BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES.

HUMANITIES

an assessment of the role of councilors in the implementation of devolution in urban local authorities. a case study of ruwa local board.

BY

(B200361A)

A Dissertation Submitted to the Department of Peace and Governance in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the Bachelor of Science Honors Degree in Peace and Governance
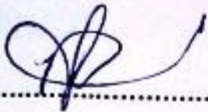
Bindura

June, 2024

ABSTRACT

The study sought to evaluate the part councillors performed in bringing about devolution in urban local authorities. It also focus on the legal framework used by local councilors in ensuring the implementation of devolution. The councilors are making sure that they make community

engagement and consultation, help in facilitating local decision-making, ensures capacity building process, maintains resource mobilization, helps with monitoring and evaluation, with advocacy and representation and coordination and collaboration. The study also focused on examining the challenges faced by councilors in ensuring implementation of devolution in urban local authorities. There is need to study strategies that may be adopted by councilors to ensure devolution in local authorities. There were recommendations that were made by the local board and local authorities to ensure there is an effective distribution of devolution in Ruwa Local Board also the need for capacity building for councilors, need to strengthen community engagements, need to improve coordination and collaboration, the enhancing of transparency and accountability and advocating for adequate funding. To collect and analyze data, the research was predicated on a qualitative research design. Purposive sampling was employed in interviews with the Ruwa local board to get information on the implementation of devolution through councilors. Tables, graphs, and pie charts were used to show and evaluate the data that was obtained according to themes. The results show how the councilors' implementation of devolution in local authorities is being evaluated. The findings include that the limit to understanding of devolution, insufficient capacity and resources, weak community engagement, coordination challenges and funding constraints.

Form of Declaration

With the exception of any citations or references that have been credited to their sources, I,..., do hereby declare that all of the work included in this dissertation is wholly original with no assistance from outside sources.

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STUDENT SIGNATURE   **DATE**

V. Supy   30/09/24

SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE   **DATE**

....   30/09/20

CHAIRMAN SIGNATURE   **DATE**

Signed··

Date···

DEDICATION

I dedicate this research project to myMother You have been my biggest inspiration

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ECLSG – European Charter of Local Self-Government

IGFT – International Governmental Fiscal Transfers

LTP – Long Term Plan

NGO – Non-Governmental Organization

PMC – Program Management Committee

UNDP – United Nations Development Programme

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

The local government is the branch of government that is closest to the community, it is essential to the implementation of national and local government programs as well as the provision of community services. Since the federal government is unable to personally supervise every region, it is dependent upon local governments to establish communication with them. Elected and appointed individuals are in charge of these local authorities.Hussain (2019).Among these officials are technocrats, whose proficiency in reading laws and rules is necessary for local

governments to run more efficiently and provide better services to their constituents. Politicians chosen by the populace to represent local community interests in councils exist in addition to technocrats.(Dube, 2019). Local communities can engage in local council business and stay updated on happenings thanks to the presence of elected officials, also referred to as "councilors." These elected council members are typical in both unitary and federal local government structures. Nonetheless, in federal and unitary systems of government, the relationship between the national and local governments is distinct (Moyo, 2014). Local authority structures differ between federal and unitary governments, and the federal government exhibits a more pronounced devolution of powers than the unitary government (Were, 2023Within unitary systems of government, the federal government distributes decision-making authority to provinces or regions and keeps only key portfolios—like national security—that are too big for local or regional governments to handle (Maganga, 2021). In unitary systems of government, the federal government aims to usurp, accumulate, or even retain the majority of the decision-making powers of local authorities.Numerous nations throughout the globe have implemented constitutions that set up different types of devolution and decentralization for their systems of governance. Examples of this include attempts to financial devolution and power-sharing. Shayo (2020) asserts that administrative deconcentration and political devolution to regional, provincial, or local governments have resulted in the decentralization of governmental functions. Devolved governments occasionally possess legislative arrangements and executive authority that permit the legislature to pass main legislation (Chatiza, 2019).Scottish devolution, for example, bestowed executive and legislative powers beginning in 1998, granting the Scottish Parliament the authority to enact primary legislation. Contrarily, Wales' devolution arrangements merely granted executive and administrative control—primary legislation-passing authority was not granted (Rasool and Ali 2022). Devolution legislation serve as the regional governments' constitutions in some jurisdictions. Among other nations, Austria, Germany, Spain, and Italy have a history of regional governance (Mufti, 2020).

It has been said that local government is a lower tier of public administration that manages local issues and delivers services through council using assigned authorities and responsibilities. Urban councils are therefore interpreted as an attempt at decentralization and the transfer of authority from the federal government to local governments (Mukoyi, 2021). While delegation and de-concentration simply include the transfer of administrative authority, devolution is the most comprehensive type of decentralization, involving the transfer of political, administrative, and budgetary authorities (Mufti 2020). Lelewe (2022) expands on these differences by stating that decentralization may be examined from a dichotomous or continuous point of view, as well as from a static or dynamic temporal perspective, as either fully or partially decentralized. (Chaudhary 2021).

Zimbabwe has chosen to adopt a decentralized form of government, which is praiseworthy as a step toward democratizing local government. Compared to the prior municipal governance structure, which was a product of legislation and lacked constitutional authority, this represented

a paradigm change. For the first time in Zimbabwean history, a "devolved system" of government is introduced in Chapter 14 of the country's new constitution (Chinsinga, 2008). This system, at least conceptually is different from the 'centralized system` of governance that existed previously. Under a devolved system, it is expected that certain aspects of political, administrative and fiscal management powers will be transferred and shared between the central government and the newly constitutionally-established Provincial/Metropolitan and Local Authority tiers of government (King 2020)

According to Section 264 of the new Constitution, the devolved system is anticipated to give powers of local governance to the people and enhance their participation in the exercise of the powers of the State and in making decisions affecting them so as to promote democratic, effective, transparent, accountable and coherent government that preserves and fosters the peace of national unity and indivisibility of Zimbabwe (Lepcha, 2017).

1.2 Purpose of the study

 The purpose of the study is to explore the role of councilors in implementation of devolution in urban local authorities with reference to Ruwa Local Board.

1.3 Statement of the problem

Devolution and decentralization measures were first implemented in Zimbabwe in 1980, although they were not openly supported under the rule of former president Robert Mugabe (1980–2017) (Chigwata 2018). Since service delivery is one of the primary pillars of the unity that entails inclusive development, this was done to improve it. The experience demonstrates that when it comes to the provision of services, the central government is still overly relied upon (Zinyama 2021). The decentralization reforms and ministry protocols are primarily followed by the local authorities; nonetheless, they were biased toward deconcentration and made little attempts to provide subnational governments more authority over finances, personnel, and decision-making (Muchapondwa and,Chigwata and DeVisser 2017). The Local Government Authority Act, Laws modification Acts, 2016 Part 2 assigns the municipal councilors the responsibility of guaranteeing improved services at the local community level and via a democratic framework. The achievement of effective and efficient urban service delivery is among the mandates of another significant entity, the parliamentary portfolio Committee on local government, rural and other urban development (Chakaipa 2010). The Minister of Service Delivery of the local government is accused of abusing his authority to undermine service delivery in opposition-controlled cities and towns by amending the awkwardly named Urban Councils act chapter (29:15). This is just one of the issues contributing to the challenges in the delivery of services. In this context, it is frequently asserted that the minister manipulates local urban processes, particularly those that are the result of thorough public engagement, by utilizing specific act provisions (Marumahoko, Chigwata, and Nhede 2010;208). While it is usual for people to have faith in local government overall, it is still unknown to what degree municipal councils have altered community development program activities designed to guarantee citizens receive social services more effectively.

1.4 Research Objectives

1. To identify the services being offered by councilors, in ensuring implementation of devolution in urban local authorities.

2. To examine challenges faced by councilors in ensuring implementation of devolution in urban local authorities

3. To propose strategies that may be adopted by councilors to ensure implementation of devolution in urban local authorities

1.5 Research questions

1. What are the services being offered by councilors in ensuring implementation of devolution in urban local authorities?

2. What are the challenges faced by councilors in ensuring implementation of devolution in urban local authorities?

3. What strategies that may be adopted by councilors to ensure implementation of devolution in urban local authorities.

1.6 Assumptions

Since the sample inclusion measures are relevant, it is assumed that each participant is aware of the study's phenomena. The participants will engage in open engagement as the researcher endeavors to apply the ethical principles of voluntary participation and informed consent. Other scholars who are interested in researching this issue further might utilize the wealth of information provided by the study.

1.7 Significance of the study

The university, the community, the government, and non-governmental groups might all benefit from the study's conclusions. The goal of the study was to increase knowledge and clarify the degree to which councilors' influence on devolution to Local Government Authorities' operations in Zimbabwe has been felt. As the councilors represent their constituents in the council, they serve as intermediaries between their wards' residents, the municipal council, the federal government, and the parties involved in development. The research is anticipated to provide more practical light on the function of devolution—a topic that is mostly ignored—and how it could be effectively utilized to improve the quality of services provided by Local Government Authorities (Maganga, 2021). This occurs at a time when a large number of people are still lamenting the inadequate quality of services being provided in their communities, sometimes without realizing how much influence elected officials, such as council members, have on these issues. It is expected that the study would increase public awareness of how to hold local governments accountable for ensuring better service delivery in their areas. The study offers a

plethora of material that may be useful to other researchers who wish to investigate this matter further.

1.8 Delimitations of the Study

Ruwa was the only region covered by the probe. Located 22 km southeast of the capital Harare on the main Harare-Mutare highway and railway line, It is a town in Zimbabwe's Mashonaland East Province. Since the business was first created 25 years ago, as per the Acts, Income Tax Chapter [23:06] and Sales Tax Chapter [23:08], it has been classified as a Growth Point 1986. It has a rich history in addition to a variety of attractions, conveniences, and possibilities. In 1990, a warrant was issued granting it the status of Local board. It is under the Goromonzi District. The study was focused on the residents under the Ruwa Local Board both males and females. The study focused on the knowledge on the roles of councilors in implementation of devolution. Efforts were, however, made by the researcher to reduce respondents' fear of being judged by assuring them of the confidentiality of all information provided.

1.9 Limitations of the Study

The investigation was conducted within a short period of time which led to having a time limiting factor for a very detailed analysis. The study was also impacted by financial constrains due to the ongoing economic situation in Zimbabwe. Certain respondents failed to offer information to the investigator because of their personal reasons which became a challenge to the researcher. The study also faced some limitations from the district council which delayed the approval of the proposal to research in Ruwa hence disturbing the anticipated time range for the process of data collection.

1.10 Definition of key terms

Councilors.

The elected officials that serve as the community's representatives in a particular ward within a designated constituency, region, or council are known as councilors. Owing to their role, councilors function as a mediator in discussions between the public and the council committee (Maganga 2021). The councilors' main objective is to include the local community in order to encourage growth in their assigned ward.

Devolution

The legislative transfer of authority from a sovereign state's central government to a subnational level, like the regional or municipal level, is known as devolution Zinyama (2022). It is a type of decentralization in administration. More autonomy is granted to devolved territories by their ability to enact laws pertinent to the region.

Local authorities

An organization that formally oversees all public amenities and services in a certain area is known as a local authority. This particular application of the term "government" denotes a form of limited authority and local basis governance.

 1.11 Outline for a dissertation

 CHAPTER 1 (INTRODUCTION):

The researcher in this chapter should provide the research question because it provides further justification for the need for the study; hence, the information presented in the chapter is merely a smattering of what will be a substantial portion of the thesis in specific.Review of the Literature in Chapter Two The more pertinent the interpretations and inferences used to provide explanations are for this chapter, the more information that generally comes to light in relation to the current situation in the section that follows.CHAPTER 3 (Research Methodology)

The materials, the collection procedure, and the tools to be utilised are further illustrated in this paragraph, which further describes and shows how information is obtained in the field in this chapter.CHAPTER 4 (Presentation and analysis of DataThis part mostly consists of an introduction to the findings compiled from the ongoing research which is followed by a section on research aims.CHAPTER 5 (Conclusions and Recommendations). Since it's the final section, it wraps up the research project and all of the acquired findings before providing recommendations or ideas on the current problem.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

The secondary study on councillors' roles in implementing devolution in urban local authorities was presented and reviewed in this chapter. A literature review, according to Aspers and Corte (2021), is an overview of an area that supports the formulation of particular research questions. For a literary research, a wide range of sources, including books, articles from scholarly and professional journals, and online resources, must be reviewed and assessed.

2.1 Theoretical Framework

A theory is used in the theoretical framework because it facilitates understanding and offers a background explanation for the research findings. The theory of Democratic citizenship serves as

the foundation for this research. By using the voting system to marginalize cultures and beliefs, Democratic Citizenship Theory focuses on inclusion rather than exclusion in participation. Since the community is engaged in the devolution process, the implementation of devolution and community inclusion are related issues.

2.1.1 Democratic citizenship theory

The study utilized the idea of democratic citizenship, which is a comprehensive framework designed to clarify the fundamental nature and significance of citizenship in democratic societies. Thomas Humphrey Marshall, a British sociologist and scholar from the early to mid-20th century, is credited as the creator of Democratic citizenship theory (Rajala, 2021). Marshall maintained that citizenship was a social construct that included rights, obligations, and participation in public life rather than just a legal position. He distinguished between civil, political, and social rights as the three fundamental facets of citizenship (Vlahos, 2019). These elements combine to provide the interwoven structure required for a democracy to function, one in which people have agency and may actively participate in the decision-making process. As stated by Ribar (2019), Marshall's Democratic citizenship theory offers valuable insights that may be used to shape inclusive policies that support democratic institutions globally while advancing social justice and equality (Zinyama, 2021).

According to Mukoyi (2021), the fundamental tenet of this theory is that recognizing one's rights and obligations as well as actively participating in political processes are necessary for citizenship in a democracy. Democratic voters are supposed to cast ballots, participate in public debate, hold their elected officials responsible, and engage in informed discussion. This idea calls for equitable treatment and opportunity for all people, regardless of race, gender, or financial position, and highlights the significance of equality and inclusivity within democratic society. According to Brennen's (2021) democratic citizenship theory, civic education plays a crucial role in fostering responsible citizens who are able to think critically and make decisions that are in the best interests of the community. All things considered, this theory provides a basis for establishing and preserving robust democratic societies via the cultivation of involved people who actively contribute to the development of local government systems (Were,2023). However, because local communities in Zimbabwe engage and make their own decisions based on their wants because of the concept of democratic citizenship, the power of this theory is applicable to our research.

2.2 Conceptual Framework

One adaptable analytical tool that may be applied in many circumstances is a conceptual framework. When a wide picture is needed, it may be applied in a number of work fields (Brennen 2021). It is used to organize ideas and make conceptual divisions. This example's conceptual framework is based on the specific objectives of the study. The ideas describe how to ensure that devolution is implemented, what factors influence it, and what devolution-related strategies local councils could decide to use.

Figure 2.1: Conceptual Framework

Source: Researcher's own conceptualization (2023)

2.3 Local Government in Zimbabwe

Chigiya-Mujeni (2021) defines local government as a decentralized, democratically formed level of government that is in charge of delivering services. It is mainly self-financing, composed of legal organizations with certain authorities, and has authority over a particular territory within the confines of national legislation. According to Chaudhary (2021), the theoretical and conceptual argument for local government is that, as it is the level closest to the people, it can more successfully recognize and respond to local needs. Additionally, by using both local resources and knowledge, local government is better able to accomplish its goals. Not only do the abilities assigned to local government have a broad reach, but they also have an immediate effect on the day-to-day operations of neighboring towns (King, 2020). The typical person may get involved in local public concerns thanks to local government. By casting a ballot, residents may have a big influence on how municipal affairs are run generally.

The concept of local government refers to the establishment of democratically elected, participatory processes that are able to comprehend the needs of the community as a whole and ensure that those needs are translated into the actual provision and sustainable upkeep of basic services and infrastructure. As to Rasool (2015), the formation of a local government is perceived as the endeavor to execute functions that the federal government cannot effectively perform due to its distance.

2.4 Devolution in Zimbabwe

Fetters, 2018 It is commendable that Zimbabwe has chosen to transition to a decentralized system of governance in order to democratize local government. In Zimbabwe, voters in the March 2013 Constitutional Referendum overwhelmingly endorsed devolution. The prior local government structure, which was the result of legislation and lacked constitutional legitimacy, was replaced by this (Chatiza, 2019). Chapter 14 of Zimbabwe's 2013 constitution introduces a "devolved system" of administration for the first time in the nation's history. This system differs from the preceding "centralized system" of government, at least philosophically. Under a devolved system according to Gehman (2018) it is expected that certain aspects of political, administrative and fiscal management powers will be transferred and shared between the central government and the newly constitutionally-established Provincial/Metropolitan and Local Authority tiers of government.

Section 264 of the New Constitution states that the devolved system will give the people more local governance authority and increase their participation in state decision-making; it will also promote democratic, effective, transparent, accountable, and coherent governance; it will preserve and foster Zimbabwe's peace, unity, and indivisibility; it will acknowledge the right of communities to manage their own affairs and to further their development; and it will ensure the equitable sharing of national and local resources from the national government to establish a stable financial basis for each provincial and metropolitan council and local authority (Hussain,

Rind, and Shah 2019). Zimbabwe's Constitution requires the state to ensure that all areas of the nation are fairly represented in all institutions and government agencies at all levels (Kharl, 2022). To do this, they will put in place sensible procedures to guarantee that every local community has fair access to resources to support their growth and that local communities themselves reap the benefits of local resources (Johnson and Parry, 2022).

2.5 Services being offered by councilors

2.5.1 Engaging with Local Communities and Constituents

Council members are active members of their communities and do not only work in offices. To build relationships with the people they serve, they participate in community meetings, activities, and get-togethers. It's similar to being a social butterfly, say Kharl and Mehboob (2022), flitting from event to event, talking with people and finding out about their goals and worries. They give their constituents' worries, suggestions, and comments their full attention (Rajala, 2021). Councilors ensure that the citizens of their areas are aware of the policies, plans, and activities of the government. By converting abstract concepts into understandable English, they serve as a liaison between the public and the government (Collins, 2018).

2.5.2 Budgeting and Financial Oversight

Council members must be well-versed in the nuances of budgeting in order to guarantee that monies are allocated wisely and efficiently. When it comes to allocating funds within their communities, council members are crucial decision-makers (Cresswell, 2008). According to King (2020), this entails choosing how much money to provide to various community activities and initiatives. When deciding which programs and services to support, they must take into account the needs and priorities of their people. Councilors has the ability to enhance healthcare facilities, promote education programs, and improve infrastructure by allocating funds in a way that benefits the local community. Council members for Lelegwe (2022) are also accountable for closely monitoring how the funds are being spent. To guarantee openness and accountability, they keep an eye on and audit financial transactions. Councilors can then take the necessary steps to resolve any disparities or inefficiencies that they find. They serve as watchdogs over finances, safeguarding the community's interests and ensuring that tax dollars are used prudently (Maganga, 2021).

2.5.3 Collaboration and Coordination with Other Stakeholders

Serving as a councilor is a team effort. Working together and coordinating with other council members, residents, groups, and public servants is necessary. Together, the council members debate and decide on matters that are best for the community as a whole. Councilors may identify common ground and put into practice practical solutions to the problems faced by their constituents by engaging in constructive discourse and working as a team (Lepcha 2020). Additionally, councilors interact with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs). By forming these connections, councilors can get extra resources and specialized knowledge to solve a range of social, economic, and environmental challenges. NGOs can offer insightful information and

helpful assistance, which can improve the effectiveness and impact of the councilors' work (Boyle, 2013).

Councilors maintain connections with the private sector and local enterprises. These organizations are essential to the community's economic growth. Councilors may establish a mutually beneficial connection, comprehend the demands of businesses, and generate growth prospects by interacting with them (Chinsinga, 2019). Working together with the private sector may result in the development of infrastructure, the production of jobs, and a general expansion of the local economy.

2.5.4 Monitoring and Evaluation of Government Programs and Projects

The goals of government initiatives and programs are being met, and council members set up oversight procedures. These systems aid in monitoring development, spotting problems, and evaluating the projects' efficacy (Mufti, 2020). Councilors may make data-driven choices and distribute resources more effectively by putting strong monitoring in place (Sanaullah, 2021). It is the duty of council members to assess how government policies and initiatives affect their local communities. Councilors can evaluate if projects are fulfilling people's needs and having a good impact by looking at the results and outcomes. They can make the required modifications and enhancements for the benefit of their citizens thanks to this evaluation (Maganga 2021). Based on their monitoring and evaluation efforts, councilors can provide valuable feedback and recommendations to improve government programs and projects (Rasool, 2015)

2.5.5 Decision-making and Policy Formulation

Incorporating their personal viewpoints and ideas into conversations, debates, and decision-making procedures, they collaborate with other councilors to arrive at well-informed judgments. In addition, council members examine and assess the government's policy ideas by carefully examining the fine print, balancing the advantages and disadvantages, and taking the community's possible effects into account (Marquez 2021). Council members must take their people' needs and opinions into account while voting and making decisions. They have the authority to sculpt laws and make decisions that serve the needs of the people they represent. Representing the concerns and interests of their constituents is their responsibility (Zinyama, 2021).

2.5.6 Accountability and Responsibilities

Despite the fact that there is little information in the literature about how such councils might become more successful. According to Hussain's (2019) findings, there is a positive correlation between the interpersonal interactions among residents, council members, and council committees and the development of leadership ability towards achieving the specified developmental goals. According to Meister (2018), the city council fills in for the federal government in some ways.

The municipal council is the local government authority's representative, and they are crucial to

decentralized sound systems for two reasons: they successfully collect government money in comparison to a more centralized government and they foster responsibility and autonomy (Vlahos, 2019).

2.6 Challenges being faced by Councilors in ensuring the implementation of devolution

2.6.1 Roles and responsibilities

A comprehensive grasp of the roles and responsibilities of the three tiers of government is essential for the cogent and effective implementation of devolution. Government policy papers have a serious flaw in that they lack clear policy guidelines that define roles and responsibilities at the operational level (Mtombeni and Matiza, 2022). There would unavoidably be competition for power among officials from different tiers of government if there were no regulations outlining the limits of devolved authority and the borders between them. If these potential problems arising from competition are not resolved, devolution's implementation would be impeded. Similarly, it's unclear what the District Administrators and Chief Executive Officers of local governments are supposed to do (Mukoyi, 2021).

  Moreover, the role of Provincial Ministers is not precisely defined by the Constitution. In their various jurisdictions, provincial ministers have been facilitating awareness campaigns about devolution. It is the belief of stakeholders that they will ultimately no longer be recognized as official members of PMCs (Mukoyi 2021). The supervisory role of the Legislature is further compromised by the inclusion of present Parliamentarians in PMCs. Since legislators have an oversight role and PMCs have an executive function, separation of powers is required. Unjustified political pressure is used to the executives by politicians employed in local government administration (Chaudhary, 2021).

2.6.2 Weak governance structures

According to the Office of the Auditor General (2019), the 2018 audit of local authorities exposed deficiencies in their governance frameworks as well as issues with debt recovery, revenue collection, labor costs, and the supply of goods and services. The lack of qualified auditors among councilors in local government council audit committees to examine local authority records and guarantee financial statements are completed on time is one of the governance concerns identified (Kharl, 2022). The audit committee's financial management is improved when council members with backgrounds in finance and administration are included (Rasool and Ali, 2019). If local authorities do not have councilors with these necessary abilities, they can hire outside experts to give technical advice to the audit committee. Another finding from reports from the Auditor General's office was that the majority of councils had a large number of bank accounts, and bank reconciliations were frequently out of current. According to Ribar (2019), the Office of the Auditor General's report from 2019 said that a number of local authorities have challenges in meeting their service delivery goals due to institutional, financial, and capability constraints (Moyo, 2014). The study also found that a rise in the number of complaints about service delivery over time is suggestive of a fall in the caliber of services provided by various local governments

(Mufti, 2020). Special audits carried out for the local authorities reveal that wages account for the majority of their resources, including donor cash, with less money going toward service provision (Rajala and

2.6.3 Lack of policies and procedures

Local governments have additional governance challenges, including a lack of policies and process manuals and noncompliance with legislative regulations (Office of the Auditor General's Report, 2019). Furthermore, the legislative system that oversees the corporate governance of municipal entities has significant flaws (Hussain 2019). Local governments are not subject to the Public Entities Corporate Governance Act [Chapter 10:31], although the federal government is. This is true even if substantial corporate governance flaws impede these organizations' capacity to offer high-quality service to the communities they serve. Piere (2021) asserts that stakeholder conversations have shown that steps are already in place to ensure that the corporate governance principles that regulate the federal government also apply to local governments.

2.6.4 Weak systems

While local governments use separate systems that are not interfaced with the central government's SAP accounting software, the central government uses the latter (Sanaullah, 2021). This presents significant difficulties for central government data collection and monitoring. Non-financial indicators must be measured as there is currently none. Moreover, performance is now correlated with expenses rather than production (King, 2020). Thus, a crucial component of the devolution's implementation success is for systems to be strengthened and the accounting systems' interaction between the federal government and the other levels of government to be improved. This will improve accountability and transparency even further, particularly in areas where real-time information exchange between the various levels of government is strengthened (Maganga, 2021).

2.6.5 Weak resource base

The inadequate resource base, which includes underpaid council members who typically lack reliable transportation to cover their assigned districts, is one of the main issues facing local authorities (Rasool, 2015). Local governments are losing income as a result of poor or nonexistent regulations on shop licenses, lease agreements, and stand sales. Local administrations' autonomy is compromised by their inability to produce their own revenue. When subnational or local units rely substantially on intergovernmental funds, particularly those with limits, their discretionary spending authority is usually constrained (Rehman 2021). Human capacity issues are connected to the financial management concerns that local authorities face, including a backlog in financial statement submissions across local authorities that extends back to 2015.

According to the 2019 Office of the Auditor General's Report, only three local authorities—Bindura Municipality, Tongogara Rural District Council, and Marondera Rural District Council—had their financial statements audited and reported on, while nineteen (19) local authorities

were in the process of having their 2018 financial statements audited or finalized. The timely preparation of accurate financial statements and associated audits, which fosters user trust in an organization, is one of the primary indicators of a good public financial management system. (Office of the General Auditor, 2019).

2.7 Strategies that may be adopted

2.7.1 Adequate human and financial resources

Sufficient financial and human resources are essential for the execution of devolution projects. According to Sulle (2021), local administrations in Ghana and Tanzania continue to depend on foreign funding to carry out progressive initiatives, which may endanger their capacity to make decisions independently and the viability of their locally led development initiatives. According to Shayo (2022), there are a number of implementation issues that Malawi faces, such as a donor-driven process lacking local backing, opposition from general political actors, a reluctance to accept a loss of influence and authority, and power fights among local elites over scarce local government resources. Based on Pakistan's experience, Sulle (2021) also pointed out that devolution can be harmful to countries that are already struggling with severe fiscal restrictions. He also noted that Pakistan's lower levels of government, which receive 80% of their funding from the federal government, rely too much on resources from the federal government. Appropriate financial and personnel resources are therefore required (Were, 2023).

2.7.2 Strong Legal Framework and Policy Guidelines

According to Vlados (2019), devolution projects have been implemented successfully in large part due to the presence of robust legal frameworks and policy guidelines. Devolution amendments were enacted across the United Kingdom through several Acts of the Westminster Parliament (Northern Ireland Act 1998, Government of Wales Act 1998, and Scotland Act 1998). Vlahos (2019) provides a detailed account of the legislative actions that affected the devolution of powers to regional governments in Europe. The new constitution that was enacted in 2010 has caused a drastic shift of the state and nation of Kenya (Rajala, 2021). The constitution established innovative, transparent, and responsible institutions, inclusive governmental structures, and a hitherto unseen emphasis on providing fair services to all citizens. The new county government structure is the most powerful factor in achieving these goals. UNDP (2019) observed that for devolution to be successfully implemented in Kenya, there needs to be a strong legal framework to guarantee that as many of the provisions are codified into law as possible, clear policies to direct the operationalization of the devolution provisions in the constitution, and strong national institutional frameworks to support implementation (Dube, 2023). They concluded that without this strong central competency and clarity, devolution cannot be executed efficiently.

2.7.3 Synchronization of planning and budgeting frameworks

Devolution must be implemented gradually to allow for adequate preparation and education. This means that planning and budgetary frameworks must be coordinated at all levels of government. According to Lepcha (2017), in order to improve the implementation of devolution,

the lower levels of government may need to adopt the integrated results-based/performance management frameworks and program-based budgeting being adopted by the central government by 2023. The planning process for the National Development Plans, which will replace the Transitional Stabilization Program, must take into account feedback from the lower levels of government (Zinyama 2021). In this sense, the National Development Plans and local government planning must be integrated. This includes provincial and metropolitan councils. This means empowering the lowest levels of government to create their own development strategies. Everyone involved in the devolution process must consider and make plans for its implementation beyond the IGFT awards (Boyle, 2013).

2.8 Chapter summary

This chapter addressed the many perspectives and ideas of writers, people, and scholars on a range of topics pertaining to councilor functions in the devolution process. Consequently, this cleared the ground for the third and final chapter, which would examine the research methods.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

The research techniques that were employed to gather data were examined in this chapter. Due to the methodology's importance in supplying the necessary data, this chapter has a crucial position in the whole research. The target population, sample techniques, and research tools were also covered in this chapter. This chapter covers the many research methodologies and approaches used in the process of gathering, analyzing, and presenting data. Notwithstanding

the effectiveness of data collecting, several difficulties were experienced. The study design, the research tool, the population to be investigated, the data collection methods, the sample, the data analysis and presentation, and the ethical considerations were all reviewed and discussed in this chapter. These are significant because they result in the gathering of information pertinent to the subject of the function of putting devolution into practice.

3.2 Research Design

A research methodology, the study examined the role councilors play in urban local authorities' adoption of devolution. The case study research design was engaged in the study. A case study, according to Maxwell (2011), is a type of research methodology that aims to provide a thorough knowledge of a given entity or event at a particular point in time. This design is pertinent to the researcher's attempt to evaluate councilors' contribution to Ruwa district's devolution of power. The accessibility of the region under investigation gave researchers the knowledge necessary to conduct a thorough analysis of the data and give recommendations for more research, making the case study ideal for research. According to Saunders (2013), a case study efficiently supplies the research with a substantial amount of information from a huge population.. The present study employed a case study of Ruwa district to examine the function of councilors in the execution of devolution.

3.3 Research methodology

Throughout, the qualitative technique was employed in the study on the councilors' role in the devolution of urban local authorities. Information for the study was gathered qualitatively. Research methodology refers to a plan of study that addresses procedure, measurement of variable data, and analysis. The research methodology focused on the study population, sample size for the study region, sampling strategies, data collection methods, data processing, interpretation, and presentation, as well as the reliability of the research findings. According to Kothari (2010), qualitative research is a subset of social science that focuses on how people interpret and make meaning of their experiences as well as the surroundings they leave behind. The researcher used the qualitative approach in order to gain a deep descriptive comprehension while evaluating the councilors' participation in Ruwa Urban Council's devolution implementation. The utilization of qualitative research methods yielded unique concerns specific to the community and improved the researcher's understanding of the gender aspects of food security. Krantz (2011) further backed this by positing that the qualitative method is a systematic subject approach that is used to characterize life events and circumstances in order to give them significance. Qualitative data approaches explain quantitative data and sometimes place it in the context of people's experiences and lives. They also capture additional depth and offer insights into the "why" and "how" of attitudes and actions (Maxwell, 2012). The study is going to get insights of the views of local councilors in the implementation of devolution.

3.4 Population and Sampling

Purposive sampling was one of the demographic and sampl

3.4.1 Sampling

Sampling procedures were taken into consideration in the research on councilors' involvement in implementing devolution. In this study, non-probability sampling was used. Non-probability sampling is a technique for selecting samples when there is no likelihood of selection for particular population units and objects, or when selection cannot be made with accuracy. In this instance, non-probability methods like availability and convenience are used to choose the units. The qualitative character of the study provides justification for the use of this type of sampling technique. Sampling, according to Coghlan & Brannick (2014), is the act of choosing a portion of an interest population in order to draw conclusions and make statistical observations about the populations. A sample, according to Ferber (2014), is a tiny portion of anything intended to convey the essence, style, and caliber of the entire. Therefore, a sample is a portion of the population that has been selected for analysis and observation. Sulaiman, Musa, Sunusi (2016) define a sample as a subset of a population or universe in a similar manner. It could also make reference to all of the objects or circumstances that the inquiry is centered around. Saunders (2003) defines sampling as the deliberate selection of a number of people who will provide information from which conclusions about a group may be drawn. According to Jackson (2011), sampling is carried out in a methodical, random manner as opposed to being done randomly.

3.4.2 Purposive sampling

Purposive sampling was employed in the investigation of councilors' function in devolution implementation. The informants were specifically chosen according to their familiarity with the phenomenon being studied. Because of their expertise in providing services to the local population, the top officials at the Ruwa Local Board were recruited by the researcher using this sample strategy in this instance. Interviews in-depth were conducted with them. Purposive sampling pertains to the non-probability sampling approach in which participants are selected non-randomly depending on their familiarity with the study topic and phenomena under investigation. The study also employed the purposive sample approach to target and choose important informants, such as members of the community, councilors, and district officers, since it was recognized that these groups had a stake in evaluating the role of councilors in carrying out devolution. Purposive sampling, according to Rukuni (2013), entails choosing participants based on their capacity to supply rich information and enabling the researcher to carefully choose situations that might typify or throw light on the research topic. As a result, it is also founded on those who have firsthand knowledge of the significance of devolution's implementation. Data from the group of presumed authorities was needed for the research. Purposive sampling is handpicking sampling, according to O'Leary (2010), which is the selection of a sample with a specific goal in mind. O'Leary (1996) defines purposive sampling as a process wherein a certain group or individuals within the population are chosen to be included in the sample population.

3.5 Data collection methods

In order to gather data for the research study on the functions of councilors in the employment of devolution in urban local authorities, interviews were employed in this instance. Data

collection is the procedure of acquiring information from all relevant sources in order to evaluate the findings, test the theory, and answer the research question. Dudovsky (2001). Additionally, he made note of the fact that "primary and secondary methods of data collection are the two categories into which data collection methods can be divided." In general, key informants or those having first-hand knowledge of an exhaustive research may be considered as the major sources of information or data collecting. The study made use of questionnaires and interviews. The interviews were used as were semi-structured interviews key informant interviews.

Primary data

3.5.1 Semi- Structured Interviews

Using the same research process as questionnaire surveys, interviews are a more individualized approach of gathering data than questionnaires. Trained interviewers conduct the interviews, which consist of a standard set of questions. Interviews were employed in the research study because they are a direct form of communication on the role of councilors in the implementation of devolution in urban local authorities. Unlike a questionnaire, though, an interview script could provide unique instructions for the interviewer that the respondents don't see in addition to a place for the interviewer to write down their own observations and remarks. Furthermore, in contrast to postal surveys, the investigator was able to query follow-up or probing answers, as well as address any concerns the respondent may have voiced (Creswell 2008). The interviewer must possess certain interviewing techniques. As an additional component of the measuring tool, the interviewer has an obligation to take proactive steps to ensure that the replies they see are not biased in any way. In semi-structured interviews, general questions are posed to steer the conversation without restricting it, and when the topic comes up for discussion, more questions are welcome. This will let the researchers collect additional data that will help them comprehend the reasons influencing devolution (Creswell, 2010). This is not like surveys and questionnaires, where the questions are rigidly set and can not be altered. Thus, a semi-structured interview is a loose, conversational exchange cantered on a preset subject.

3.5.2 Key Informant Interviews

Key informant interviews were used in the study on the role of councilors in the devolution of power in urban local governments. During an interview, the researcher will actively interact with the respondents to obtain information on the subject's history, beliefs about certain phenomena, feelings, motives, past and present behavior, and conscious reasons for actions or feelings (Walliman, 2011). Comprehensive, qualitative conversations with people who are knowledgeable about local issues take place during interviews with key informants. They are cognizant of the issue the community is dealing with and how well its members have been coping. The goal of key informant interviews is to gather information from a broad spectrum of individuals, such as social workers, local authorities, and citizens who have personal experience with drought and its mitigating variables.

3.5.3 Secondary Data

The interviewer checked secondary data sources. Generally speaking, these sources are viewed as data with an extra main objective. Secondary sources of data are pre-existing sources of information that have been altered by earlier researchers, according to Livesey (2006). A thorough investigation is carried out before going on with the research. Journals, papers, e-journals, and community reports were consulted in order to facilitate the research. For the purpose of gathering more reliable data about devolution and community development programs, the study mainly focused on reports from the Ruwa area. This data source provides pragmatic confirmation together with all relevant details on the conceptual framework. The researcher used secondary data to identify the study's gap by comparing it to other empirical investigations. However, subjective biases stemming from local, political, and personal ideological orientations can have a significant impact on secondary data. Secondary data sources help to provide the project context and a comprehensive understanding of its past.

3.6 Validity and Reliability

The research of councilors' role in devolution took validity and reliability into account. Validity is achieved when the intended point is actually supported. The degree to which a measurement properly captures the importance of the object being measured is known as validity. The link between the study's conclusions and the actual circumstances will thus be investigated (Degu, 2006). Because of this, the research methods used in this study yielded data that accurately and precisely portrayed the situation as it truly was in the Ruwa district. Put another way, the research tools produced fair and reliable data that will not cause anybody to be misled by the study's conclusions. To determine if the research instruments used to gather data would be sufficient to respond to the study questions, a pretest on the study was performed to assess the instruments. Reliability is the extent to which an assessment tool produces results that are dependable and consistent. Burns (2006) defines dependability as the extent to which a scale produces consistent results following several measurements. In research, repeatability or consistency are referred to as reliability. A measure is considered reliable if, on the premise that the object of measurement stays constant, it consistently produces the same result.

3.7 Data presentation and Analysis

The study project on the role of councilors in the implementation of devolution in urban local authorities took data presentation and analysis in the data collection methods into consideration. Graphs, distribution charts, diagrams, and histograms are just a few of the visual aids that may be used to assemble, organize, and communicate information: data presentation. As to Andrews (2012), the optimal methods of presenting data are determined by several factors such as the data's quantity and intricacy, purpose, and audience. After the research's data collecting was finished, the material was presented utilizing a thematic examination that involved bar graphs, charts with percentages to aid in the comprehension of the diagrams, and tables displaying the information collected from the participants. These were employed to distribute the study's findings by presenting data according to gender and other pertinent factors. Data analysis is the practice of assigning sense, organization, and order to the data obtained throughout the research

activity (Marshall and Rossman 1995). Data may be arranged, processed, and presented in two ways: statistically and qualitatively. Rossman (1995) states that grouping the data into broad categories, themes, and patterns is a step in the analytical process. Data may be characterized and examined through the use of statistics. The data was examined using thematic analysis. This study studies categories, which is a type of qualitative analysis.

Thematic analysis offers the data in-depth visual representations. The three steps in theme analysis are data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing, according to Miles and Hebermas (1994). They went on to define data presentation as the act of combining and compressing information using tables, graphs, and charts, and data reduction as the process of breaking up data into smaller parts. At the conclusion of the theme analysis procedure, conclusions are made, along with verifications. The study is able to determine the relationships between concepts because of the theme analysis's systematic approach. The study is congruent with the data collected since the research employs theme analysis.

3.8 Ethical consideration

The research on councilor participation in the implementation of devolution by urban local authorities considered ethical considerations. All ethical difficulties stem from the fundamental concept of what constitutes right and wrong action, which is known as ethics. Ethics refers to the standards of behavior for researchers (Walliman, 2010). It is crucial to take into account if the study approaches have the potential to inflict any bodily or psychological harm while developing data gathering tactics. Bhattacherjee (2012) asserts that ethics helps to resolve moral conundrums that come up in the course of research. Before any research is conducted, potential volunteers will be informed of the goals and purpose of the study. The confidentiality of information and the participants' right to remain anonymous will be upheld. Participants will have the option to participate in the research solely willingly or to leave at any time. Prior to the interview, consent from each study participant will be sought in order to safeguard their rights.

3.9 Chapter Summary

This chapter's primary subjects have been the research design, sample, and demography. It also looked at possible barriers to data collecting that the study could encounter, such skewed data, and methods to reduce these barriers, like doing a pilot study and rewriting the research questions to more closely align with the goals and research questions. The design of these tools and the benefits and drawbacks of data collection systems have also been explored. The goal of employing these tools for data collecting was to provide reliable, high-quality results. The chapter also covered a number of ethical concerns that came up when collecting the data. These concerns are essential to any study since they make sure that the respondents' rights aren't in any way infringed upon. The population was chosen from the residents of the Ruwa district.

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter's primary subjects were the results' presentation, analysis, and discussion. Information was presented utilizing tables, graphs, and charts to give a clear picture of views and opinions. Additionally, the data was presented thematically in line with the study's objectives. The responses were divided into three categories: community people, councilors, and public officials. Twenty-five participants were participating in the data collection project, and each of them had an active part in obtaining the data. This investigation's findings will be examined and evaluated in light of previous research as well as other investigations.

4.1 Biographical data of Respondents

4.1   Gender

Fig 4.1: Gender

There were 25 responders in all. Men made up the bulk of participants, with 15 (or 60%) and 10 (or 40%) of them being female.

Marital Status

Table 4.1: Marital Status

CATEGORY	PARTICIPANTS	PERCENTAGE
Married	8	32%
Single	6	24%

Divorced 4   16%

Widowed 7   28%

Total

     25   100

The respondents were divided based on their marital status; 8 (32%) of the respondents belonged to the married category, which constituted the majority, followed by the widowed participants 7(28%), then the single category had participants 6(24%) with the last category of the divorced with participants 4(16%).

Age

Fig 4.2: Age

The age range of the responders covered the spectrum from 18 to over 65. The leading frequency was the age group of 31-40 that had 7(28%), then the second category had the same percentage of 5 (20%) with the ages from 18-30 and 31-40. Followed by the age group of 61-60 that had 4(16%), then the 41-50 that had 3(12%), last but not least was the 61-65 age group that had 1(4%) participant.

LEVEL OF EDUCATION

Fig 4.3: Level of education

The respondents that participated were 25 in total making it a 100%. The highest number on the level of education category were from the tertiary level they 10(40%). The second highest was the secondary level category with 8(32%) participants, last but not least was the primary level that had 7(28%) participants. None of the respondents had never been to school.

4.2 Understanding Devolution

4.2.1 Devolution Context

Legally, subnational matters can be managed even at the local or regional level when powers are delegated from the governing body of a sovereign nation. In essence, it's an administrative kind of decentralization. Devolution is a political choice with managerial ramifications, whereas decentralization is a public management tactic (Chigwata, 2008). Whereas devolution is mostly a response to calls for more local or regional autonomy that officials within the major authority

grudgingly accept, decentralization is sometimes agreed upon from the top down and is a method to expand the power of the top offices to achieve stated aims.

Public Official: Participant 1;

" Numerous countries worldwide have adopted constitutions that impose certain forms of devolution and decentralization on their governing structures and processes. These include, for example, fiscal devolution and devolution models based on power pooling."

Devolved entities occasionally have legislative structures and governmental authority that allow the legislature to omit important regulations. Some jurisdictions have devolution legislation that affect local government constitutions (Boyle, 2013). According to Brennen's (2021) democratic citizenship theory, civic education plays a crucial role in fostering responsible citizens who are able to think critically and make decisions that are in the best interests of the community. All things considered, this theory provides a basis for establishing and preserving robust democratic societies through the cultivation of involved individuals who actively contribute to the formation of local government systems.

Community Member: Participant 5;

" The success of implementing devolution programs may depend on a number of variables, including institutional architecture, political and historical settings, the robustness and comprehensibility of legislative frameworks, and four case studies from different devolution-implementing nations." In this regard, it's critical to appreciate Zimbabwe's political and historical setting, the growth of its governing structures, and the recommended devolutionary model as outlined."

Zimbabwe now has a strong administrative decentralization record; but, it need further support and resources to ensure that devolution mandates are carried out in their entiretySince the President chairs the Cabinet Committee on Devolution, devolution has the backing of the highest echelon of politics. In order to achieve devolution via the lower levels of government, the Auditor Standard, the Ministry of Local Authorities and Public Works, and the Ministry of Finance and Financial Development all have important responsibilities to play in promoting openness and accountability (Ghai, 2015). In Zimbabwe, the idea of devolution also refers to adding value and beneficiating locally determined resources rather than exporting them unprocessed. It is anticipated that fees will be added at the point of supply, benefiting the communities where those sources are created or mined, as opposed to being transported to cities and towns for additional processing. The democratic citizenship theory, a thorough framework designed to describe the nature and importance of citizenship in democratic societies, will be used in this study.

4.2.2 Role of local councilors in devolution

The purpose of local government is to facilitate democratic local action and decision-making by

and for communities. Additionally, they improve communities' current and future social, economic, cultural, environmental, and environmental well-being. (Section 10 (1) of the Local Government Act of 2002). Leading by example and watching out for the interests of the community is the job of local government. They need to interact with their communities and promote community involvement if they are to make decisions that will satisfy the requirements of both present and future generations. Section 12(2) of the Local Government Act 2002 grants councils broad power to act in any way that advances the goals of local government. The Act requires all councils to make every effort to keep their functions in operations and policymaking distinct. Make long-term plans (LTPs), annual plans, and budgets after involving the communities. Annual performance report that contrasts the plans with the actual outcomes (Rasool, 2015). Develop long-term financial plans that cover investment policy, funding, and financial management. A number of extra legislative obligations are expressly assigned to councils by the Local Government Act of 2002. Most of them are covered by other Acts, such as the Building Act of 2004; the Biosecurity Act of 1993; and the Resource Management Act of 1991. Ensuring sustained regional well-being is one of the roles played by regional councils. minimizing soil erosion, controlling floods, and creating regional policy statements, consents, and river management plans to control the consequences of using freshwater, land, air, and coastal waters (Kharl, 2022).

Public Officer: Participant 2 said;

"While some councilors support civil defense readiness and disaster management on a regional scale, others support planning and contracting for passenger services, harboring navigation, and the safety of oil spills and other maritime pollutants.."

Councilor: Participant 24 said;

"Furthermore, the councilors have territorial authority over the following: building control, public health inspections and other environmental health matters, controlling land and noise effects, and the effects of activities on the surface of lakes and rivers. They also have authority over environmental safety and health, district emergency management, and civil defense preparedness.."

4.2.3 The Significance of Local Government

The Charter's Sections 274 and 275 define local authorities, both urban and rural. These administrations are in charge of overseeing and promoting human rights issues in Zimbabwe's rural and urban areas, respectively. As to Section 275 of the Charter, a local authority possesses the right to employ all available authorities to subtly influence, independently and in close proximity to the residents of the region it has been designated for, against the Charter and any Act of Parliament. Zimbabwe has 92 local administrations, made up of 60 rural districts and 32

urban councils (Dube, 2019).

Councilor: Participant 7 said;

"The city councils are made up of the 5 town councils, eleven municipalities, 13 metropolis councils and 3 local boards. Those councils might be managed by way of councilors elected by using registered voters within the city and rural areas concerned."

A clerk is required by the constitution to oversee the activities of the councils. The Clerk will serve as the council's secretariat. Within the context of devolution, the duties of province and district directors were broadened to include greater financial growth as opposed to political management. They are supposed to oversee development planning, promote investment and tourism growth, and organize private gamers and state-owned businesses. In their districts and provinces, they are also supposed to supervise and assess all policies and practices (Moyo, 2014). In this regard, it's crucial to understand the benefits and drawbacks of decentralized institutional structures in order to identify the essential elements of implementation success for devolution. Devolution is a process rather than a singular event, thus as the devolution plan is carried out, local authorities' capabilities must be continuously enhanced to accommodate new needs. Devolution is more clearly in effect in municipal governments where "rubber meets tar." In order to properly contextualize and progress the devolution agenda's implementation, local authorities would like to be able to ask their community for thoughts and receive directives from other jurisdictions (Chatiza, 2019). The notion of democratic citizenship serves as a basis for advancing and preserving robust democratic societies via the cultivation of involved citizens who take an active role in determining the governing frameworks within their communities.

4.2   Services being offered by councilors in ensuring success of devolution

The councilor manual states that a councilor must be able to create, explain, govern, and assess the council's policies and action plans. Councilors must also be able to keep an eye on and evaluate the usage of all council resources, including capital, human, and financial resources. Nevertheless, since they lack the necessary skills, councilors are unable to effectively carry out their responsibilities. According to Zinyemba and Shumba (2008), a councilor should be proficient in debate, leadership, strategic thinking, coverage systems, legislative review, price range appraisal, corporate governance, and effective reading, writing, and speaking. Furthermore, the councilor handbook lists represent, conduct selections, negotiate, study, and facilitate as some of the essential skills needed for councilors to carry out devolution effectively. In order to learn about the needs, goals, and viewpoints of their local communities about the devolution process, councilors are essential. This makes it possible to guarantee that the devolution's implementation will take community concerns into account. Under the devolved form of government, councilors seek to enable local communities to take part in decision-making procedures pertaining to resource distribution and development projects. Council members help people of the community better understand devolution and develop the skills necessary to participate in and contribute to

the process by offering training and assistance. Councilors strive to raise funds and in-kind assistance for the community-level execution of devolution-related projects and activities. In order to provide input to higher levels of government, councilors are essential in tracking the implementation of devolution and assessing its effects on their local communities. Council members represent their local communities' needs and interests to the federal and provincial government agencies in charge of managing the devolution process. By organizing the efforts of many stakeholders, such as governmental bodies, civil society organizations, and neighborhood associations, councilors seek to provide a coherent and cooperative approach to the implementation of devolution.

In order to promote good governance and devolution, councilors must enable citizens to participate democratically in the decision-making process (Kariuku, 2017). Councilors must maintain Zimbabwe as a peaceful state by encouraging citizens to take an active role in local governance and development. They must also provide a means of exchanging valuable resources and allow for the financial support of lower tiers of government to facilitate devolution. Since devolution is a process rather than an event, as the devolution schedule is implemented, local authorities' capacities will need to be continuously improved to meet new needs. Devolution is being implemented, and its effects are more noticeable in the neighboring government where "rubber meets tar." To facilitate the implementation of the devolution agenda, the local government has to improve its ability to receive training from other jurisdictions and to solicit ideas from inside its own borders (Muriisa, 2018). Democratic citizenship theory calls for equal treatment and opportunity for all people, regardless of race, gender, or financial background, and highlights the significance of equality and inclusivity within democratic communities.

Councilor: Participant 3 said;

    '   Establishing a strong financial foundation for each province, metropolitan, and municipal government, as well as increasing public involvement in decision-making, are the driving forces behind the devolution of governmental powers and responsibilities. Zimbabwe is therefore divided into ten provinces, which are further subdivided into provinces.."

4.4 Challenges faced by councilors in ensuring implementation of devolution in urban local authorities

In addition to issues with employment fees, debt collection, sales series, and the procurement of goods and services, the 2018 audit of local authorities found flaws in the governance structures (office of the Auditor popular, 2019). One of the governance problems brought up is the lack of professional auditors among council members in the audit committees of neighboring authorities, which are in responsible of reviewing local authority records and making sure financial statements are organized on time.

Public Officer: Participant 12 said;

"The addition of council members with backgrounds in finance and administration to the audit committee will enhance financial oversight in local government, which will have an impact on devolution. If there are no council members who possess these deemed essential skills, the local government may choose to bring in outside experts to provide the audit committee with technical advice.

Additionally, it was discovered in the Auditor Fashionable's reports that Council members' general public holds onto a few bank debts and that bank reconciliations are typically out of current (Chigudu, 2018). The power of the democratic citizenship theory is evident from this study as, in the setting of Zimbabwe, local communities engage and make decisions based on their demands thanks to the democratic citizenship theory..

Community Member: Participant 19 said;

"The 2019 Office of the Auditor General study also found that a number of local authorities confront difficult circumstances in fulfilling their carrier delivery obligations because of institutional, financial, and possible restrictions; this has an impact on devolution.. "

The study also stated how the number of service delivery challenges has increased over time, indicating a weakening of carrier provision through diversified local government and an impact on devolution. Because of this, there can be limited adherence to the recommended 30:70 ratio, which represents employment value as a percentage of total income..

Public Officer: Participant 20;

"Other governance issues facing local government include noncompliance with legislative standards and the lack of policies and strategy guides, which impacts devolution. Furthermore, deficiencies exist in the jail system that oversee the corporate governance of local authorities, which significantly impacts devolution."

The office Audit Trend just highlights financial statements rather than exerting administrative pressure on neighboring authorities to furnish them, which has an impact on devolution (Zinyemba, 2019). Increased budgetary supplies to surrounding authorities and the mobilization of funds from private investors by local authorities need high standards of openness and a duty to fortify confidence among all parties involved in the neighborhood government's financial management.

4.5 Strategies that may be adopted by councilors to ensure implementation of devolution in urban local authorities

Studies have indicated that the overall effectiveness of devolutionary changes reflects the

implementers' dedication to developing favorable and business-friendly implementation environments. When devolution is implemented incorrectly, it often fails to provide the desired results and, in certain cases, worsens the problem. This phase provides a detailed explanation of the next essential components for a successful implementation of devolution in Zimbabwe that the councilors can accept, in contrast to the previous argument, which was directed by the political, financial, and administrative aspects of devolution.

The enactment of devolution laws

According to Fombad (2016), a constitution leaves information about institutions, the laws governing those institutions, and other topics for later legislation as it isn't a self-enforcing body of law and is typically written in vague terms. In order to play a significant role in the devolution effort, the constitutional provisions on devolution must be expressly backed by law, as is the case in South Africa and Kenya (Ghai 2015). Article 4 (1) of the ECLSG (1985) states that national law must specify the manner in which subnational governments are formed, as well as the kind of authorities they possess, the extent of their jurisdiction, and their roles as councilors.

Councilor: Participant 17 said;

"Additionally, it is essential that local governments accept a broad range of responsibilities and be recognized as the top decision-making body within their designated council regions. They ought to have ultimate decision-making authority over their delegated powers and political autonomy."

Economic devolution

Different aspects of devolution sometimes become ineffective for councilors when monetary devolution is skipped over or delayed. Councilors must be financially independent in order for subnational governments to carry out their mandates and guarantee the Commonwealth's high level of autonomy in the distribution of aid.

Public Officer: Participant 15 said;

"It is difficult for subnational governments to shoulder the devolved obligations if there's a mismatch among monetary sources and duties."

As Chigwata (2019) correctly notes, devolution is more than just shifting accountability to lower levels; it also entails transferring financial resources to lead human-centered local development. A budgeting process that is in line with the devolution framework ought to exist. Article 9(four) of the ECLSG of 1985 cautions that the local economy must be sufficiently vibrant and varied to enable devolved bodies to handle the financial obligations of service transportation.

Designing responsibility mechanisms

It is imperative to stress that, in order to prevent the devolution of inefficiencies and corruption, the economic devolution arrangement and devolution in vogue should have strengthened duty procedures

.Public Officer: Participant 14;

" Effective implementation of devolution is impossible without appropriate accountability frameworks. Policymakers can ensure that neighborhood cops are held accountable for their actions by creating systems of responsibility, rather than waiting for financial irresponsibility and local corruption."

The operation of surrounding governments is being severely hampered by corporate governance scandals and economic irresponsibility (Chigudu 2020). Financial indiscipline is one of the most challenging situations multi-tiered presidential systems have to cope with, claim Siddle and Koelble (2017). The statement "sufficient mechanisms for political, financial, and administrative responsibility are necessary for decentralized political bodies to supply offerings more efficiently and responsibly" (Vyas-Dorgapersad 2012) is crucial to remember.

Law of intergovernmental family members

It is essential to comprehend the interactions between the core and the devolved structures. Clarifying and strengthening the link between subnational governments and important authorities' organs is also essential. Procedures to modify interstate interactions should exist under a decentralized form of government since differences between the various levels would unavoidably arise (Ghai 2015). Article 6(2) of the ACD 2014 states that the responsible government must provide up circumstances that promote cooperation and coordination between the federal and local levels of government. This may be achieved through the creation of internal and external warfare-decision systems.

Capability building and improvement

According to Muriisa (2018), the most difficult task facing devolution as a framework for service shipping is the loss of staff and competence at the subnational government level to carry out carrier shipping obligations. The research will employ the democratic citizenship theory, a comprehensive framework aimed at elucidating the essence and importance of citizenship in democratic nations. Thomas Humphrey Marshall, an academic and British sociologist from the early to mid-20th century, is credited as the creator of Democratic citizenship theory.

Councilor: Participant 9 said;

"Devolution involves shifting many important government duties to lower levels, therefore it has to be monitored with relevant potential-enhancement tasks. Decentralized governance requires potential in institutions, networks, organizational structures, buildings and equipment, human resources, as well as statistics and data, to be managed and maintained for effective service delivery."

Strengthening local democracy

Experiences in multi-level systems of presidency display that devolution works well in contexts of

robust local democracy.

Councilor: Participant 11 said;

"　One component of effective governance is democracy, which also serves as the model for local governance and must take the form of representative and participatory government.."

Any decentralization change must take nearby democracy into account. Therefore, it is necessary to establish favorable conditions for public engagement in the government process in order for devolution to effectively work in Zimbabwe. Devolution must aim for participatory government. It enables the people to voice their opinions and alternatives to their leaders, who answer to the people for their overall performance (Siddle & Koelble 2012). The citizenship idea was a social construct that included rights, obligations, and participation in public life rather than just a legal position. He distinguished between civil, political, and social rights as the three fundamental facets of citizenship.

Establishment of the order of scaffolding

Devolution's implementation entails significant changes to the structure of government, making it a challenging and difficult task. Past experiences have demonstrated that transferring national government authority and responsibilities to subnational governments is a difficult and intimidating task (Siddle & Koelble 2012). The democratic citizenship theory, a thorough framework designed to describe the nature and importance of citizenship in democratic societies, will be used in this study.

Community Member: Participant 25 said;

"Therefore, the Zimbabwean government should set up transitional entities to lead the plans for putting devolution into practice. This is especially important in light of the disputes that defined devolution during the process of creating the charter.."

According to Steiner (2006), resistance to devolution is particularly strong inside line ministries' administrative structures since it is anticipated that they will cede some authority to subnational governments. Any devolution change will always encounter resistance; this must be expected and proactively managed by maintaining the status quo of leading institutions. Democratic voters are supposed to cast ballots, participate in public debate, hold their elected officials responsible, and engage in informed discussion.

4.6 Chapter Summary

The purpose of this chapter was to provide an overview of the strategies councilors are using to bring about devolution. Devolution is promoted as a means of resolving regional disparities, strengthening community democracy and public engagement, and guaranteeing neighborhood financial support from counselors. The councilors should describe the services they provide for appropriate devolution together with the difficulties they encounter, as bureaucracy is the primary shortcoming of the local government. Constitutional reputation is a major starting point,

but there are other institutional, legal, and budgetary requirements that must be met for councilors to execute devolution effectively. Therefore, for a successful implementation of devolution, legislation pertaining to monetary devolution, the law of intergovernmental relations, ability improvement, intergovernmental cooperation, enhancing local democracy, and the creation of scaffolding establishments must be passed.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter's primary subjects included the overview, conclusions, recommendations, and areas in need of more research. The primary focus of this chapter is the research findings from the introduction, literature review, theoretical framework, research methodology, data presentation, analysis, and discussion, as well as the conclusion chapter. This chapter also discussed how the aims were achieved and how the study answered the research questions. The main findings of the investigation are also highlighted. The study came to the conclusion that it would be beneficial to look into and investigate an assessment of the councilors' contribution to Ruwa's urban local authorities' devolution of power. The research that evaluated councilor duties on devolution was improved by suggestions and potential topics for more investigation.

5.1 Summary

An overview was provided in the first chapter. Local government is essential to the national and local governments' ability to enact policies and provide services since it is the branch closest to the community. The problem statement stated that although people generally have faith in local government, it is still unclear how much municipal councils have altered community development program activities designed to guarantee residents receive social services more effectively. The study's goal is to investigate, with reference to Ruwa Local Board, how councilors contribute to the devolution of urban local authority. The research was done at Ruwa. The study is significant because it can shed light on and provide additional context on the extent to which

councilors' impact has been felt in Zimbabwe's devolution to local government authorities' operations. The councilors act as a middleman between the people living in their wards, the municipal council, the federal government, and the parties engaged in development as they represent their constituents in the council. It is hoped that the study will give more useful insight into the role of devolution—a subject that is frequently disregarded—and how it may be effectively applied to raise the caliber of services rendered by local government entities.

The second chapter reviewed the literature on councilors' roles in Ruwa's urban local authorities' adoption of devolution. The theory of democratic citizenship, a comprehensive framework aimed at elucidating the essence and importance of citizenship in democratic societies, was employed in the study. The government and its boards were the subject of the next chapter. The chapter provided a thorough overview of devolution and how councilors might make the most of it. The difficulties councilors encounter in carrying out devolution were also mentioned in the chapter.

Chapter 3's primary subjects were the study's methodology and research design. This study will use an exploratory research methodology because the researcher will only have access to respondents from the Ruwa Local Board. The study used a qualitative technique, which is a kind of social research that focuses on how people comprehend and make meaning of their experiences and the culture in which they live. The Ruwa Local Board council members and service users who come to the board to request different services make up the study population in this case. Interactions between the researcher and the study population are planned. In the investigation, purposeful sampling was used. The sample consisted of twenty-five people. Data collection will be done through interviews. Thematic analysis will be used in the study to analyze its data.

In Chapter Four, the primary findings of the inquiry and analysis were also discussed. This chapter's key subjects were the data presentation, analysis, and discussion of the findings. Information gathered from Ruwa residents by representatives of the government, the council, and the community. The data was shown using tables, graphs, and pie charts. In particular, secondary data from internet sources such as journals, newspapers, and other sources was used. This chapter included examples of devolution's background, local government methods, councilor duties and responsibilities, services provided to facilitate devolution, obstacles experienced by councilors, and devolution-practicing tactics. A thorough description of councilors and local government was provided in this chapter.   The chapter concluded by illustrating the different stakeholders.

The primary subjects of Chapter 5 included the overview, conclusions, recommendations, and areas in need of further research. Studies have shown that the federal government has very little control over local governance. The best approaches to execute devolution and other changes that local government needs to make are recommended by the research. We're still assessing the areas where councilors can achieve devolution most successfully.

5.2 Conclusions

This research set out to investigate the services that councilors provide to ensure that devolution is implemented in urban local authorities. Based on the available data, it appears that councilors also need to have the ability to keep an eye on and assess how council resources, like devolution, are used. In order to influence citizens' democratic engagement in decision-making and advance good governance through devolution, councilors must do this. For effective devolution, councilors should possess the following skills: debate, leadership, strategic thinking, coverage system, legislative review, price range evaluation, corporate governance, strong communication, presentation, and reading. To effectively carry out their mandate, the councilors must recognize, choose, negotiate, and enable a number of critical talents. Councilors must also ensure that Zimbabwe remains an unmarried, peaceful state by enhancing citizens' involvement in local governance and development. They must also provide a means of sharing resources wisely and allow for the financial support of lower tiers of government.

The second issue in the survey looked at the challenges councilors face in getting devolution implemented in urban local authorities. One of the governance concerns raised is the deficiency of certified auditors among the council members of surrounding authorities' audit committees, who are in charge of looking over local authority files and ensuring timely organization of financial accounts. A number of local authorities face challenges in meeting their carrier service responsibilities due to institutional, budgetary, and potential constraints, according to a 2019 office of the Auditor General report. The absence of policies and strategy guides is a problem with local government governance in addition to breaching the law. The office Audit Trend only has the authority to draw attention to neighboring establishments' financial reports; it does not have the authority to mandate their production. Increased financial support to local governments and the mobilization of funds from private investors by local authorities necessitate high standards of transparency and accountability to fortify confidence among all parties engaged in local government financial management. The study clarified the difficulties councilors encounter and how this impacts devolution.

The study's third question asked for suggestions for tactics council members may use to make sure devolution in urban local governments is implemented. Devolution legislation, economic devolution, responsibility mechanisms, the law of intergovernmental family members, capability building and improvement, bolstering local democracy, and the construction of an order of scaffolding institutions are some of the techniques that are being employed. Council members should work to implement these plans in the local government.

5.3 Recommendations

Local Authorities - In order for district committees to operate efficiently, district officers, district attorneys, and ward committee members must all get additional capacity development training.

Ruwa Local Board – In order to guarantee successful devolution in the community for development, the local government should fortify its channels for citizen engagement. Since

municipal governments are responsible for some of the issues that individuals encounter, they ought to streamline their bureaucracy.

Councilor - Meeting attendance should be promoted to the community as a whole well in advance, and community members should be urged to attend. The residents must prepare ahead of time in order to contribute well to developmental meetings. This implies that they should be informed about meetings in a timely manner. Since capacity building is crucial, all council members should understand how vital it is to fairly represent all groups of people when making decisions and developing public policy.

5.4 Areas for further studying

The research has concreted approach for more spaces which obligatory some further investigation in: the roles of councilors and how they can implement and monitor devolution in local governance.

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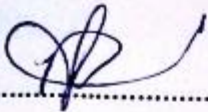Cresswell, E. (2010). Writing research proposal and report. Nairobi: Jomo Kenyatta Foundation.

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STUDENT SIGNATURE

30 /09/

DATE

...... V. Supy ....

30/09/24

SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE

DATE

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30/09/20

CHAIRMAN SIGNATURE

DATE