are arresting the youth and confiscating their property. The study exposed the reality that youth face and their fundamental human rights and freedoms are not respected. According to the constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment 20 ACT of 2013, youth should be offered opportunities for employment and other avenues to economic empowerment and also protection from harmful cultural practices, exploitation, and all forms of abuse. The study exposed that Zimbabwe's government has no respect for human rights, and youth is one of the categories of society whose socio-economic rights are not recognised. This is in line with Mabala (2011) in chapter 2, who highlighted that youth are being demonised as potential threats to stability and development. This has led youths neglected or mistreated by the state. The study puts across evidence that the restrictive measures around COVID-19 at times have clashed with human rights.

In the study, the youth highlighted that they fail to make ends meet due to the cat and mouse type of a relationship with the council officers and police. This has led youth to make time and place of operation adjustments, leading to the loss of many livelihoods. Local authorities target the youth because their businesses are termed illegal, unregistered, and unrecorded economic activities. Sustaining this argument, the Resilience theory by Van Breda (2018) emphasises adaptive resilience, which involves a process of continuous transformation and learning in the aftermath of disruptions. Zimbabwe's government failures to provide jobs for the youth and every ordinary person in the country, has enabled the youth to navigate themselves and create their employment, which the government is now destroying using force by local authorities. This agrees with Scoones (2019), who argues that these mobile lives and precarious employment in the informal kukiya-kiya economy are harsh, sometimes

dangerous, and never provide much more than subsistence incomes. Zimbabwe's government has toughened the lockdown restriction of youth by giving curfews and rebuking anyone to move without a legit pass letter approved by them, leading to an increase in the economic turmoil of the youth. This is in agreement with Chazovachi (2020) study in Masvingo, which highlighted that the lockdown brought more harm than good as travel restriction, the stay at home mantra and, the closure of markets led to the collapse of entrepreneurship spirit among young women in business.

Youth in the study highlighted that the national lockdown had exacerbated their poverty levels because the informal sector is not listed amongst the essential services, and yet they are the drivers of the Zimbabwean economy. Many youths reported failing to provide for themselves and their families because they have been ripped off their rights and survival strategies. This is in line with the study by Ssali, (2020) in Uganda, who stipulated that, their incomes have been significantly reduced, for most young people, either because their parent's work had stopped due to the lockdown, or because the income from their work had reduced. This means that many of the young people and their families no longer have the financial means to purchase basic needs such as food for survival. This resonates with Mackworth-Young (2020) in chapter 2, who discovered that income for the youth was generated through "day to day sales" and people did not have enough funds to avoid purchasing their food on a daily basis because people survive hand to mouth and staying at home is not an option.

6.4 Youth bouncing back better.

Youth in the study showed their full potentials of channeling in new modes of survival and quickly adapting to technology when doing business. In the study, the youth discovered several mechanisms that they are using to cope with the national lockdown. Use of the internet when selling and advertising via social media platforms, diversification of livelihoods and perseverance in times of adversity shows that the youth are adapting to the current national lockdown situation. This is in line with the argument propounded by the resilience theory by Van Breda (2018) that, the mediating process involves personal intelligence, problem -solving skills, emotional intelligence, motivation to succeed, faith and hope. Youth in the study have shown some mediating qualities within them to quench the national lockdown situation. Online business has been adopted to maximise their profits, and customers and cover up the time lost during the day when it will be unworkable face -to -face with the customers. This in agreement with Mwaura (2016) in chapter 2, who discovered youth transitioning from one activity to another demonstrating how they seize contingent

labor market opportunities while keeping an eye on potential future opportunities. However, online business has also come with negative impacts because of the unreasonable mobile data expenses to stay online on many social media platforms and courier companies' hiring. Regardless of data problems, different players are coping and trying to fit in the new technology-based ways of doing business, which is now the new usual way of life and how one can recover and revive their business. The results of this study show that youths are improvising and embracing technology in business making their lives easy. This is different from the results found by Chazovachi (2020) who discovered that the restrictions imposed by law enforcement agencies, which forced people to stay indoors, resulted in more vulnerability rather than resilient pathways and the path to recovery is difficult to find.

6.5 Conclusion and issues of further research.

In conclusion, the research vehemently exposed the youth's plight on their livelihoods during the COVID-19 national lockdown induced under the statutory instrument 83 of 2020. As central players of the informal sector, youth are languishing in poverty due to their physical business premises being closed. Local authorities such as the council and the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) are raiding and arresting youth trying to make ends meet in the streets during the national lockdown. Youth have adapted new alternatives to doing business by embracing technology, which has led to both positive and negative outcomes.

This qualitative research has attempted to raise awareness of the significant problems, particularly on livelihoods and rights, that the youth in Old Highfield, Harare encounter. I recommend that further research on youth be done face-to-face with the participants because this research was based online, and there is a need for field work. Fieldwork is crucial because it yields detailed data, unlike online research, where one can get abstract responses. Fieldwork also unpacks the social reality that may not be immediately obvious, and through observations, research participants may be unaware that they are being researched. Further research should be done focusing on COVID-19 and its impacts on all sectors of society and marginalised groups. The focus should also be placed on the new regular issues and how different players, including women, the elderly and migrants, are coping and fitting in.

Further research should be on the COVID-19 public health response fund finding out if it is inclusive and accessible to all. Lastly, some more research should be on the recovery from COVID-19 and how the post-COVID-19 will look like. Research should ensure that there should be a social dialogue between the youth and local authorities in the context of informality that will enhance youth livelihoods and their socio-economic rights.

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APPENDIX

Interview Guide

- 1)What is your knowledge towards Coronavirus (COVID-19)?
- 2)What practices are you doing towards Coronavirus (COVID-19?
- 3)What do you do as a livelihood?
- 4) What are the major challenges you are facing on your livelihood due to COVID-19 national lockdown?
- 5)What are you doing to solve the challenges you are facing?
- 6)What are the outcomes of your efforts to sustain your livelihood during the COVID-19 national lockdown?