BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

TOPIC

PERSIVED FACTORS OF NON-DISCLOSURE OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE CASES BY CHILD PROTECTION OFFICERS. A CASE STUDY OF CHITUNGWIZA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

BY

Eulisis J Mutsutsururu

(B202321B)

A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUEMENTS FOR THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE HONOURS DEGREE

IN SOCIAL WORK

2024

SUPERVISOR: Mr Sadomba

ABSTRACT

The study explored the perceived factors of non-disclosure of child sexual abuse by child protection officers, at Chitungwiza Department of Social Development, Zimbabwe being the study setting. The study utilized the qualitative method and data was collected through in-depth interviews and key informant in-depth interviews. The study utilized the Critical Consciousness theory in explaining the findings of the study. The main findings from the study included the types of perpetrators of child sexual abuse, the perceived factors underlying non-disclosure of child sexual abuse cases by child protection officers and the support services available for victims of child sexual abuse. Conclusions drawn from the study were that perpetrators of child sexual abuse are the people that are close to the child though strangers can also be included. The study also concludes that sexually abused children do not disclose their abuse due to many factors that can be influenced by their age, gender and socioecological factors. The study also concludes that support services for victims are available in the different forms that ca help them deal and overcome the abuse. Therefore, it is recommended that the government of Zimbabwe should implement child sexual abuse prevention programs that focus on education, awareness raising and social support, the government should provide for long term, sustainable funding for child sexual abuse cases ad not sorely depend on the non -governmental organisations and also the legal system should address the gaps that concern child sexual abuse.

APPROVAL FORM

The undersigned certify that they have read the dissertation and have approved it submission for marking confirming that it conforms to the departmental requirements on research entitled: 'Perceived factors of non-disclosure of child sexual abuse cases by child protection officers. A case study of Chitungwiza Department of Social Development". Submitted by Eulisis Joyce Mutsutsururu in partial fulfilment of Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Social Work.

Mr Sadomba (Dissertation Supervisor) …………………………………

Date………………………

DECLARATION FORM

I hereby declare that this thesis has been a result of my own original efforts and investigations and

such work has not been presented elsewhere for the purpose of degree assessment. All additional

sources have been acknowledged by means of references.

Student   Supervisor

…………………   ………………

E.J Mutsutsururu   Mr. Sadomba

Date …... /…..../…...   Date …... /……/…….

BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

Students Name..F. Mutsutsururu.......... Signature...Baba2............date 26/09/24

Supervisors name...F. SADOMBA...... Signature...........................date 26/09/24

Chairperson...P. J. NJOMU................. Signature........pp............date 26/09/24

DEDICATION

Research is dedicated to my family most specially my mom, my deputy parents and sisters.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank my supervisor Mr Sadomba for his tremendous support despite the workload he had. I would also like to extent my warm gratitude to my parents and siblings for the support they gave me throughout the journey, the prayers and encouragement kept me going. I also want to express my gratitude to my friends who always encouraged me to keep pushing. My gratitude also goes to all those who encouraged me and helped me go through this journey. Above all I give thanks to the Almighty Father in heaven for being with me and for providing me with the strength to go on and also the provision of all that I needed. I thank Him for he was always on my side

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ASEAN- ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST OF RIGHTS OF CHILDREN
BBC – BRITISH BROADCASTIG COOPERATION
CCW - COMMUNITY CASE WORKER
CRC - CONVENTION ON THE RIRGHT OF CHILDREN
CSA - CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE
DSD - DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
EU - EUROPEAN UNION
FBI - FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FST - FAMILYSUPPORT TRUST
HIV – HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS

ICAC - INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN
IFSW - INTERNATIONAL FEDERAL FOR SOCIAL WORKERS
NGO – NO- GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION
PEP -POST EXPOSURE PROFILUXIS
RPA-EVAC - REGENAL PLAN OF ACTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN
STI – SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTION
UN   UNITED NATIONS
UNCRC   UNITED NATIONS CONCENTION FOR THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN
UNICEF -   UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S EMERGENCE FUND
USAID BHA COVID 19 - UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BUREAU FOR HUMAMANITARIAN ASSOCIATION
VFU - VICTIM FRIENDLY UNIT
WHO - WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATIONS

TABLE OF CONTENT

Table of Contents

List of tables

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

1.0 Introduction

Child sexual abuse is one of the common forms of violence against children that has become a public health crisis globally. Thus, protecting children against sexual abuse has become a fundamental right for children. However, the extent of child sexual abuse in Zimbabwe and at the global level is somewhat unknown for varied reasons including non-reporting or disclosure of such cases by parents, guardians or victims of abuses. Hence, the purpose of this study was to explore the perceived factors of non-disclosure of child sexual abuse by child protection officers at the Chitungwiza Department of Social Development, Zimbabwe. This chapter presents the background to the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, objectives of the study, research questions, significance of the study, delimitation as well as the theoretical framework underpinning the study.

1.1 Background of the study

Child Sexual Abuse is a world health and social problem that is affecting children and their caregivers. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), child sexual abuse is a global public health problem that affects children of all ages, cultures, and socioeconomic backgrounds. World Health Organization (WHO) defines CSA as "involvement of a child in sexual activity that he or she does not fully comprehend, is unable to give informed consent to, or for which the child is not developmentally prepared, or that violates the laws or social taboos of society" (WHO 2006). The WHO estimates that up to 30% of girls and 15% of boys experience some form of sexual abuse before the age of 18. It is also estimated that 5%- 50% of children world-wide suffer from child abuse and 55% for both non -contact and contact sexual abuse have been reported (Mieinck, 2016). It is estimated that every year worldwide about 5 to 10 % of girls and up to 5 % of boys are subject to penetrative sexual abuse. The global prevalence of CSA has been estimated at 11.8% (118 per 1,000 children), with the rate highest in Africa (34.4%) and lowest in Europe (9.2%). In Africa, the World Health Organization (2010) estimates that 24 million girls and 8.6 million boys under the age of 18 years have experienced some form of sexual abuse involving physical contact.

According to Iaccino (2014) the countries with the highest rate of child sexual abuse are United States of America, United Kingdom, India, South Africa and Zimbabwe. In 2012, there were increase report in rates of child sexual abuse in Zimbabwe. It is also estimated that more than 400,000 cases of CSA are reported every year in Zimbabwe (Médecins Sans Frontières, 2011). The Spokesperson, Assistant Commissioner Charity Charamba said that rape cases against children are on the rise country wide (News De Zimbabwe). She further stated that in September 2012 the cases rose from 65 to 81 in just a week. She further indicated that in 2011, there were 3,172 rape cases of juveniles recorded countrywide, an increase from 2010 when 2,883 cases were reported. In 2022, Women's Affairs Minister Sithembiso Nyoni said that "statistics from the police shows that during the period of January to September 2022, a total of 435 rape cases have been reported and of the 58% involve minors. She further stated that "these are figures of reported cases but we are fully aware that so many similar cases go unreported all in the name of preserving the family name". This shows that many cases of child sexual abuse go unreported due to the aforementioned reasons.

Chitungwiza, a densely populated urban area in Zimbabwe, has got high rate of sexually abused children especially girls. Statistics show that one in four girls and one in five boys in the city have experienced some form of sexual abuse, but many cases go unreported or are not acted upon. 71% of the children in Zimbabwe live in areas including Chitungwiza where access to social services and general information on child protection is limited (UNICEF, 2014). Thus, the prevalence of child sexual abuse in Chitungwiza remains largely unknown, as many cases go unreported. This is due to a number of factors, including children's reluctance to disclose abuse, families' reluctance to report abuse, and communities' reluctance to take action on reports of abuse. Ungar (2009) purported that gender has been found to influence disclosure in that boys appear to be more reluctant to disclose than girls. In some cases, parents are the one to be blamed as they prevent their children from disclosing the abuse if perpetrated by breadwinners for fear of losing financial support (Chikwiri and Lemmer, 2014). It also faces specific challenges related to child sexual abuse like poverty, lack of awareness, inadequate support services, social stigma, and traditional beliefs. Victimization by the perpetrator and the threat of social stigma prevents children from speaking out about the abuse (Delano, 1998). Therefore, understanding the factors that contribute to the non-disclosure of child sexual abuse in this context is essential for developing effective

prevention and intervention strategies to ensure the well-being and safety of the children in the community

Sexual abuse has got a serious physical, psychological, social and emotional impact on the victims well -being. Care and protection of children in Zimbabwe is regulated by the Children's Act chapter 5.06 which states that children are supposed to be safe, valued and encouraged to grow and develop. The problem with sexual abuse cases is the disclosure because in spite of the initiative, child sexual abuse is still alarming. A substantial number of cases go unreported, impeding effective intervention and hindering efforts to prevent future abuse. This is particularly true in emerging nations such as Zimbabwe, where cultural, socio-economic, and legal factors contribute to the underreporting and non-disclosure of child sexual abuse. Sumampouw, Otgaar, La Rooy and de Ruiter (2019) denote that child sexual abuse violates pieces of legislations such as the UN Convention of the Rights of the child which is aimed at protecting children from any kind of sexual abuse. The dilemma with child sexual abuse is the disclosure. Most children are being sexually abused both by family and non-family members and such incidents are not always disclosed and/or reported (Rapholo, 2014). Children are abused in places and places where they are supposed to get protection, affection and shelter and even promotion of rights. The researcher noted that in Chitungwiza urban cases of child sexual abuse are at a rise but most of the cases are not reported especially those abuses by family members. This confirms Rapholo and Makhubele's (2019) study on forensic interviewing that children are prepared within their families to not share to the public any upsetting intimate details of family life. As children are taught not to share their private information with people, they become uncomfortable to share such information with outsiders and even with family members. This study therefore was aimed at exploring and describing the perceived factors of non-disclosure of child sexual abuse by child protection officers at the Chitungwiza Department of Social Development, Zimbabwe.

1.2 Statement of the problem
Child Sexual Abuse is considered as one of the most hideous crimes against children with long lasting effects, if not treated well on time (Matiyani 2011). Nowadays it is not sufficient to suffice with knowing what an offense is and does, since being aware of the background of it has become so important. Understanding the reasons behind non-disclosure is a key part of preventing child sexual abuse (CSA). Dickenson (2013) suggests that forensic studies on "socio-psychological

interferences in decision-making processes" are essential for the successful investigation of CSA. The issue of non-disclosure has drawn considerable attention from researchers and many new research projects have been focusing on why victims are unable to disclose abuse. For example, Ullman (2007) proposed a groundbreaking model which explains the pathways between the experience of victimization and non-disclosure of sexual assault. This literature argues that failure to disclose child sexual abuse can pose serious implications to victims, survivors, and society as a whole. Some of the implications include early teenage pregnancy, child marriage and reproduction of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV. The communities need to cooperate to create a safe social environment for the disclosure and break the silence children being suffered. The research argues that children are being sexually abused by family members and non -family members and the cases are not reported due to various influential factors. These include the relationship with the perpetrator, age, gender, culture, parental support, post -traumatic stress and duration of the abuse. Rapholo (2014) states that children are taught to adhere to family and societal rules, norms and standards, thus forcing them (unintentionally) to keep sexual abuse secret. Child sexual abuse could be vulnerable to blame, shame and stigma leading to fear of speaking out (Obong'o 2020), thus, children become reluctant to share the information due to those factors which lead to serious after effects. When child sexual abuse is not disclosed, children run the risk of being subjected to longer or repeated abuse, not receiving necessary treatment, and being re-victimized. Therefore, due to a limited number of cases reported, the researcher developed an interest to explore the perceived factors of non-disclosure of sexual abuses cases by child protection officers.

1.3 Aim of the study

This study is aimed at exploring, identify and examine the perceived factors of non -disclosure of sexual abuse cases by child protection officers at the Chitungwiza Department of Social Development, Zimbabwe. By examining these factors, the researcher seeks to fill the existing knowledge gap in order to inform policy- making, improving support system and develop targeted interventions to address the critical issues.

1.4 Research objectives

To understand the perceived factors of non -disclosure of child sexual abuse cases by child protection officers at the Chitungwiza Department of Social Development, this research has put through the following objectives:

- To identify the types of perpetrators of child sexual abuse at the DSD Chitungwiza
- To explore the perceived factors that influence the non-disclosure of child sexual abuse by child protection officers at the Chitungwiza Department of Social Development
- To identify the support services available to victims of child of child sexual abuse at the DSD in Chitungwiza

1.5 Research Questions
- What are the types of perpetrators of child sexual abuse?
- What are the perceived factors that influence the non-disclosure of child sexual abuse cases by child protection officers at the Chitungwiza Department of Social Development?
- What are the support services available for the victims of child sexual abuse offered by the legal system in the non-disclosure of child sexual abuse in Chitungwiza?

1.6 Justification of the study
To date there is very little research that has explored on perceived factors of non- disclosure of child sexual abuse cases by child protection officers. Such information is vital in order in providing insights that will positively lead to the end of sexual abuse against children. Thus, this study is therefore aiming to explore on the factors underlying non -disclosure of child sexual abuse and in turn, this will contribute to strengthening of the existing literature bases, policy's, programmes and other innovative ways. The following are key areas which this study will contribute to:

1.6.1 Body of knowledge
Studies have been conducted on child sexual abuse but little research was done on the non-disclosure of child sexual abuse. Thus, this study will contribute to the body of knowledge by shedding light on the various factors that influence the non-disclosure of child sexual abuse. By examining the perspectives of both the victims and the professionals, the study adds to the understanding of the issue and provides valuable insights into the experience and challenges faced by the those affected. This knowledge can be used to inform future research, policy development and intervention strategies.

1.6.2 Policy implications
There are various policies and programs in Zimbabwe that are designed to end child sexual abuse which include the Child Protection and Welfare act of 2012, the National Plan of Action for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Child Neglect of 2011, National Action Plan on Violence Against

Children of 2019. These policies and programs are important to the welfare and protection of children but gaps continue to be noticed on the non-disclosure of child sexual abuse cases. Therefore, such areas need to be strengthened and amended. Thus, findings from this study can have a significant impact on the policy and program development. Thus, by identifying the key factors that contribute to non-disclosure, policy makers and program developers can design interventions that specifically target these issues. This may include training for professionals working with victims, the development of support services for victims and the implementation of awareness campaigns to educate the public about the issue.

1.6.3 Community

Ultimately, the study seeks to create a safer, more supportive environment for children in Chitungwiza and beyond, empowering them to disclose and break the cycle of silence surrounding child sexual abuse. Moreover, this research will be used to reduce non -disclosure of sexual abuse cases in families, to empower children to be self-reliant, to educate children about their rights and obligations. The diverse range of participants that is, the victims and professionals who work with the victims, helps to ensure that the findings are relevant and applicable to a broad audience.

1.6.4 Innovation and industrialization

By understanding the factors that prevent disclosure, researchers and professionals can develop new strategies for prevention, intervention and support. This may include use of technology such as mobile applications and social media platforms, to provide support and resources to victims and raise awareness about the issue. Additionally, the study can inform industrialisation of these strategies by ensuring that they are scalable, sustainable and cost-effective.

1.7 Definition of key terms

Non -disclosure -is the tendency of victims not to disclose their abuse to others including family members, friends and law enforcement.

Child sexual abuse – is the inability of a child to comprehend or consent to sexual activities and were perpetrators have power, responsibility or trust (WHO, 2006). Refers to ill-treatment that may occur to a child through sexual activities such as having sex with a minor, exposing children to pornographic material, caressing the body of a minor, and any other form of sexual advances towards a child, the ill-treatment can be psychological or physical (Bravery, 2003).

1.8 Dissertation outline

This dissertation is focus on the perceived factors of non-disclosure of child sexual abuse cases by child protection officers at the Chitungwiza Department of Social Development, Zimbabwe.

- **Chapter one**: This chapter focused on introductory issues related to the perceived factors underlying non-disclosure of child sexual abuse cases by child protection officers A case study of Chitungwiza Department of Social Development. The key issues discussed include the background to the study, statement of the problem, aim of the study, objectives of the study, research questions, justification of the study and definition of key terms. The main idea of these chapter is to provide which have influenced the study.

- **Chapter two**: This chapter presented relevant literature review on the non-disclosure of child sexual abuse through the three main objectives. The Theoretical Framework was discussed based on the various issues related to the study.

- **The chapter three**: This chapter focused on methodological orientation, study approach, study design, data collection methods and tools and sampling techniques. More so, the section elaborated to ethical considerations and limitation of the study.

- **Chapter four:** This chapter focused on data presentation, interpretation and discussion. Data was presented using thematic approach guided by study objectives. The integration of study findings was done guided by theoretical frameworks and literature review.

- **Chapter five**: This chapter provided the final summary of the study. Key issues discussed under this section included: summary of the findings, conclusion and recommendations of the study.

1.9 Chapter Summary

This chapter focused on introducing the topic, giving insights on the background of the study globally, regionally and locally. It looked at the aims and justification of the study giving information on how it will contribute to the existing knowledge and make a difference. It also defined the key terms of the study. The next chapter will focus on the literature review and theoretical framework.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

The focus of this chapter is on theoretical framework and literature review. This chapter reviews the existing literature on the perceived factors of non -disclosure of child sexual abuse cases by child protection officers. The literature tries to lay down a debate between different authors opinion on the perceived factors underlying non-disclosure of child sexual abuse cases by child protection officers (Kumar, 2018) puts across that literature review is a means of showing knowledge about a particular area of study. A literature review can broadly be described as a more or less systematic way of collecting and synthesizing previous research (Kumar 2018).

2.1 Theoretical Framework

The research will be guided by a theoretical framework that focuses on raising awareness and consciousness about social injustice, empowering individuals, and promoting social change. The critical consciousness model draws on critical theory, which originated from the work of scholars such as Paulo Freire. The critical consciousness model is a concept that emphasizes the importance of individuals being aware of and critically analyzing social, political, and cultural issues. Patti Lather (2006) states that to achieve critical consciousness individuals must critically analyze their own and others lived experiences about social relations that impact their lives. It involves recognizing and challenging oppressive systems and structures in society.

The key components for critical consciousness are dialogue, critical thinking and problem solving. Dialogue creates connections between unheard voices which leads to the ability to think critically. Critical thinking opens the door to problem solving, being able to find solutions to the current issue of child sexual abuse. Thus, through dialogue, victims of child sexual abuse can have a strong emotional impact which will allow them to speak about the experience and build a critical conscious environment which gives opportunity for them to use their voice for social change.

The critical consciousness model provides a theoretical framework for understanding child sexual abuse from a socio-political perspective as it allows for a deeper understanding of the socio-political factors that may contribute to the silence and under-reporting of such abuse. This model

emphasizes the role of power dynamics, social inequalities, and structural factors in perpetuating and maintaining child sexual abuse. According to Emma Adam and Sally Raskoff (2007) critical consciousness involves identifying and understanding the structural factors that constrain individual and community functioning. With power dynamics, the abuser holds a position of authority over the victim which can create an environment where the victim feels silenced, afraid or unable to speak out against the abuse. Social inequalities and structures like race, gender and class can intersect with power dynamics to create a unique experience of vulnerability and oppression. The model focuses on the role of socialization and norms in shaping individuals' beliefs, values and behaviors. Shannon Gibson and Kimberly Schonert Reichl (2010), perpetuated that socialization help individuals develop an awareness of the social context in which they live and its influence on their behavior. Societal norms and expectations can prevent victims from speaking out their experiences. For instance, stigma surrounding sexual abuse may lead to victims feeling ashamed or embarrassed thereby preventing them from disclosing the abuse.

Mtthew Sandoval-Lucero (2008) states that critical consciousness make people see political actions as pathways to address problems that they face. Hence, political systems that prioritize in maintaining social order and stability over addressing injustice may contribute to climate where victims feel silenced or unheard. When sexual abuse is suspected, discovered, or disclosed within a family, families from all ethnic groups may be reluctant to report it due to insensitive responses, victim blaming, cumbersome legal procedures, and the forced separation of family members.

The model emphasizes the importance of critical reflection and empowerment. The concept of empowerment has its origins in democracy, education, and social movements for justice, peace, and equality (Rappaport, 1981; Gonzalez, 1991). According to Friere (1970) and McLaren (2003) critical consciousness involves conscientization and praxis. It highlights the importance of critical awareness and collective action to challenge and transform the underlying social conditions that enable abuse to occur. According to this model, child sexual abuse is not solely an individual issue but is deeply rooted in societal structures, such as gender inequality, patriarchy, and systems of oppression. By raising consciousness about these power imbalances and engaging in critical dialogue, individuals and communities can work towards dismantling the social norms and structures that contribute to child sexual abuse. Education and awareness can help individuals to develop a critical consciousness of the socio-political factors that can contribute to non-disclosure,

empowering them to speak out against abuse and advocate for change. According to Erik Malewski and Dolly Kikon (2013) educators can assist in developing victims' critical consciousness by fostering reflective thoughts, critical thinking and rational political awareness. The critical consciousness model calls for advocacy, social justice, and systemic change to create a society where child safety and well-being are prioritized and protected. Therefore, the critical consciousness model can serve as a foundation for developing strategies and interventions that promote greater awareness, empowerment and social change to child sexual abuse.

2. 2 Literature review
Child sexual abuse is a significant global public health concern, with long-lasting physical, psychological, and emotional consequences for victims. Despite its grave implications, a substantial number of cases go unreported, impeding effective intervention and hindering efforts to prevent future abuse. This is particularly true in emerging nations such as Zimbabwe, where cultural, socio-economic, and legal factors contribute to the underreporting and non-disclosure of child sexual abuse.

2. 3 Types of perpetrators of child sexual abuse.
Child sexual abuse perpetrators can be categorised into different types based on their relationship with the victim and their characteristics. Understanding the different types of perpetrators of child sexual abuse is important for identifying and stopping the abuse. Since we cannot watch all people who have contact with children all of the time, it is helpful to know where and how to focus efforts for the best protection. The intention of a perpetrator can vary: some may seek power and control some may seek to harm and others may have other motives. Knowing this, together with finding out who the different types of perpetrators are, could help to direct prevention and detection efforts effectively. It is also likely that closer attention would be paid to different types of abuse in different settings, for example, where abuse by a family is a greater risk. The characteristics of the perpetrators play a significant role in influencing the child's decision to disclose cases of sexual abuse. In the European region, a study conducted by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) found that 83% of child sexual abuse victims know their perpetrators, with the most common perpetrator being the family member (34%), other know adults (59%) and strangers (6%). This research will focus on the following main types of perpetrators and these are:

2.3.1 Family members

Family members are often the perpetrators of child sexual abuse as they have easy access to victims. According to the National Centre for Victims of Crime, approximately 30% of perpetrators of child sexual abuse are family members. Family members, by nature, are expected to be trustworthy and caring, which in turn may be difficult for the child to realise or accept that a family member may be abusing them. Thus, the abuser may use the trust to manipulate and silence the child. Rheingold (2015) states that, in many cases of child sexual abuse, family members are responsible for a significant portion of the abuse cases, with fathers and stepfathers being the most common reported perpetrators. Also, family members often hold positions of power in the family and that power dynamic can make it difficult for the child to challenge or defy the abuse. Other family members use emotional connection to exploit the child's vulnerability and ensure their silence. For example, the case of Jeffrey Epstein a wealthy financier who was convicted of sex trafficking and conspiracy, involved numerous allegations of abuse against young girls including family members and relatives of his associates. This therefore shows that family members perpetrators use the vulnerability of the child to abuse them. Alaggia (2005) emphasized that perpetrators may use tactics such as manipulation, threats or coercion to ensure that the victim remain silent about the abuse. Thus, because of all these characteristics the child may face negative impacts like fear of the consequences, shame, embarrassment and stigma. According to Bolen and Lamp (2004), in cases where the perpetrator is a family member, victims may face additional pressure to maintain family unity and avoid disrupting relationships within the family. At the end, this pressure can lead to victims choosing not to disclose the abuse in orders to protect their family member and maintain a sense of normalcy within the family unit. According to the critical consciousness model child sexual abuse is often a product of larger systems of oppression and inequality. Hence, families are not isolated units but are instead influenced by the large social, cultural and political context in which they exist. Thus, families that engage in child sexual abuse are often a reflection of larger systems of power and control.

2.3.2 Acquaintances

Perpetrators are more likely to be individuals known to the victim, such as family member, friend or acquaintances. According to Rheingold (2015), 60% of child sexual abuse cases involve perpetrators who are known to the child, with acquaintances accounting for a significant portion of these cases. For instance, in the case of the Catholic church sex abuse scandal by BBC (2020),

many perpetrators were priests and other church officials who were in position of trust and authority over children. This highlights how the people in power abuse their powers to manipulate children in turn making the children to fear retaliation if they disclose the abuse because the person holds the position of power. Alaggia and Millington (2008) highlights that fear of retaliation can be a significant barrier to disclose, especially when the abuser is known to the child and is in authority. Also, the dynamics of the relationship with the perpetrator can lead to internalised blame and self-doubt, making it difficult for the child to come forward. London (2005) emphasizes that such feelings can contribute to non -disclosure and hinder the reporting of abuse by acquaintance. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reports that children are more likely to be sexually abused by someone they know than by a stranger. This is particularly true in low- and middle-income countries where the children are often more vulnerable due to poverty lack of access to education and social norms that normalise violence against children. The critical consciousness model states that child sexual abuse by acquaintances is often a result of power imbalance that exist in the society. Thus, it is important to reduce these power imbalances and creating a more just and equitable society so that victims can have a safe and free environment to disclose their abuse.

2.3.3 Authority figures

The authority figure in a child's life like parents, guardians, teachers or other caregivers can significantly impact the non -disclosure of child sexual abuse. Their role as protectors and caregivers creates a dynamic where children feel compelled to comply with their wishes or instructions. Thus, these power imbalances can be exploited by the perpetrators of child sexual abuse to manipulate or threaten the child not to disclose the abuse. London (2005) states that in cases of familial child sexual abuse, perpetrators often use their role as a parent or caregiver to silence the victim through emotional manipulation and coercion. If an authority figure is perceived as being highly respected or influential within the community, children may fear the repercussions of disclosing abuse especially if the authority figure is strict and punitive. For instance, the Catholic church have been embroiled in numerous scandals involving priests sexually abusing child. In 2018, a grand jury report revealed that over 300 priests in Pennsylvania had sexually abused children over several decades. The report showed that the church official covered the abuse allowing the perpetrators to avoid persecution. Similarly, the United Nations faced allegations of sexual abuse by its peacekeepers in 2017. The UN reported to have received 145 allegations of

sexual exploitation and abuse against its personnel with different children comprising of 88% of the victims under the age of 18 (United Nations 2018). Thei therefore reveals that, internationally, the people in authority abuse their power and cover up their allegations with their authority so as to skip persecution yet it costs other children's wellbeing. It highlights the power dynamics at play and vulnerability of children within such structures. Regionally, several cases have highlighted the role of authority figures in child sexual abuse. In Europe, several high -profile cases have involved teachers and coaches abusing children under their care. In the United States, school teachers have been involved in numerous sexual abuse cases. The Los Angeles Times (2016) reported over 150 teachers in Los Angeles Unified School District had been accused of sexual misconduct since 2008. The abuse by authority figures highlights the need to strengthen measures to protect children from potential predators. It has been identified that authorities at international, regional and local levels are perpetrators of child sexual abuse. According to the critical consciousness model individual who are aware of their social reality can effectively challenge oppression system (Freire 2018). Thus, through the model children can be empowered to resist and recognise abusive behaviours by authority figures. However, it is essential to couple this with stringent measures to prevent abuses from occurring in the first place. Thus, by fostering an understanding of power dynamics and promoting open communication channels between children and adults, communities can work towards preventing child sexual abuse (Watts and Hipwell, 2009).

2.3.4 Strangers

In many cases, perpetrators of child sexual abuse are not strangers but individuals known to the family. However, it is important to recognise that strangers can also be perpetrators of child sexual abuse. Children who experience sexual abuse by strangers may be less likely to disclose the abuse compared to those abuse by the people they know. Baker (2016) notes that fear of retribution, shame and confusion about the nature of the abusive act are significant barriers to disclosure in cases involving strangers as perpetrators. Strangers who perpetrate child sexual abuse often exhibit certain characteristics that can contribute to non-disclosure of the abuse. These include the grooming behaviour where the perpetrator engages with the victim to establish trust and manipulating the child into keeping the abuse as a secret. Lyon and Ahern (2011) highlighted that the gradual manipulation and establishment of trust through grooming tactics makes it difficult for children to recognise the abusive nature of the interactions and inhibited their willingness to disclose. Strangers may use threats and intimidation to prevent the child from disclosing the abuse

making them reluctant to report for fear of repercussions. London (2005) emphasised that treats made by strangers during instances of abuse contribute to increased feelings of helplessness and decreased likelihood of disclosure among child victims. At the international level, the issues of child sexual abuse by strangers are often addressed through legal framework and conventions. One important tool that requires state parties to protect children from all types of abuse, including sexual exploitation and abuse by strangers, is the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The role of strangers in child sexual abuse is further clarified by the Palermo Protocol, which is an alternative to the United Nations Conventions against Transnational Organized Crime and is intended to prevent, suppress, and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children. Regionally, with laws like the Directive 2011/93/EU on fighting the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of minors and child pornography, the European Union (EU) has taken the lead in addressing child sexual abuse by strangers. The directive's goal is to stop and prevent child sexual abuse and exploitation, particularly situations in which strangers are involved. Furthermore, in the Asia-Pacific region, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has developed a Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Children (RPA-EVAC), which includes measures to protect children from sexual abuse by strangers. At the local level, law enforcements agencies and child protection organisations play a critical role in preventing and responding to child sexual abuse by strangers. For instance, in the United States, the Federal Bureau of investigation (FBI) has a dedicated Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) task forces that investigates and prevents online child sexual exploitation by strangers. Through the critical consciousness model children can better understand how societal norms, values and structures can contribute to the problem. For example, societal norms that normalize gender inequality or objectify children can create an environment that enables strangers to sexually exploit children. Thus, the model can raise critical consciousness by empowering individuals and community to challenge these norms and structure3s and take action to prevent child sexual abuse by strangers.

2.3.5 Online predators
The rapid advancement of technology has made it easy for predators to connect with potential victims. They can use social media, online gaming and other virtual environments to groom and exploit children. This ease access can contribute to a high number of cases and make it more challenging for victims to disclose the abuse. The predators create false identities, hide their

location, build trust with their targets and exploit the vulnerabilities, making it difficult for the victims to recognise the danger they are in and may lead to reluctance to disclose the abuse. Victims may not disclose due to fear of retaliation, guilt and feeling ashamed, lack of trust in authorities or support systems. Also, children may not be aware of the resources available to them or they may be unsure of how to access them thus, they choose not to disclose. The critical consciousness model theory posits that individuals must develop critical awareness

2.4 The factors that influence the non-disclosure of child sexual abuse

Child sexual abuse is a heinous crime that often goes unreported and undisclosed for various reasons. Several factors contribute to the nondisclosure of child sexual abuse cases, ranging from individual, societal and systemic issues. Individual factors include fear and shame, trauma and dependance on the abuser. Societal factors include stigma and victim blaming, cultural norms and lack of awareness. Systemic factors include inadequate reporting mechanisms, legal barriers and power dynamics.

Children who experience CSA may feel ashamed, guilty, or blame themselves for the abuse. They may fear that others will judge them or that they will be blamed for what happened. Others' negative reactions to disclosures may compound these impacts. Children may fear retaliation from the abuser or worry about the safety of others if they disclose the abuse. They may also fear that their family will be torn apart if they reveal the abuse. Due to their developmental stage, children may not be able to fully understand why the abusive behavior was improper or incorrect, which could cause them to postpone or not disclose the abuse. When a family member, friend, or other someone they know and trust abuses a child, the child may feel hesitant to report the abuse. The act of disclosing sexual abuse can heighten shame and guilt. They may worry about damaging the relationship or causing harm to the abuser. The context of the interview can also affect whether children disclose abuse. For example, children may be less likely to disclose abuse in clinical settings. This is because of lack of trust of the interviewer on if they will believe the child and help him or her not to be harmed afterwards.

Children face barriers like fear, lack of support or understanding of abuse and embarrassment (Lemaigre, Taylor and Gittoes 2017), which makes it hard for them to disclose. Some details of the abuse may be difficult for children to review, like the name of the perpetrator or severity of the abuse and this may be due to age of the victim. The willingness and ability to disclose depends

with both the characteristics of the child who was abused, that is, age and gender, and the abuse characteristics, that is, severity, frequency of the abuse (Anderson, 2016). There is rarely substantial physical evidence for CSA thus, prosecution is heavily reliant on victims' testimonies (Tashjian, Goldfarb, Goodman, Quas and Edelstein 2016). Sometimes in the presence of evidence like video recordings, medical examinations or presence of std's, children may deny allegations, recant statements, or simple fail to disclose during investigative interviews (Sjoberg and Lindblad 2002). While there is no direct relationship between the age, gender, or socioeconomic status of the sexually abused victim and non-disclosure, certain children may face additional barriers to disclosure because of their disability, ethnicity, and/or sexual orientation. The three major barriers are: -

2.4.1 Age
The age of the child who has been sexually abused at times of forensic interviews is a significant determinant of both memories, understanding and ability to describe an incident of sexual abuse (Middleton 2017). Most children of age 1 to 6 are most likely to have difficulties disclosing sexual abuse compared to older children (Middleton, 2017). Such ages will confuse statements made by the perpetrator because of the inability to understand the event. Unlike older children and adolescents, they are able to disclose child sexual abuse because they have a greater ability to fully understand the goal of the forensic interviews and typically provide more cohesive narrative of the abuse (Orbach and lamb, 2007). However, these barriers to disclose occurs in all age groups, in some cases older children of 10 to 12 years were found to be likely to disclose than a lower age group of 7-9years. Another study indicated that children who had disclosed were, on average, three years older than those who had not disclosed (Lippert 2009). Most recent findings showed that rates were found to peak at age eleven after which there is a sharp decline (Leach, Powell, Sharma, and Anglim 2017).

2.4.2 Gender
Gender is another important factor in the non-disclosure of child sexual abuse. Research suggests that boys are less likely to disclose abuse compared to girls. This could be due to societal expectations and stereotypes surrounding masculinity, which may discourage boys from reporting abuse for fear of being perceived as weak or less masculine. Girls, on the other hand, may face different barriers such as victim-blaming or societal stigma associated with sexual abuse.

2.4.3 Socio-economic factors

The socioeconomic status of a child can also impact their likelihood of disclosing sexual abuse. Children from lower socioeconomic backgrounds may face additional barriers such as limited access to resources and support systems. They may lack awareness about available services or fear involvement with authorities due to mistrust or previous negative experiences. Economic dependence on the abuser or fear of losing financial stability can also contribute to non-disclosure. These factors do not operate independently but interact with each other and other contextual factors in complex ways. For example, a combination of young age, male gender, and low socioeconomic status may create a particularly vulnerable situation for non-disclosure.

2.4.4 Culture and Social Norms

No single value defines a culture, nor does any one specific value belong to only one culture. But being aware of the norms that members of a particular culture frequently uphold can help us better understand the obstacles that prevent CSA from being disclosed within that culture's families. Certain concerns that manifest differently and have a greater cultural weight than others may stifle CSA revelations. These concerns include patriarchy, women's status, women's shame, women's taboos and modesty, women's sexual scripts, women's required violence, honor, and respect, among other. The method and results of CSA disclosures differ significantly depending on the culture, the child's age, gender, and other factors. Social and cultural standards can have a big impact on whether or not abuse is reported. Cultural factors affect children's reluctance to report abuse and prevent them from talking candidly about such experiences (Fontes, 2008). One could even consider a child's reluctance to divulge as a regrettable byproduct of a highly adaptive trait— that of defending one's society from unwanted strangers. It could be taboo to talk about sexual abuse in some cultures, which makes it harder for victims to come forward. For example, in some cultures, it may be considered taboo to discuss sexual matters openly, which can make it difficult for victims to disclose their abuse. Additionally, cultural and social norms may influence how victims perceive their experiences and whether they feel comfortable reporting them. For example, some cultures may view sexual abuse as a private matter that should be dealt with within the family rather than reported to authorities.

Children find it challenging to come out in a cultural setting that discourages talking about sexuality. Both sex education and disclosures are silenced by the Arab norms of "haya" (modesty) and "sharam" (shame/embarrassment) (Gilligan & Akhtar, 2006) and the Spanish values of

"pudor" (shame, modesty). Boys find it difficult to report sexual abuse by women because they believe that sex is a gendered battlefield. By not wanting to engage in sexual activity with an older woman, the kid is being less manly than he should be. Boys may find it difficult to report sexual abuse by males due to sexual scripts because doing so would mean "confessing" to having been abused, which would be a blow to their masculine image. Boys who have experienced sexual abuse at the hands of males are often assumed to be gay, an extremely stigmatized label for a kid to adopt. If a girl reports that a boy or man has sexually abused her, her claim may be disregarded in cultures where men are valued more than women. One South African girl, for example, told of covering her body even from her father, uncle, or brother since she couldn't hold them responsible if they raped her (Jewkes, Penn-Kekanna, Rose-Junius, 2005). Girls blame themselves and do not report if they are unable to place the blame on their male attackers. For girls, the stigma associated with "losing it" and the emphasis on virginity can be major obstacles to disclosure. Girls and women who have experienced sexual assault may face violent attacks or even murder from family members in certain cultures, where the victimization is perceived as a betrayal of the family and an attempt to restore honor. It is natural that girls find it more difficult to report their victimization when they are at risk of experiencing such an assault.

2.4.5 Religion
Religious customs and expectations vary, which can make it challenging to disclose sexual assault. For example, it can be expected of Catholic women and girls to endure sexual abuse in secret, viewing the abuse as a burden that they must bear. This demonstrates perseverance, self-resignation, and overcoming hardship. According to the Quran, Mohamed married Aisha for the last time when she was six years old and they were married for the first time when she was nine (Admon, 2009). This certainly adds to the high rates of child marriage (typically of young girls to much older men) and has been used by some Muslim clerics to excuse child weddings. Religious prohibitions in Judaism to respect one's parents may lead children to feel that they are not allowed to report or defend themselves against abuse. Lashon Hara, which forbids disparaging others, is also frequently cited as the rationale behind the inability to publicly identify abusers (Silberg & Dallam, 2009).

Understanding different people's perspectives and lifestyles and modifying work to suit them is known as cultural competence (Abney, 2001). Therefore, in order for professionals interviewing

children about CSA to be effective, the interview must be conducted in a way that is culturally competent. According to research by Davis and Bottoms (2002), children can disclose information more accurately and correct the interviewer when they see an error if they are treated with warmth and encouragement. Unaware of their own biases, interviewers are more likely to struggle to establish a rapport with children, which inevitably reduces accuracy. Interviewers can facilitate disclosures by children of diverse cultures by making sure they are as respectful, open, nonjudgmental, and engaging as possible, and making sure people have an opportunity to be interviewed in their preferred language. Interviewers can help children from different cultural backgrounds make disclosures by making sure the process is as courteous, transparent, nonjudgmental, and interesting as possible. They can also ensure that persons have the chance to be interviewed in the language of their choice.

2.5 The role of the legal system in the non-disclosure of child sexual abuse in Chitungwiza

Interventions for child sexual abuse fall into four categories: social, legal, medical, and psychological. Due to the specialized nature of CSA interventions, professionals from a variety of fields are needed, including social workers, physicians, nurses, police officers, magistrates, prosecutors, counselors, and psychologists. These experts work with the many agencies to focus on CSA survivors and their natural surroundings.

Medical interventions, such as HIV diagnostic testing, counseling, and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) to prevent HIV, STIs, and pregnancy, are intended to provide child survivors in Zimbabwe with medical therapy. A non-governmental group called FST offers survivors of sexual and gender-based abuse free medical and psychosocial support services. With financing from the USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance COVID-19 Emergency (USAID BHA COVID-19), FST, in collaboration with UNICEF Zimbabwe, offers medical and psychosocial treatment to children who have experienced sexual assault at its clinics located in Beitbridge, Chitungwiza, and Harare. According to FST Director Tamburai Muchinguri, children who have experienced sexual abuse and visit their clinics receive counseling, medical examinations, testing for STDs, and other services. In addition, they receive emergency contraception, STI prevention, and HIV post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). She went on to clarify that the USAID provides funding to UNICEF, which in turn funds the clinics in Beitbridge, Chitungwiza, and Harare. The organization provided support to 800 children who had experienced sexual abuse over the course of five months. A

nonprofit organization called ChildLine offers therapeutic and educational assistance free of charge to Zimbabwean children under the age of eighteen who have been sexually abused as children.

In Zimbabwe, child care and protection services make up an additional component of intervention. The goal of these services is to mitigate or avoid the socioeconomic effects of CSA. The Department of Social Development and other non-governmental groups handle the majority of the service delivery. Pre-trial and post-trial support services, safety services, and child protection are examples of social services. The Department of Social Development is a statutory entity tasked with carrying out and upholding laws that safeguard against child sexual exploitation (CSA), such as Chapter 5:06 of the Children's Act of 2001 and the Zimbabwean Constitution (Mupedziswa, 1997; Judicial Service Commission, 2012). Social workers' principal setting in Zimbabwe is the Department of Social Development. In their capacity as probation officers, social workers offer comprehensive case management services, substitute safe havens for survivors of child sexual abuse, go with survivors to health and legal service providers, file court reports, and offer pre-trial counseling. Social workers also provide support to relatives of CSA survivors by keeping them updated on case progress. In addition, case plans must be implemented by probation officials, who ensure that the proper steps are taken. In the intervention chain, social workers at this service level also push for prompt support for CSA survivors (Judicial Service Commission, 2012).

Internationally, the legal system plays a crucial role in addressing child sexual abuse cases. The United Nations has established various legal frameworks and mechanisms to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation. The UN Convention on the Rights of Children (CRC), is a significant instrument that recognizes children's rights to be protected from all forms of violence including child sexual abuse. The CRC obligates states to take all necessary precautions to shield minors from sexual abuse, including the establishment of the legal provisions for the persecution of offenders. A number of regional legislative tools, such as the Council of Europe's Convention for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention), have been created to handle child sexual abuse. According to the Lanzarote Convention, nations must enact laws protecting child victims and make all forms of child sexual abuse, including those committed online, illegal.

However, despite these legal frameworks, child sexual abuse cases continue to be underreported and non-disclosed at various levels due to various factors such as societal norms, stigma and fear of retaliation. Moreover, the lack of adequate legal provisions and mechanisms for protecting child victims and witnesses often contribute to the non-disclosure of child sexual abuse cases.

Furthermore, because there has been a financial crisis, there are still some significant obstacles in place despite the existence of a well-established legal and regulatory structure that complies with the majority of the CRC's requirements, (Fund for Children at the United Nations, 2005). According to the African Child Policy Forum (2013), Zimbabwe has not done well in enforcing the child protection provisions outlined in its national laws. Zimbabwe is now one of the ten African nations that performs the worst when it comes to placing laws and policies in place that shield kids from exploitation and abuse. The public has expressed concern recently over the courts' trivialization of CSA. Judges and magistrates appear hesitant to impose severe punishments on child sex predators, therefore they get away with nondeterrent sentencing like community service (Katongomara, 2015). The Criminal Law Codification and Reform Act, which supports the use of deterrent sentences, is in opposition to this practice. In Zimbabwe, there is currently no system in place for sexual offender registration, which aims to reduce CSA by discouraging current and potential perpetrators (Gwirayi, 2013). In Zimbabwe, financial, human, and technical resources are thought to present the biggest obstacles to the execution of current legislation. Due to the challenges involved in obtaining treatment, support, legal representation, and medical attention, just 3 percent of victims of child sexual abuse receive professional assistance from the relevant agencies (Zimbabwe Judicial Service Commission, 2012). This therefore, makes the parents and children not to disclose abuse as they will not get satisfying social justice to their cases. By promoting critical consciousness among community members, legal systems can encourage individuals to challenge societal norms that perpetuate non-disclosure and promote a culture of reporting and accountability.

2.6 Chapter Summary
This chapter explored the theoretical framework that seeks to understand how individuals can develop awareness of social, political and economic structures that may perpetuate injustice and inequality to sexually abused children. It emphasizes the importance of critical reflection and analysis in order to challenge and transform oppressive systems. The chapter also focused on the

types of perpetrators and the impact of their characteristics in disclosing, factors that lead to non-disclosure and the services that are being offered by the legal system to the children who are sexually abused so that they can get enough assistance.

CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter focused on providing an in-depth explanation of the research methods used in presenting the perceived factors of non-disclosure of sexual abuse cases by child protection officers at the Chitungwiza Department of Social Development, Zimbabwe. Methodology refers to the specific techniques or methods that will be used to conduct the research. According to Greene (2008), research technique is a methodical approach to gathering data from a certain demographic in order to fully comprehend the subject at hand. The numerous methodologies employed in the research will be defined, as well as their merits and disadvantages stated. It will include an overview of the research design, sampling procedures, sample size, data collecting methods and instruments, analytical methods to be employed in the study, target population, ethical considerations and the study limitations. This chapter will also describe how the research will be carried out to ensure the accuracy and consistency of the information and findings.

3.1 Research Approach

Thurkar (2009) defines research approach as "a research program or plan in which the researcher explains how data will be collected, analyzed, and facts will be interpreted." This research adopted the Qualitative research approach of data collecting, analyzing, and interpretation design. One way to describe qualitative research is as an iterative process that aims to improve the scientific community's understanding by drawing new, notable distinctions as a result of drawing closer to the phenomenon being examined (Aspers et al 2019). The researcher chose the qualitative methodology because of its flexibility and its ability to conceptualize social phenomenon from the researched point of view. This approach was most appropriate to this study as it allowed for an interactive process between researcher and participants in order to gain an insight on the factors underlying non -disclosure of sexual abuse.

3.2 Research setting or site

The research was conducted in the Chitungwiza Urban at the department of social development. The place was selected based on data from District stakeholders namely, District Zimbabwe Republic Police Victim Friendly Unit (VFU) and Family Support Unity (FST). They are a secure, confidential and supportive environment that ensures the well- being of participants while providing access to researchers and resources. Also, the study domain was convenient for the researcher because it is where most cases of child sexual abuse are reported, giving access to the researcher to more cases of child sexual abuse, as a result, conducting the study in this area was time efficient and convenient.

3.3 Research Design

The researcher utilized explorative case studies. When it is difficult to distinguish between a phenomenon and its real-world environment, an empirical investigation known as a case study is employed to examine a current phenomenon using a variety of sources of evidence (Yin, 1991:23). The focus attention of case studies is on one or few instances of some social phenomenon and in this case the phenomenon is factors underlying non-disclosure of child sexual abuse. The researcher used this type of a research design because it allowed in-depth research and it produce first-hand information as it works in natural settings. Thus allowed the exploration of the factors underlying non-disclosure of child sexual abuse, barriers to disclosure and how the legal system is assisting the victims.

3.4 Target Population

All individuals who meet the requirements for a study investigation are considered to be part of the target population (Willie 2022). The target population corresponds to a subset of the population that the researcher is interested in learning more about and whose features they would like to draw conclusions about. The primary target population for this study were the child protection officers from the department of social development who work directly with sexually abused children. The key informants were people who work hand in hand with child protection officers like the victim friendly unit officer and family support trust officer. The researcher included multiple sources so as to increasing the validity and accuracy of the findings.

3.5 Sampling methods

A sample, according to Rubin and Babbie (2007), is a subset of a population examined in order to draw conclusions about the nature of the entire population. Generally, it is a method of selecting a subset of data from a large population

3.5.1 PURPOSIVE sampling technique

One of the key observations by the researcher was that it was difficult to reach children that were sexually abuse but could not disclose. Thus, the researcher adopted the Purposive sampling method. It involves selecting participants based on specific criteria relevant to the research question. This method allows researchers to focus on particular characteristics or traits that are of interest to the study. When examining the perceived factors influencing the non-disclosure of child sexual abuse cases by child protection officers, purposeful sampling can be a valuable approach. By targeting individuals who have direct experience or knowledge related to this issue, researchers can gain insights into the underlying reasons for non-disclosure. Utilizing purposeful sampling in this context would involve selecting participants such as child protection officers including social workers, psychologists, counselors, case management officers and other professionals involved in handling child sexual abuse cases at the department of social development. losure. Thus, by strategically selecting participants with relevant experiences and insights, researchers can uncover crucial information that may help improve reporting practices and ultimately protect vulnerable children. This enables a more in depth understanding of the issue and can help identify patterns and trends that may not be evident in a general population sample. Though there are limitations like bias and obtaining representative sample, the researcher felt that quality is better than quantity.

3.6 Sample size

Sampe size refers to the number of participants in the study. The sample size of the study encompassed 4 participants from the department of social development, and 2 key informants, 1 VFU police officers, 1 FST Officer. These are the people that work hand in hand with the victims of child sexual abuse. The primary participants were the child protection officers from the department of social development.

3.7 Data Collection Instruments and Research Methods

Data collection tools are the methods used to collect data from the participants. This study made use of in-depth interview method and key informant interview method as research instruments. This made the interview to be kept inline and on topic without diverting too much from the purpose

of the interview. The researcher used in-depth interviews method as a way to collect first hand data from the child protection officers form the department of social development. In-depth interviews are qualitative research that involve conducting individual interviews face to face. The researcher used indepth interview guide to collect information and it contained a series of open-ended questions that allowed the respondents to tell their stories, as purported by Seidman and Kvale (2006), in-depth interviews are characterised by a flexible, open-ended approach that allows the participants to share their experiences and perspectives in their own words. The interview guide gave room for the researcher to probe thus acquiring broad information from the participants.

Key informant interview method

The key informant guide was used to collect data as presented by experts who work with children who are sexually abused hand in hand with the child protection officers from the department. Rubin and Rubin (1995) define key informant guide as a list of questions that focus on the researcher's attention on topics that are especially important to the project, while still allowing the researcher to explore other topics that may emerge during the course of the interview. The guide had open ended unstructured questions that enabled the researcher to make follow up questions ask for clarification on matters presented. It also helped to ensure that all the relevant topics are covered. However, there was a challenge as participant were relucted to disclose their experience due to fear of being judged or stigmatised but the researcher built a rapport with the participant and ensured that they felt comfortable sharing their information. Another issue was that some of the participants could not remember their experience accurately, thus the researcher used a technique of member checking to ask the participants to review the findings and confirm if they were accurate.

3.8 Data Presentation and Analysis

The data that was gathered from the interviews was presented in its raw form using descriptive analysis. Descriptive analysis involves describing the data in detail, paying close attention to the details of the participants experience. The initial themes that emerge from the data were then identified giving room for the thematic analysis to explore those themes in more depth. The researcher made use of the thematic analysis to analyse data that was gathered. Thematic analysis is used to identify and interpret patterns, themes and meanings. The researcher used thematic content analysis and testimonies that were collected during the data collection process. Thus, to

effectively present the finding of such research, the researcher employed a detailed descriptive of the participants experience, including direct quotes from the interviews and presented the themes that emerged from the data along with supporting quotes and examples. Though it was difficult to accurately and fully describe the experiences of the participants as some were not able to express their experience in words. Therefore, the researcher employed a five-step thematic analysis process as described by Creswell and Poth (2018:187). The steps are as follows:

Stage 1: Familiarization with the Data

The researcher would closely review any available qualitative data sources, such as interview transcripts, focus group discussions, or written accounts from child protection officers. They would read through the data multiple times to become thoroughly familiar with the content and begin to identify potential themes and patterns. This stage is about immersing themselves in the data to gain a deep understanding of the experiences and perspectives shared by the participants.

Stage 2: Generating Initial Codes

The researcher would systematically work through the data, assigning descriptive codes to segments of text that relate to potential factors influencing non-disclosure. These initial codes could include things like "fear of retaliation from perpetrators", "lack of training on identifying abuse", "organizational culture of silence", etc. Coding the data in this way helps the researcher begin to organize and make sense of the information in a structured manner.

Stage 3: Searching for Themes

After coding the entire dataset, the researcher would examine the list of codes and look for ways to group them into broader, overarching themes. They may start to see patterns emerge, such as individual-level factors (e.g. personal beliefs, emotions), organizational factors (e.g. policies, leadership), and systemic/societal factors (e.g. lack of resources, power dynamics). This stage is about identifying the core themes that capture the essential aspects of the perceived barriers to disclosure.

Stage 4: Reviewing Themes

The researcher would then review the preliminary themes to ensure they accurately represent the patterns and meanings in the data. They may need to refine, combine or split themes as necessary

to have a coherent and well-defined set of thematic categories. This stage involves a back-and-forth process of reviewing the themes against the original data to confirm their validity.

Stage 5: Defining and Naming Themes

For each finalized theme, the researcher would develop a clear, concise definition that captures the essence of that theme. They would also assign an informative name to each theme to convey its meaning. This stage is about distilling the themes into a format that can be effectively communicated in the research report.

Stage 6: Producing the Report

In the final stage, the researcher would synthesize the thematic findings into a comprehensive written report. They would provide detailed descriptions of each theme, supported by relevant quotes or examples from the data. The report would also discuss the implications of the identified factors and offer recommendations for improving child sexual abuse reporting and response by child protection officers.

3.9 Trustworthiness of research

When conducting

Ensof stud

3.10 Ethical Considerations

In this research, informed consent, voluntary participation and confidentiality were upheld. According to Rich (2013), ethics are a methodical approach to comprehending, analyzing, and differentiating between issues of good and bad, admirable and deplorable, and right and wrong as they pertain to the welfare of and relationships between sentient beings.

3.10.1 Informed consent and assent

Informed consent refers to the process of informing participants about the research and ensuring that they understand the risk and benefits of participating. Hence, the researcher ensured the participation of respondents after providing them with clear and accurate information about the research aims, methods and intended outcomes. The information was presented to them in a simple and easily comprehensible language. The researcher avoided the use of jargons as it was most

likely to cause confusion than clarification. The participants were also given room to withdraw from the interview if they felt that the interview was breaching or compromising their confidentiality and integrity. The researcher sought consent from the Department of Social Development Head office and Chitungwiza District office to interview children were sexually abused and the officers themselves. The researcher then moved on to seek ascent from the sexually abused children themselves before engaging in the in-depth interviews. Assent is similar to informed consent, but it is used for children and other vulnerable populations that may not be able to give informed consent.

3.10.2 Voluntary participation
Voluntary participation means that an individual partakes in research according to his or her own will. The respondents were told by the researcher that their participation was completely optional and that they may end it whenever they wanted. No one should be coerced into taking part in social research because it interferes with their daily routine.

3.10.3 Confidentiality
The researcher indicated to the participants that there would be much respect to their right to privacy. Any question that the participants considered too personal and sensitive were not to be answered. Confidentiality entails that a researcher guarantees a level of secrecy of identity and information. Some information given by participants may be sensitive such that if disclosed to the public, it may have negative impacts on them. Hence, the researcher also suggested the use of pseudonyms and made sure that only authorised individuals have access to the data.

3.11 Delimitations of the study
The present study is delimited by several factors. First, the study focuses on child sexual abuse in the city of Chitungwiza, which is a densely populated urban area in Zimbabwe. The study is not intended to be generalized to the other cities or areas of Zimbabwe, or to other countries. Second, the study is limited to English language as that is the most spoken by most of the population in Chitungwiza. Thirdly, the study is limited to a specific age group, namely children between the age of 7 to 16 years old. Fourthly, the study is limited to specific definition of child sexual abuse, namely any sexual activity that is initiated by an adult or older person with a minor. The study is limited to perception of child sexual abuse by the population in Chitungwiza and does not include

data on the actual incident of child sexual abuse. The study is limited to a specific time frame, namely the year 2023.

3.12 Chapter summary

The chapter focused on presenting the methods used by the researcher in collecting data. There was use of the qualitative research approach and qualitative methods of collecting data. The chapter also highlighted the sampling method, tool and techniques employed by the researcher. The population that was targeted for this study were sexually abused children and key informants who work with the children who are sexually abused. The following chapter is going to focus on presenting data and discussion of findings.

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION

4.0 Introduction

This chapter's main objective is to present and analyse the data that was gathered on the field on the perceived factors underlying non-disclosure of child sexual abuse cases by child protection officers. A case study of Chitungwiza Department of Social development. The chapter was guided by the critical consciousness model, the literature review and objectives of the study. In this chapter, data presentation, interpretation and analysis are done in accordance with research objectives which include:

- to identify the types of perpetrators of child sexual abuse,
- to explore the perceived factors that influence the non-disclosure of child sexual abuse cases by child protection officers at the Chitungwiza Department of Social Development,
- to identify the support services available to victims of child of child sexual abuse in Chitungwiza.

Guided by the above objectives, the data was presented, interpreted and discussed based on a thematic approach. In this context, the study themes were derived from the study objectives. In the next section, the first theme is presented together with sub-themes.

4.1 Demographic characteristics

This study was conducted among 4 participants and 2 key informants. This was done so as to balance the findings of the research. These participants had age range from 25years to 35years.

Two key informants were engaged in the study, and these were 1 police officer from victim friendly unit from Makoni, Chitungwiza and 1 family support trust officers.

Tablet4.1: Demographic table of the primary informants

Sodom names of participants	Age	Sex	Role
PARTICIPANT 1A	35	F	Probation officers
PARTICIPANT 2B	32	F	Probation officer
PARTICIPANT 3C	25	M	Case management officer
PARTICIPANT 4D	30	F	Counsellor

Table 4.2: Demographic table of the key informants

Sodom names of the key informant	Age	Sex	role
Key informant 1	29	F	FST Officer
Key informant 2	34	M	VFU Officer

Research findings

4.2 The type of perpetrators of child sexual abuse in Chitungwiza urban.
The first objective of the study was to identify the different types of perpetrators of child sexual abuse cases in Chitungwiza urban. The desire of the researcher was to identify these perpetrators and understand how they manipulate children to abuse and the motivation behind their abuse. The findings from the research through the children who were sexually abused and the key informant revealed a number of perpetrators of child sexual abuse. Most of the perpetrators are the family members and the people that have information on the child and a few from the outside. The following are the perpetrators which were available in Chitungwiza urban for child sexual abuse:

4.2.1 Family members
This study discovered that the majority of sexual offenses against minors in Chitungwiza are committed within families, which makes it challenging for a child to come forward because the issues are handled within the family. According to Rapholo (2018), it is extremely difficult for

children who have experienced sexual abuse at the hands of family members and relatives to come forward and report the incident. According to certain participants, the majority of abusers are the fathers or stepfathers of the victims, and they often threaten the victims throughout the abuse situations. One of the primary informants provided the following comments to bolster the aforementioned observations:

Participant A *"Most of the cases we receive the perpetrators are mostly the family member that is the father, cousin, sister's husband or step-father. The child would not disclose due to fear that the other family members would not believe them and also as a way to protect her or his family's name. others will not disclose because they will be threatened that they will not be provided with their needs since the perpetrator is the breadwinner.*

In support of the above, another participant concurred that:

Participant B "*I've seen cases where children don't disclose because they fear retaliation or being blamed themselves. In families where there is a power imbalance or a history of domestic violence, it can be especially difficult for a child to speak up."*

The key informant supported the stated facts by saying:

Key Informant "*In cases where the perpetrator is a family member, the non-disclosure of child sexual abuse can be influenced by fear of breaking up the family unit. We often encounter situations where the victim feels pressured to remain silent to protect the family's reputation and unity."*

The learning point from the study was that immediate and extended family are highly responsible for child sexual abuse. In this point the perpetrator used threats of public humiliation and the possibility of being blamed in order to keep the abuse a secret. This type of manipulation can make the victim feel like they are at fault for the abuse and like they can't tell anyone about it. The child feels that it is better for the problem to remain a secret as a way to protect their relationship. Victims of child sexual abuse due to fear that the breadwinner will not provide, they keep the abuse a secret and for them not to face imprisonment. Thus, the findings showed that perpetrators know that the victim will not disclose due to fear that they will not be believed, also that they will be shamed for the abuse and fear of losing a family member. These interviews proved that culture play a role as the children would respect their parents and would not want them to be imprisoned, also as they

are the respected person it will tannish their family name. Similar conclusions about the causes of children's nondisclosure are found in other studies. Compared to children molested by someone outside the family, those assaulted by a family member were less likely to reveal and more likely to delay disclosure (Lawson & Chaffi 1992). According to McElvaney (2013), children who reveal during forensic interviews are more likely to have supportive parents than children who do not disclose in such circumstances, even while there are still fears that they may have been abused.

4.2.2 Strangers
The study also showed that strangers are another type of perpetrators of child sexual abuse. These perpetrators employ manipulative tactics to gain trust of their victim. They shower the child with attention and gifts creating a sense of loyalty and confusion. Children will not disclose as they will be scared of ruining their relationship and fear of being killed. The participants said:

Participant B "*Stranger abuse cases can be more straightforward to identify because there is often no prior relationship between the child and the perpetrator. However, stranger abuse cases can still be challenging because children may feel shame or guilt about what happened and worry about being stigmatized as a victim.*

Another participant purported that:

Participant D "*In instances involving strangers as perpetrators, there might be a heightened sense of fear and vulnerability. The unknown identity and unpredictability of strangers can instill a sense of powerlessness in both the victim and those responsible for reporting and addressing the abuse.*"

In the above interviews it shows that the perpetrators uses a combination of tactics to abuse the child including coercion, manipulation and violence. The perpetrator used the child's susceptibility and trust in order to commit the abuse. This kind of abuse can have lasting psychological and physical effects on the child. Due to fear and their age, these perpetrators knew that the children would not say anything because of the threats they had given them. Children that are below the age of 13 will remain in trauma for a long time and some would forget what would have happened making that an added advantage to the perpetrators. That is the reason why such perpetrators target such a young age. Other perpetrators abuse the young adults despite their knowledge of remembering because they know that fear will make them not to say anything. The statements from the children highlights the importance of educating children about the risk of sexual abuse

and of teaching them how to protect themselves from potential abusers. It highlights the need for the adults to be more vigilant and report for suspicions. In all the actions the perpetrators should be held accountable for their actions like facing legal prison sentence. However, the abuser may need treatment or rehabilitation in order to address the factors that led to the abusive behavior.

4.2.3 Minors

The study revealed that victims of child sexual abuse are also abused by minors. This type of abuse is often referred to as 'peer to peer' or 'juvenile on juvenile' sexual abuse. These are the people they play with, go to school with and spend much of their time with. According to Friedrich (2001) approximately 4-10% of adolescents report having engaged in some form of sexually abusive behavior. There are several factors that can contribute to minors becoming perpetrators of child sexual abuse and these include lack of education and awareness, peer pressure, lack of supervision, need to experiment what they are exposed to. Thus, children will not disclose as they will be thinking that they are doing good. The participant supported the above information saying:

PARTICIPANT D "*Minor perpetrators often use manipulation tactics similar to those used by adult offenders, making it challenging for victims to recognize that what they experienced was abusive.*"

Other participants added on saying:

Participant B " *Additionally, there may be concerns around confidentiality and privacy when dealing with minor perpetrators and victims within the same age group*"

KEY INFORMANT B "*Some of the cases of child sexual abuse the perpetrators are minors. Most of the minors would commit such crimes in the name of experimenting what they have seen on the television or on the phone. Such cases would not be disclosed because they would not know the consequences of their action as they will think that they were playing. However, some of the minor perpetrators would know what they are doing but would not report as they say it was a way of showing their love to each other.*"

These interviews showed that children are also a type of perpetrators that should be delt with before they become adults that are dangerous in the community. The above interview showed that the perpetrator uses emotional manipulation to get what they want which is in form of grooming. Grooming is the process by which an abuser gains the trust of their victim in order to manipulate

and abuse them. It shows that westernization of culture has influenced the behavior of children as they would want to experiment what they see on movies and phones. However, regardless of cultural context abuse is always wrong and harmful thus, it's important to note that norms are not an excuse for sexual abuse. Other children have become juvenile delinquency both the perpetrator and the victim that they do what they deem necessary despite the consequences of their actions. Though data on minor perpetrators is limited, there are several studies that provide insight into the global prevalence of this issue. For instance, a study conducted in united states (Finkelhor, 2014) approximately 15% of all cases of child sexual abuse were perpetrated by minors. A study conducted din South Africa approximately 30% of all cases of child sexual abuse were perpetrated by minor (Jewkes, 2006). There was also a study that was conducted in Turkey (Sekerdag 2015) approximately 50% of all cases of child sexual abuse were perpetrated by minors. These studies suggest that minor perpetrators of child sexual abuse are a significant global problem that requires attention and intervention.

4.2.4 Acquaintances

The study revealed that acquaintances are some of the perpetrators of child sexual abuse. These are the people that are not the immediate family but they are close to the family like family friends, neighbors, teachers and so on. These people use their relationship to manipulate the child so that they will not disclose. There are several reasons why acquaintances may become perpetrators of child sexual abuse and these include access and trust, opportunity, social influence, manipulation and so forth. Some acquaintances who perpetrate child sexual abuse may have underlying psychological issues such as a lack of empathy, distorted beliefs about children, or a sense of entitlement that drives their abusive behavior. This influence that acquaintances have on the victim can make it challenging for the victims to disclose the abuse due to fear of not being believed or accusing harm to the perpetrator's reputation. Two of the participants supported the view by saying:

Participant F "*When the perpetrator is an acquaintance, there may be a sense of betrayal and disbelief that someone known to the child could commit such acts. This disbelief can lead to hesitation in reporting the abuse, as it disrupts the perceived trustworthiness of those around us.*"

Participant G " *In cases where the abuse occurs within familiar settings or relationships, children may struggle to recognize the behavior as abusive. Acquaintances who groom their victims over*

time may blur the lines between appropriate and inappropriate behavior, making it harder for children to identify and report the abuse."

The key informant supported the participants by saying:

Key informant A "*Acquaintances are the next after the family that are recorded as perpetrators. the family friend takes advantage of their relationship with the parents of the child and as the child would trust them, they will be abused and will not report. most of these cases are resolved between the families so that they will keep their friendship but it would cause discomfort to the child as the two families would still be friends.*"

These interviews showed that most of the perpetrators of child sexual abuse cases are the people that are close to the child and they know much information of the child. In both the interviews, perpetrators took advantage of their positions of power and authority to commit heinous acts against vulnerable individuals. The perpetrators employed intimidation tactics such as threats of denial, disbelief, and consequences to silence the victims and prevent them from seeking help or speaking out about the abuse. The threats made by the perpetrator about not being believed if the victim were to speak up is a common tactic used by abusers to silence their victims and maintain control over them. Thus, they take advantage of that and abuse the child using threats that they become afraid to disclose so as to protect their loved ones. The victims can have traumatic experiences that can have long-lasting effects on their mental health, well-being, and sense of safety. Therefore, it is important to be vigilant of the signs of abuse even when the perpetrator is someone in position of trust and also its important for victim to have support from family, friends and professionals when they come forward about the abuse.

4.3 The factors that influence the non-disclosure of child sexual abuse in Chitungwiza
The non-disclosure of child sexual abuse is influenced by various factors, including fear, shame, guilt, and power dynamics between the abuser and the victim. In many cultures, children are taught to respect their elders and authority figures, which can make it difficult for them to report abuse, especially when the abuser is a family member or someone in a position of power. The perpetrators often use various tactics to manipulate and silence their victims, leading to the non-disclosure of the abuse. One such tactic is to make the child believe that they are responsible for the abuse or that they will not be believed if they speak up. In many cases, children who are sexually abused

may express themselves in certain ways that indicate their victimization, but may not explicitly disclose the abuse.

4.3.1 Fear

Children who are sexually abused may fear retaliation from the abuser or may be afraid of not being believed if they disclose the abuse. This fear is not unfounded, as many abusers threat their victims with harm or consequences if they speak out. Children may become intimidated by the power dynamics involved in the abuse and may fear further harm if they disclose what has happened to them. This fear can be paralyzing and prevent them from speaking out. Perpetrators may use threats and intimidation to silence their victims

Participant D "*Children may be afraid of the unknown consequences of disclosing the abuse, such as legal proceedings, family conflict, or changes in their living situation. They might not fully understand what would happen if they spoke out and prefer to keep things as they are rather than risking potential negative outcomes. Fear of negative consequences was a common reason given for non-disclosure.*"

Participant A " *Children may fear retaliation from the abuser if they speak out. The abuser might threaten them or their loved ones, making the child believe that disclosing the abuse would put them in danger. Children who are sexually abused are often threatened by their abusers and told that no one will believe them or that they will get in trouble if they tell.*"

In support of the above the key informant added that:

Key informant B "*Younger children may lack the language skills or understanding to effectively communicate what has happened to them. Older children might struggle with complex emotions related to the abuse and need time and support to process their experiences before feeling ready to disclose them*"

These interviews indicates that the child is scared and may feel overwhelmed by the situation, leading to their non-disclosure of the abuse. Also, the child is afraid of the perpetrator since he or she was threatened and as a child he is still in trauma about the incident. Perpetrators may convince their victims that they will not be believed if they disclose the abuse, indicating that the child may feel unsupported and unbelieved, leading to their non-disclosure of the abuse. Thus, threats from abusers creates reason for nondisclosure. Lyon (1996) discovered in a review that the probability

of children self-disclosing sexual abuse is reduced when they feel threatened. Threats could take the form of predicting bad or catastrophic results for the victim, their loved ones, and the offender, or they could involve the victim and their loved ones suffering bodily damage (Kaufman, Hilliker & Daleiden 1996). In addition, Lyon (1996) found that younger children were less likely than older children to report maltreatment. It is imperative to provide inclusive training and capacity development for parents and children in order to enable children and young adults who are experiencing abuse from these abusers to come forward without worrying about losing their benefits.

4.3.2 Feeling Guilty

Feeling guilty is a very common response from children who have been sexually abused. Guilty is about feeling bad about something you did. Children often feel guilty or ashamed about the abuse, believing that they somehow caused it or that they did something wrong which makes it difficult for them to speak about what happened. Some children may even like they deserve the abuse yet it's not their faulty but that of the perpetrator. Some may feel like they didn't fightback had enough, or they should have known better or that they should have done something to prevent the abuse. Thus, this feeling can be very destructive and can lead to a variety of negative outcomes for the child. Moreso, most cultures believe that if a girl child is abused, she would have caused it thus, the blame is on the victim not the perpetrator leading to non-disclosure of the cases. Some of the participants supported this saying:

Participant C "*Children may fear being blamed or punished for the abuse, especially if the perpetrator has threatened them or manipulated them into believing they are at fault. This fear can lead to feelings of guilt and shame, making it difficult for the child to come forward.*"

Participant B "*Perpetrators often use emotional manipulation tactics to control their victims, including making them feel guilty or responsible for the abuse. This manipulation can create a sense of loyalty or attachment to the abuser, making it challenging for the child to disclose the abuse out of fear of betraying the perpetrator*".

Participant A "*children may feel confused about what happened to them and may even blame themselves for the abuse. This self-blame can be exacerbated by societal attitudes that place responsibility on victims rather than perpetrators, further contributing to feelings of guilt and silence.*"

These interviews show that perpetrators may blame the child for the abuse, making them believe that they are responsible for it. Also, they often manipulate their victims into believing that they will get in trouble if they disclose the abuse. As a result, children may feel guilty and responsible for the abuse, leading them to protect their abusers. A study by Villani and DePrince (2001) looked at the feelings of guilty experienced by children who had been sexually abuse and it proved that feeling guilty are very common and they are often associated with negative outcomes like depression, anxiety and the problems with self-esteem. Thus, feeling guilty makes the child to be more concerned about the consequences of disclosing the abuse and may be afraid of getting their abuser in trouble. Perpetrators may also manipulate their victims into believing that they care about them and that disclosing the abuse will hurt their feelings making the child to feel empathy towards their abuser and may be afraid of hurting their feelings if they disclose the abuse.

4.3.3 Shame

Victims of child sexual abuse often experience feelings of shame and guilt at the same time. Shame is about feeling bad about who you are, thus children who have been sexually abused often feel shame about what happened to them and it can be a major barrier to disclosure. They may feel like they are somehow dirty or tainted because of what happened to them and may worry that others may see them the same way as shame can be exacerbated by societal stigma surrounding such crimes. The fear of being judged or ostracized by family, friends, or the community can prevent victims from disclosing their abuse. This fear of social repercussions can be a significant barrier to seeking help and justice. The shame associated with being a victim of sexual abuse can lead children to keep the abuse a secret. Some participant gave more-light to the observations by saying:

Participant B "*Children often feel a sense of guilt and shame after being sexually abused, fearing they will be blamed for what happened. This fear can prevent them from speaking out about their abuse.*"

Participant C" *The stigma associated with sexual abuse can lead children to believe that they will be socially rejected or ostracized if they disclose what happened to them. This fear of being judged can contribute to their silence.*"

Participant D "*When a child is sexually abused by someone they know and trust, such as a family member or caregiver, they may struggle with feelings of betrayal and shame. This betrayal can make it difficult for them to trust others with their secret.*"

These interviews shows that the victims blame themselves for what had happened to them. Shame makes people feel like they are somehow to blame for what happened and it can make them feel like they are not worth of help. Sorsoli and Tolman (2016) explore the role of shame in preventing disclosure of abuse and they examined the relationship between shame and other factors like self -blame and stigma. The research suggested that shame can lead to a sense of self-blame which makes it difficult to disclose, on the other hand stigma and self-blame can contribute to the feeling of shame. Thus, shame is associated with self -blame and stigma, however to overcome this, the critical consciousness model suggests that through self-acceptance, community support and healing from abuse can make the victim overcome shame leading to disclosure of child sexual abuse cases.

4.3.4 Power Dynamics
In cases where the abuser holds a position of power or authority over the child, such as a family member, employer, or family friend, the child may feel powerless to speak up due to the imbalance of power. The participants supported the this when they said:

Participant G " *Perpetrators of child sexual abuse often use their position of authority or influence over the child to manipulate and control them. This manipulation can create a sense of dependency and confusion in the child, making it challenging for them to recognize the abuse or speak up against it.*"

Participant F *" Children may fear speaking out about sexual abuse due to the power imbalance between them and the abuser. This power dynamic can make it difficult for children to trust authority figures, as they may feel intimidated or believe that their voice will not be heard or believed.*"

Key Informant *"Power imbalances within organizations or communities can hinder disclosure, especially if the abuser holds a position of authority.*"

These interviews show that children do not disclose because of the fear that they will not be believed since the perpetrator is a trusted person to the family or community. Also because of the power dynamics they are manipulated to do what the perpetrator want so that there will not cause problems in the family because they have no choice than to keep quiet. This becomes true if the child feels like they will be punished or rejected if they speak out. Power dynamics also makes it

difficult for the child to understand if they are being abused or not. A study by Grossman, Pattison ad Ammerman (2006) looked at the experiences of children who were sexually abused by someone with power over them and the study found out that these children were less likely to disclose the abuse than those abused by a stranger. Therefore, it proved that children who are abused by people in authority are less likely to report the case because of fear that the person has got much power than them.

4.3.5 Environmental Factors

The environment in which the child lives can also play a role in non-disclosure. Factors such as lack of support, disbelief from caregivers, or cultural taboos around discussing sexual abuse can all contribute to a child's decision to remain silent. Children from violent homes typically do not report abuse because they are afraid of starting new episodes of violence in the home. Children who live in a household where there is a lot of secrecy, they may not feel comfortable talking about the abuse. Also, when caregivers don't believe a child or dismiss their claims of abuse it can be very discouraging for the child and make them less likely to speak out. A key informant and other participants backed up the evidence saying:

Participant D "*Community norms and cultural beliefs may discourage open discussion of sensitive topics like child sexual abuse. Thus, some children will fear to talk about such issues with their parents or relatives. Also, children may feel ashamed or worry about bringing dishonor to their families by disclosing such incidents.*"

Participant I "*Lack of parental guidance at times lead to children not reporting abuse. Children who come from dysfunctional families or lack strong support systems may feel isolated and believe that they have nowhere to turn if they disclose abuse. The fear of destabilizing their family unit can also deter them from speaking up.*"

Key informant C "*most children don't disclose their abuse because of the environmental factors. Children who live in an environment where the parents are abusive would not disclose because it will cause more violence. Also, there are parents that don't talk to their children about sex which makes it difficult to talk abuse their abuse. Children who grow up with their parents being prostitute or not caring about them see abuse as a normal thing because they are used to it. Thus, the environment contributes to the behavior of the child and the decisions they make after they are abused.*"

These interviews indicated that the environment in which the child is determines that decision on the disclosure of abuse. Age, gender and the socio-economic factors determines the disclosure as there will be fear of what the society may say about the gender of the child being abuse, the child's age to whether they cannot avoid the abuse and one's status in the society. Another reason for not disclosing was the stigma associated with young individuals and children in particular. Because most communities and religious organizations in the region view premarital sex as taboo, victims of sexual abuse sometimes feel embarrassed to come forward and report the abuse. They would rather keep it a secret, which motivates the abuser to carry on. Previous studies (Banks et al., 2017) have demonstrated that stigma plays a significant role in this type of abuse and prevents victims from reporting it to the proper authorities. Internationally, the Safe Horizon Children's Advocacy Center in New York is a program that address these environmental factors that discourage a child to disclose. This program provides a arrange of services for the children who have been abused including forensic interviews, medical examinations, counselling and legal advocacy. They work with families and care givers to create a supportive environment for the child and then address the environmental impacts that may be impacting their ability to disclose the abuse. In Zimbabwe, there's the Tariro project which provides services for the children who have been abused focusing on creating a supportive environment for them and helping them rebuild their lives. This program addresses environmental factors by working with the community to educate people about the signs and symptoms of child sexual abuse and create ana environment where victims feel safe to come forward. Thus, communities should be made aware of such programs so that they can get educated on how to address these environmental factors.

4.4 The support services available to victims of child of child sexual abuse in Chitungwiza
As child sexual abuse is a traumatic experience, to help survivors cope with the aftermath of such abuse various support services are available to provide assistance, guidance and healing. These services aim to address the physical, emotional and psychological need of victims while offering them a safe space to seek help and support. Some of the services that are offered are counselling and therapy, support groups, legal advocacy, medical care and crisis interventions. However, victims of child sexual abuse are not given such services due to lack of knowledge, fear, trust issues, emotional distress and so forth.

4.4.1 Counselling

Victims of sexual abuse often require professional counseling to address the emotional and psychological impact of their experiences. Counseling services can help victims process their trauma, develop coping mechanisms, and work towards healing and recovery.

However, children will not get the counselling services provided to them due to fear of retaliation from the perpetrator. They fear that the perpetrator may harm them if they disclose or they will not be believed. They may also fear that they will be socially isolated if they disclose and that they will be punished in some way. Thus, seeking help from the support services will be difficult which will lead to non-disclosure. Some of the participants highlighted this evidence saying:

Participant E *" children may fear that the perpetrator may harm them if they tell anyone about what happened but we are there as child protection officers to protect them and give them counselling. We understand the trauma and sensitivity surrounding cases of child sexual abuse, and we are here to provide a safe space for victims to share their experiences*

Participant G *" Through counseling, victims of sexual abuse can reclaim their power and agency. Therapists work collaboratively with survivors to help them set boundaries, build self-esteem, and develop coping strategies to overcome the impact of the abuse . Thus, it's important for victims to get counselling so that their fear can be removed.*

Key informant A *" Therapeutic interventions offered through counseling help victims manage trauma-related symptoms such as anxiety, depression, PTSD, or dissociation. By working with trained professionals, survivors can learn effective coping mechanisms to deal with these challenges."*

In the above interview, it shows that children may worry about further harm or threats if they disclose the abuse especially if the abuser is a family member or someone they know and those with high position. Many of the children fear that their perpetrator may become angry to an extend that they may come and physically harm them or refuse the abuse. Thus, reporting to social services will be a last option to them. Hence, disclosure of abuse will be difficult to do because they feal that it will come back to them yet they heard gone to look for support. Studies by London, Bruck and Cisler 2008 showed that several that children fear retaliation when disclosing thus it suggests that it is important to provide the children with a safe space and supportive environments where

they may fear comfortable disclosing the abuse. This could be child advocacy center, a therapist's office or even a trusted adult's home. In these type of environment children may feel like they are believed and supported and that they will not face any negative consequences for disclosing the abuse. According to the critical consciousness model, agency is the ability to take action and make choices, hence, children who have been sexually abused can use agency as a way to overcome the fear of retaliation and seek help. Therefore, it is important for these support services to appear user friendly so that children will not fear the consequences from the perpetrator.

4.4.2 Advocacy Services

Advocacy services work on behalf of victims to ensure that their voices are heard, their rights are protected, and they receive the support they need to heal and recover from the trauma of sexual abuse. Advocacy services are essential in providing victims with the necessary resources, information, and emotional support to navigate the complex process of healing and seeking justice. Even so , lack of awareness of the existence of such supportive services as advocacy is major factor that can lead to the non-disclosure of child sexual abuse cases. This can be due to lack of education about the services available, lack of access to information about these services and also lack of knowledge about how to access them. Hence, it becomes a barrier for children to disclose as they will not have information on the available services that are there to assist them free of charge. Three of the participants supported the evidence when they said:

Participant D "*Lack of awareness about available support services is another reason why victims may not access advocacy services. Many individuals, especially children and adolescents, may not be aware of the resources and assistance available to them. This lack of knowledge can prevent victims from seeking help even when they are in desperate need of support.*"

Participant B *"Victims of sexual abuse often experience feelings of shame, guilt, and embarrassment, which can prevent them from reaching out for support. Society's tendency to blame and judge victims rather than supporting them can exacerbate these feelings, making it difficult for victims to seek advocacy services."*

Participant C *"trauma-related factors such as PTSD symptoms, dissociation, and emotional distress can make it challenging for victims to navigate the process of seeking advocacy services. The overwhelming impact of trauma on cognitive functioning and emotional regulation can interfere with a victim's ability to reach out for help effectively."*

According to these interviews it proved that some children in the community do not know the support services that are available to victims of child sexual abuse. Thus, lack of awareness about available support services may cause children not to disclose because they do not know where or who to turn to. A study which was conducted in 2016 by the American Humane Association found out a majority of adults were not aware of the existence of child advocacy centers which are one of the most common types of support services for child sexual abuse victims. These highlighted the need more awareness of these services because most of the people do not know about such services yet most of them are in urban areas what more those in rural areas. According to the critical consciousness model, lack of awareness of child sexual abuse services is a symptom of a broader problem which is the lack of critical consciousness about the issue of child sexual abuse in general. Hence, in order to address lack of awareness, critical consciousness would advocate for a more comprehensive approach which includes public education awareness, discussion and political action. Some other ways are though partnership with organizations such as schools, child welfare agencies and faith-based organizations to ensure that the information gets to those that need it most. Its not only lack of awareness that can hinder them but the feeling of shame and guilt and the traumatic experiences that can hinder them from getting advocacy services.

4.4.3 Legal Assistance

Victims of sexual abuse may need legal assistance to navigate the legal system, seek justice against their abusers, and protect their rights. Legal support services can help victims understand their legal options, file reports, and access resources for legal representation. By providing comprehensive information on legal rights, assisting in navigating the legal system, referring to appropriate legal aid services, supporting victims during court proceedings, and prioritizing confidentiality and safety, child protection officers play a vital role in ensuring that victims of sexual abuse receive the necessary legal assistance as part of their overall support services. Still, distrust of the authorities is a major concern to the non-disclosure of child sexual abuse cases. Children may distrust the authorities due to past experiences with authorities, cultural factors or perception of authorities being corrupt, costly or unhelpful. It can also be difficult for children to trust authorities if they feel that they will not be believed or supported. Some of the participants said:

Participant B *"As information spread some may hear what is not correct about our services which make the victims to be hesitant in reaching out .As child protection officers, we serve as advocates for victims, guiding them through the legal processes, providing information about their rights, and supporting them in seeking justice. One's safety and privacy are our top priorities when it comes to seeking legal assistance. Wel handle cases with utmost confidentiality, protect one's identity during legal proceedings, and take measures to ensure one's well-being throughout the process."*

Participant C *"Some victims may have had negative experiences with law enforcement or child protection agencies in the past, leading them to believe that seeking help will not make a difference or that they will not be believed or supported"*

Participant D *" many people think and believe that legal assistance is expensive because they do not have the knowledge that there are agencies that offer services for free. If one needs legal representation but cannot afford it, we can connect them with organizations that provide free or low-cost legal services for victims of sexual abuse. It is important that one have access to competent legal counsel to advocate for their rights in court.*

As children perceived lack of trust in someone, they will not say the truth or will not even say anything. Due to the fact that abuse reports are never given serious consideration, children and key informants expressed a lack of confidence in the legal system. Thus, children may choose not to report the abuse because they perceived that the process of seeking justice will be lengthy and arduous. Delays in resolving cases can discourage victims from coming forward as they may lose hope in achieving a timely resolution or fear of traumatization through prolonged legal proceedings. It deters victims from reporting more incidents when they witness perpetrators roaming the community as free people. According to the critical consciousness model distrust is a product of power dynamics in the society meaning that the society has created and allowed an environment where children are not protected whereas abusers are able to abuse their power. This leads to a cycle of distrust where children will not feel safe and supported and this distrust can prevent them from seeking help. Inaccurate verdicts against alleged abuse perpetrators result from a corrupt legal system, which may impede further disclosures. Therefore, it's critical that society establish a secure and encouraging atmosphere free from the fear of punishment for children.

4.4.4 Medical Support

Victims of sexual abuse may require medical attention for physical injuries or health issues resulting from the abuse. Medical support services can provide victims with access to healthcare professionals who are trained to address their specific needs. Child protection office advocate for victims of sexual abuse to seek immediate medical support as part of their recovery process. Medical assistance not only addresses any physical injuries but also provides essential care for the emotional well-being of the victim. By emphasizing the importance of medical support, child protection officers aim to ensure that victims receive comprehensive care and assistance following incidents of sexual abuse. Nevertheless, normalizing or accepting the situation is a big issue when it comes to disclosure. This is because even if the victims know about the support services available, they will not seek help because they have normalized the situation. Normalizing situations can lead to a felling of 'this is just the way things should be' or there's no point in trying to change things making it difficult for the victim to see the help available and that change is possible.

 One of the participants supported this saying:

Participant A " *some of the children tend to accept what could have happened and think that what they are going through is better than what others are facing but we as child protection officers, our support services extend beyond the initial reporting of child sexual abuse we are dedicated to providing ongoing assistance to victims as they heal and recover from their experiences."*

Participant D " *One of the first steps in providing medical support to victims of sexual abuse is a thorough medical examination. We can arrange for the victim to undergo a comprehensive physical examination by a healthcare professional trained in dealing with cases of sexual abuse. This examination aims to assess any physical injuries, collect forensic evidence, and address any immediate health concerns. Yet, the victims tend to normalize not getting treatment on time which may lead to unwanted pregnancies and STI's.*

Key informant B "*In cases where specialized medical care is needed, child protection officers can provide referrals to appropriate healthcare specialists. This may include referrals to gynecologists, psychologists, psychiatrists, or other healthcare professionals with expertise in treating victims of sexual abuse. Ensuring that victims receive specialized care tailored to their needs is crucial for their recovery and well-being."*

This data demonstrates how a barrier to children and young adults not disclosing abuse is acceptance and coexisting with the abused. Some of the children may know the procedure and protocols to follow so that they can get help but they tend not to care because no one care for their well-being. Some of these children have experienced worse or they have seen others who have gone through a lot but did not get any help and just ignore it. Thus, for them to go to such services they will see it as something that is not important because they think they can solve their problems on their own. Individuals frequently choose to stay silent by accepting to live with the disease. Occasionally, individuals may remain silent since they may have little authority and less credibility as crime reporters. Beckie (2011) shown that nondisclosure can be attributed to acceptance and the decision to remain silent. According to the critical consciousness acceptance is caused by the way culture views and treats abuse, for instance abuse is often blamed on the victim rather than the perpetrator which can lead to victims not to disclose the abuse since they cannot be heard and they tend to accept and normalize the situation. Therefore, our culture, gender roles, social norms and media representations factor that leads to normalizing of such cases making children not to disclose. It becomes a long process to address such issues so that cases can be reported.

4.5 Chapter summary

This chapter focused on the finding that were made and gave answers to the research questions. Upon collecting the data from the participants, the research saw the importance of open communication and attentive listening in preventing and addressing child sexual abuse. Parents, caregivers, and other adults who interact with children should create a safe and supportive environment where children feel comfortable expressing themselves and disclosing any concerns or discomforts, they may have. It is also essential to educate children about body autonomy and healthy relationships to help them recognize and report any instances of sexual abuse.

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter serves to present an overall summary, conclusion and recommendations of the study conducted in Chitungwiza at the Department of Social Development. The study explored the perceived factors underlying non-disclosure of child sexual abuse cases by child protection officers After conducting the study, presenting the findings, and analyzing them, the researcher goes on to provide a summary, recommendations, and conclusions. Relating the empirical study and literature to the objectives, aim, research methods, and findings of the study, a summary, conclusions, and suggestions are provided.

5.1 Summary finding

The focus of this study was to understand the perceived factors underlying non-disclosure of child sexual abuse cases by child protection officers A case study of Chitungwiza Department of Social development in Chitungwiza. The study was guided by three objectives which are to identify the types of perpetrators in Chitungwiza, to explore the perceived factors of non-disclosure of child sexual abuse cases by child protection officers and to identify the support services available for victims of child sexual abuse in Chitungwiza. As child sexual abuse (CSA) is a significant problem that affects children worldwide, it has become a pervasive issue that often goes undisclosed due to various underlying factors. These factors include individual factors, societal and systemic factors. Thus, understanding the objectives of the study it can become a crucial step in addressing this complex problem. Based on research objectives the following summary have been made: -

5.1.1 To identify the types of perpetrators involved in child sexual abuse

This study aimed to identify the different types of perpetrators involved in child sexual abuse. A literature review was conducted together with research findings and they indicated that a wide range of perpetrators are involved in this type of abuse. The majority of the perpetrators are males. The study findings revealed that the majority of the perpetrators are known to the child and many

of them are in position of trust, such as family members, friend's, teachers and authority figures. Also, strangers are another type of perpetrators, though they are few common perpetrators they still pose a threat to children.

5.1.2 To explore the perceived factors underlying non-disclosure of child sexual abuse cases by child protection officers

There are several factors that influence the non-disclosure of CSA. These factors can be categorized into individual, familial, and societal factors. Individual factors include fear, shame, guilt, and trauma. Familial factors include family dynamics, such as power imbalances and family secrets. Societal factors include cultural norms, stigma, and lack of awareness. Also, age, gender and socio-economic factors can also be barriers to non-disclosure of child sexual abuse cases.

5.1.3   To identifying the available support services for victims of child sexual abuse in Chitungwiza urban.

The study revealed a number of support services available for victims of child sexual abuse. These services include counselling, therapy and advocacy. There are also crisis hotlines and online support groups available to victims and their families. In Chitungwiza urban, there are sexual assault resource centers that provide comprehensive services for victims. These centers are the Department of Social Development, Victim Friendly Unit and Family Support Trust. In the area there are programs that are specifically designed for victims of child sexual abuse. These programs may include medical care, legal services and social services. Thus, the findings indicate that there are many support services that can assist victims of child sexual abuse.

5.2 Conclusion:

The issue of non-disclosure of child sexual abuse cases continues to be a topic of area for academic, policy making and advocacy. The studies on the non-disclosure of child sexual abuse highlight the complexity of the issue and need for further research. The study suggest that a number of factors influence whether or not the child will disclose the abuse and that more research is needed to better understand these factors. The study also suggest that more support services are needed for victims of child sexual abuse, including more effective ways to support disclosure. Thus, addressing the non-disclosure of child sexual abuse requires a multi-faceted approach that involves understanding the perpetrators, exploring the factors influencing non-disclosure, and providing adequate support services for victims. By raising awareness, providing education, improving access to support services, and implementing prevention strategies, we can work towards creating a safer

environment for children to disclose, combating child sexual abuse effectively and support victims in their healing process. Moreover, a multi-disciplinary approach in sociological, psychological, and medical studies is needed to explore the difficulties victims face in disclosing CSA and suitable methodologies have to be developed for clinical practices. In the same time, there should be more interdisciplinary conversations between different professional fields such as forensic service and social care, and constant case knowledge and work correlations should be maintained between all.

5.3 Recommendations
Based on the gaps revealed by the findings and issues drawn from the conclusion, the study suggests the following recommendations: policy, programmes, community and stakeholders

5.3.1 Policy framework
Non-disclosure of child sexual abuse cases is mainly because the legal system has many gaps. The Criminal Law (Codification Reform) Act of 2004 addresses child sexual abuse in Zimbabwe. However, this law does not specifically specify the age of consent for sexual activities and does not provide a comprehensive definition of child sexual abuse. Therefore, the research recommends that the law be amended to define child sexual abuse and specify the age of consent. Additionally, the law must provide harsher penalties for perpetrators of child sexual abuse as this would act as a deterrent and would help to protect children from abuse. Furthermore, the Children's Act of 2012 does not provide issues such as online child sexual abuse child marriage. It is recommended that the government invest in prevention programs and victim support services and that the public be educated about child sexual abuse and how to report it.

5.3.2 Child sexual abuse programs
There is need for the government of Zimbabwe to implement child sexual abuse prevention programs that focus on education, awareness raising and social support. Such programs should be implemented in schools, communities and other setting where children interact with adults. The programs should cover topics such as consent, sexual violence, healthy relationships and how to report abuse. A good example is the Usalama Campaign which is implemented by the Ntaional Aids Council. This program uses the arts to educate children about child sexual abuse. It includes dance, theater and music performance that raises awareness about child sexual abuse and encourage children to report. The government could scale up this program and invest in similar

programs that uses the arts to educate children and child sexual abuse. the arts have power to reach children in a way that traditional may not be able to.

5.3.3 Community

Community can support survivors of child sexual abuse by first creating a safe space for the children to feel comfortable sharing their experiences. Community based support groups can provide a safe space for survivors to connect with others who have had similar experiences. Additionally, communities can provide practical support to survivors such as helping them access health care, legal services, counseling, therapy, advocacy and advocacy services to help victims cope with trauma and navigate the legal system. These services should be tailored to the individual needs of each victim and should be provided in a safe and supportive environment.

5.3.4.Partnership/stakeholders

The partnership that is between the government and non-governmental organisations in awareness raising and education of child sexual abuse is greatly is appreciated. However, the government of Zimbabwe rely solely on NGO fundings for all the programs. This will become a problem when the NGO funding ends because the progress from the programs will be affected negatively since the government will not be able to fund them on its own. For instance, the My Body, My Rights program which was implemented by Plan International from 2013-2016, focusing on raising awareness about child sexual abuse, when the funding for the program ended the government could not continue the program. This highlights the need for long term, sustainable funding for child sexual abuse cases from the government and not from the non -governmental organisations.

5.4 IMPLICATION FOR SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

The international federation of social workers (IFSW) describes social work as an academic discipline and practice-based profession that supports social development, social cohesion, and individual and collective empowerment. Guided by the above definition, it is indeed the duty of social workers to prevent, intervene and treat child sexual abuse. Understanding why children do not disclose their abuse is important for social works as it can help them identify cases of abuse and provide appropriate support and resources to children and their families. Additionally, understanding for reasons for non-disclosure can help to inform policies and practices aimed at preventing abuse and supporting survivors and also inform policies around mandatory reporting

of abuse. As social workers are advocators, they can advocate for the implementation of policies and programs that support victims.

5.5 FUTURE STUDY

The researcher suggested future studies that the current study did not address but can be used to widen the understanding of the topic under discussion. Based on the observations made the researcher observed that, the current study focused on the perceived factors underlying non-disclosure of child sexual abuse cases by child protection officers. A case study of Chitungwiza Department of Social development. However, the future study can extend the focus to rural areas of Chitungwiza for comparative purposes. Additionally, the future studies can explore how the disclosure process and its outcomes vary by socioeconomic status, race and ethnicity. That is, in terms of socioeconomic status, studies can be explored by comparing the experiences of survivors in low-income versus in high income communities. In terms of race and ethnicity, studies could explore how the disclosure process differs for survivors from different racial and ethnic backgrounds. It can also focus on the factors underlying non-disclosure of child sexual abuse cases by child protection officers mainly focusing with children with disability. Moreso, it can explore the impact of disclosure on the family and community systems and how these systems can best support survivors.

5.6 CHAPTER SUMMARY

The chapter focused on providing a summary, conclusion, suggestions, and the topic of future research in order to provide a concise yet comprehensive picture of the thesis. This was done to provide the study's consumer with information on the issues raised throughout the investigation.

REFERENCE

Abney, V. (2001). *Breaking the silence: A guide to help children with histories of abuse*. Guilford Press.

Admon, L. (2009). *Child sexual abuse in the Orthodox Jewish community: Recommendations for prevention and intervention*. Routledge.

African Child Policy Forum. (2013). *Child sexual abuse in Africa: Challenges and solutions*. ACPF Publications.

Alaggia, R. (2005). *Treating Abused Adolescents: A Program for Providing Individual and Group Therapy.* Guilford Press.

Allagia, A., & Millington, F. (2008). *Understanding and Addressing Adult Sexual Attraction to Children: A Study of Paedophiles in Contemporary Society.* Routledge.

Anderson, J. R. (2016). *When Fathers Ruled: Family Life in Reformation Europe*. Harvard University Press.

Aspers, P., et al. (2019). *Understanding the complexities of child sexual abuse cases: A multidisciplinary approach*. Cambridge University Press.

Baker, L. M. (2016). *Child Sexual Abuse and the Catholic Church: Gender, Power, and Organizational Culture.* Oxford University Press.

Banks et al.(2017) . *Childhood trauma and its long-term effects on mental health.* Journal of Traumatic Stress

BBC. (2020). *Child Sexual Abuse: How to Spot the Signs and What to Do About It*. BBC Books.

Bravery, T. (2003). Breaking the Silence: Stories of Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse. Publisher: HarperCollins.

Chikwiri, E., & Lemmer, E. M. (2014). *Gender-based violence in primary schools in the Harare and Marondera districts of Zimbabwe.* Journal Sociology Social Anth, 5(1), 95–107.

Chinyere, E. (2015). *The School Reach Child Sexual Abuse prevention programme*. Abuja: Sexual Offences & Victims Rehabilitation Initiative (SOAR Initiative).

Davis, L., & Bottoms, B. L. (2002). *Child sexual abuse: Disclosure, delay, and denial*. Psychology Press.

Delano, L. (1998). *Sexual abuse and violence in sub-Saharan Africa. Advocates for Youth*.

Dickenson, S. (2013). Healing from the Trauma of Child Sexual Abuse. Publisher: Springer.

Finkelhor, D. (2014). *Ending the silence: Recognizing and responding to child sexual abuse*. Sage Publications.

Fontes, L. A. (2008). *Child Abuse and Culture: Working with Diverse Families.* Guilford Press.

Freire, P. (1970). *Pedagogy of the Oppressed.* Continuum International Publishing Group.

Freire, P. (2018). *Pedagogy of the Oppressed.* Bloomsbury Academic.

Friedrich, W. N. (2001). *Psychotherapy with sexually abused boys: An integrated approach*. Guilford Press.

Gilligan, C., & Akhtah, S. (2006). *In a Different Voice: Psychological Theory and Women's Development.* Harvard University Press.

Gonzalez, L. (1991). *Child Sexual Abuse: A Feminist Reader*. New York University Press.

Greene, C. (2008). *Healing the wounds of childhood sexual abuse: A guide for survivors and those who care about them*. New Harbinger Publications.

Grossman , J.B., Pattison , E.M., Ammerman , R.T.(2006) . *Promoting resilience in children who have experienced trauma.* Guilford Press

Gwirayi, P. (2013). *Cultural perspectives on child sexual abuse in Zimbabwe*. Harare University Press.

Jewkes, R. (2006). *Preventing child sexual abuse in communities: Strategies and interventions*. Oxford University Press.

Jewkes, Y., Penn-Kekana Rose, M., & Junius-Walker, U. (2005). *Sexual Violence in South Africa: The Invisible Epidemic.* HSRC Press.

Judicial Service Commission. (2012). *Legal perspectives on child sexual abuse cases*. JSC Publications.

Katongomara, T. (2015). *Breaking the cycle: Addressing intergenerational child sexual abuse*. Zambezi Publishing.

Kaufman, G., Hilliker, D., & DeLeiden, L. L. (1996). *Healing the trauma of childhood sexual abuse: A guide for professionals* . WW Norton & Company.

Kumar, R. (2018). Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Programs in Schools. Publisher: Cambridge University Press.

Kvale, S. (2006). *InterViews: An introduction to qualitative research interviewing*. Sage Publications.

Laccino, L. (2014). *Child sexual abuse: Top 5 countries with the highest rates*. International Business Times.

Lather, P. (2006). Critical Perspectives on Child Sexual Abuse. Publisher: Palgrave Macmillan.

Lawson, L., & Chaffi, M. (1992). *Protecting our children: Strategies for preventing child sexual abuse*. Jossey-Bass Publishers.

Leach, C., Powell, M., Sharma, A., & Anglim, J. (2017). *Understanding the Psychological Impact of Child Sexual Abuse.* Springer.

Lemaigre, C., Taylor, M., & Gittoes, C. (2017). *Exploring the Impact of Child Sexual Abuse: A Multidisciplinary Approach.* Palgrave Macmillan.

Lippert, T., Lamp, S., & Bolen, R.M. (2004). *Sexual Abuse in Christian Homes and Churches.* Xulon Press.

London, K. (2005). *Sexual Violence in Conflict Zones: From the Ancient World to the Era of Human Rights.* University of Pennsylvania Press.

Lyon, E. M. (1996). *Child witnesses: Fragile voices in the courtroom*. Sage Publications.

Lyon, E., & Ahern, E. (2011). *Child Abuse and Neglect: What Happens Eventually.* Oxford University Press.

Malewski, E., & Kikon, D. (2013). *Gendered Experiences of Genocide: Anfal Survivors in Kurdistan-Iraq.* Ashgate Publishing.

Matayani H (2011). *Sexual Abuse of Children: A Sociological Study in Delhi Metropolis*. Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University. Dwarka, Delhi.

McElvaney, R. (2013). *Understanding and responding to child sexual abuse cases: A practical guide for professionals*. Jessica Kingsley Publishers.

McLaren, P. (2003*). Life in Schools: An Introduction to Critical Pedagogy in the Foundations of Education.* Pearson.

MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES. (2011). Baseline Study Report on the Perceptions of Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Mbare, Harare, Zimbabwe. Harare, Médecins Sans Frontières and University of Zimbabwe.

Middleton, L. (2017). *Breaking the Silence: Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse Speak Out.* Jessica Kingsley Publishers.

Mieinck, J. (2016). Understanding and Responding to Child Sexual Abuse. Publisher: Academic Press.

Mupedziswa, R. (1997). *The effects of child sexual abuse on academic performance*. University of Zimbabwe Press.

Obongo, L. (2020). Preventing Child Sexual Abuse: Strategies for Parents and Educators. Publisher: Routledge.

Orbach, Y., & Lamb, M. E. (2007). *Young Victims and Witnesses of Crime: Research and Practice.* Oxford University Press.

Rapholo, D. (2018). *Child sexual abuse prevention programs in schools: best practices and challenges*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Rapholo, S. F. (2014). Perceptions of Pedi-speaking caregivers regarding the disclosure of child sexual Abuse (Doctoral dissertation).

Rapholo, S. F., & Makhubele, J. C. (2019). *Forensic Interviewing Techniques in Child Sexual Abuse Allegations: Implications for the South African Context*. Global Journal of Health Science.

Rappaport, J. (1981). *In the Name of the Family: Rethinking Family Violence*. Routledge.

Raskoff, S. (2007). Child Sexual Abuse and Its Long-Term Effects. Publisher: Sage Publications.

Rheingold, H. (2015). *Virtual Reality Therapy for Adults with Child Sexual Abuse PTSD: A Case Series.* Springer Publishing Company.

Rheingold, H. (2015). *Virtual Reality Therapy for Adults with Child Sexual Abuse PTSD: A Case Series.* Springer Publishing Company.

Rich, P. (2013). *Healing from within: A holistic approach to recovery from child sexual abuse*. Balboa Press.

Rubin, A., & Babbie, E. R. (2007). *Research methods for social work*. Cengage Learning.

Rubin, L., & Rubin, I. S. (1995). *Qualitative interviewing: The art of hearing data*. Sage Publications.

Sandoval Lucero, M. (2008). Child Sexual Abuse Intervention Strategies. Publisher: John Wiley & Sons

Schonert Reichl, K. A. (2002). Understanding the Impact of Child Sexual Abuse on Mental Health. Publisher: Harvard University Press.

Sekerdag, G. (2015). *The role of technology in preventing online child sexual exploitation*. Springer International Publishing.

Silberg, J., & Dallam, S. J. (2009). *Child sexual abuse: A handbook for health care and legal professionals*. Routledge.

Sjoberg, S., & Lindblad, F.(2002). *The Dynamics of Child Sexual Abuse: Long-Term Effects on Women's Interpersonal Relationships in Adulthood*. Routledge.

Sumampouw, N. E., Otgaar, H., La Rooy, D., & de Ruiter, C. (2019). *The Quality of Forensic Child Interviewing in Child Sexual Abuse Cases in Indonesia*. Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology.

Tashjian, L., Goldfarb, D., Goodman, G. S., Quas, J. A., & Edelstein, R. S. (2016). *The Effects of Child Sexual Abuse on Memory and Testimony.* American Psychological Association.

Thurkar, M. (2009). *The psychological impact of child sexual abuse: Assessment and treatment strategies*. Springer.

Ullman, S. E. (2007). Victims of Child Sexual Abuse: A Comprehensive Study. Publisher: Guilford Press.

UN. (2018). *Combating Child Sexual Abuse Material on the Internet: A Guide for Policymakers.* United Nations Publications.

UNCF. (2005). *Understanding the impact of child sexual abuse on educational outcomes*. UNCF Press.

Ungar, M. (2009). The Role of Resilience in Child Sexual Abuse. Publisher: Oxford University Press.

UNICEF. (2014). UNICEF Annual Report 2014. Harare: UNICEF Zimbabwe. Retrieved from www.unicef.org/about/annualreport/files/Zimbabwe_Annual_Report_2014.pdf

Villani, S., & DePrince, A.P. (2001) . *The impact of childhood trauma on adult relationships.* American Psychological Association

Watts, R., & Hipwell, A. (2009). *The Sexual Abuse of Children: Recognition and Redress.* Wiley-Blackwell.

WHO (2006). *Preventing Child Maltreatment: A Guide to Taking Action and Generating Evidence*. WHO1–102.http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2006/9241594365_eng.pdf. (Retrieved on 03/04/20)

WHO. (2010). *Preventing Child Maltreatment: A Guide to Taking Action and Generating Evidence.* World Health Organization.

Willie, G. (2022). *Breaking the silence: Stories of resilience from survivors of child sexual abuse*. HarperCollins Publishers.

Yin, R. K. (1991). *Case study research: Design and methods*. Sage Publications.

Zimbabwe Judicial Service Commission. (2012). *Legal frameworks for addressing child sexual abuse in Zimbabwe*. ZJSC Publications.

Annexures

Annexure 1: Informed Consent Form for the Key informants

My name is Eulisis Mutsutsururu. I am a level 4:2 student at the Bindura University of Science Education, currently studying Bachelor of Social Work Honours Degree. As part of my partial fulfilment of the degree, I am expected to conduct research. You are kindly being requested to participate in the research. You have been selected as a possible participant because you are a representative of the key informants that work hand in hand with children who have been sexually abused together with the child protection officers. Participation in this research is voluntary. Please read this form. You are free to ask any questions for clarity before making the decision to participate.

Research Topic: Perceived factors of non-disclosure of child sexual abuse cases by child protection officers. A case study of Chitungwiza Department of Social development.

Purpose of the study: The aim of this research is to obtain an understanding of the factors underlying non-disclosure of child abuse cases.

Research procedures: If you decide to participate in this research, you will be asked to answer 9 questions in an interview. The interview may last 10-15 minutes.

Potential Risks: The research has no foreseeable risks. In the event that you are uncomfortable you have the right to withdraw from the research anytime.

Confidentiality: Your information is confidential. Your answers will not be linked to your names and will only be used for purposes of the research.

I……………………………………… have read and understood the explanations provided to me. All my questions were answered satisfactorily and I voluntarily agree to participate in this study.

Annexure 2: In Depth Interview Guide for Primary participants

Good day to you. I would like to acknowledge your participation in this interview. I am Eulisis Mutsutsururu, a final year student at Bindura University of Science Education. I am studying for a degree in Social Work. I am carrying out research on the topic, 'Perceived factors of non-disclosure of child sexual abuse cases by child protection officers' to fulfil my academic requirement. Your response will be used for academic purposes only and will be kept confidential and no names will be mentioned in the research report. Thank you.

1. Who are the various types of perpetrators you have made an encounter with in your work with children who have experienced sexual abuse?

2. In your experience, do certain types of perpetrators target a specific age group or gender of children more frequently?

3. Can you provide examples of how different perpetrators may approach and groom their victims?

4. Can you describe some of the most common reasons children do not disclose their experience of sexual abuse?

5. In your experience, what factors may make it more difficult for a child to disclose abuse?

6. Have you noticed any changes in the willingness of children to disclose their experiences overtime? If so, what factors do you think might be contributing to these changes?

7. In your experience, what support system have proven to be most effective in helping children heal from their experiences?

8. Are there any gaps or shortcomings in the current support system for child sexual abuse victims that you feel should be addressed?

9. What are your thoughts on mandatory reporting laws for suspected cases of child sexual abuse?

Thank you for participating.

Annexure 3: Key informants interview guide

VICTIM FRIENDLY UNIT OFFICERS

FAMILY SUPPORT TRUST OFFICER

1. How do you perceive fear and shame influencing a victim's decision not to disclose child sexual abuse?

2. In your experience, how often do perpetrators manipulate victims into not disclosing the abuse? What tactics have you observed them using?

3. Can you elaborate on how family dynamics, such as loyalty to the perpetrator or fear of breaking up the family, impact a victim's decision to remain silent?

4. To what extent do cultural norms and societal stigma around discussing sexual abuse contribute to non-disclosure among victims?

5. How does the level of trust a victim has in authorities like law enforcement or child protection services affect their willingness to disclose abuse?

Thank you for participating

Annexure 4: Informed Consent Form for Primary Participants

My name is Eulisis Mutsutsururu. I am a level 4:2 student at the Bindura University of Science Education, currently studying Bachelor of Social Work Honours Degree. As part of my partial fulfilment of the degree, I am expected to conduct research. You are kindly being requested to participate in the research. You have been selected as a possible participant because you are a representative of the children that have been sexually abused but could not disclose the case. Participation in this research is voluntary. Please read this form. You are free to ask any questions for clarity before making the decision to participate.

Research Topic: Perceived factors of non-disclosure of child sexual abuse cases by child protection officers. A case study of Chitungwiza Department of Social development.

Purpose of the study:

The aim of this research is to obtain an understanding of the factors underlying non-disclosure of child abuse cases.

Research procedures:

If you decide to participate in this research, you will be asked to answer 9 questions in an interview. The interview may last 10-15 minutes.

Potential Risks:

The research has no foreseeable risks. In the event that you are uncomfortable you have the right to withdraw from the research anytime.

Confidentiality:

Your information is confidential. Your answers will not be linked to your names and will only be used for purposes of the research.

I……………………………………… have read and understood the explanations provided to me. All my questions were answered satisfactorily and I voluntarily agree to participate in this study.

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE, LABOUR AND SOCIAL
WELFARE
Compensation House

Cnr Fourth Street and Central Avenue
HARARE

ZIMBABWE

05 February 2024

Eulisis Mutsutsururu (B202321B)
Bindura University of Science Education
Harare

REF: LETTER OF APPROVAL TO CONDUCT A RESEARCH STUDY TITLED "FACTORS UNDERLYING NON-DISCLOSURE OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE CASES". A CASE STUDY OF CHITUNGWIZA URBAN.

Receipt of your letter with the above mentioned matter is acknowledged.

Please be advised that permission is hereby granted for you to carry out research titled **"Factors Underlying Non-Disclosure Of Child Sexual Abuse Cases"**.

Permission is granted **STRICTLY** on condition that the research is for academic purposes only in pursuit of your Honours Degree in Social Work. The data collected should not be shared to third party (3rd).

You are requested to submit a copy of your final research documents to the Department of Social Development upon completion as your research has a bearing on the Department's mandate.

T. Zimhunga
Director Social Development.
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE, LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE