

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



**TITTLE: THE IMPACT OF POULTRY PROJECT ON THE LIVELIHOODS OF
PEOPLE LIVING WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT. A CASE OF ZAKA DISTRICT,
MASVINGO PROVINCE**

BY

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**A PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT
OF THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE HONOURS DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK.**

JUNE 2024

Approval form

APPROVAL FORM

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I certify that I have Supervised Last Musiliwa for this research titled: The Impact of poultry projects on the livelihoods of people with living with visual impairments in Zaka District in partial fulfillment for the requirements for the Bachelor of Science Honours in Social Work Degree and recommend that it proceeds for examination.

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DEDICATION

This project is dedicated to my brother Tapiwa Musiiwa and my attachment mentor Mr K. Basopo. I love you guys. God bless you.

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This project would not have been possible without the guidance, support, and encouragement of my supervisor, Mr. Muzingili and Mr Sadomba. His expertise, valuable insights, and constructive feedback have been instrumental in shaping this research and helping me to achieve my goals. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the individuals with visual impairments who participated in this study, sharing their experiences and perspectives on the impact of poultry projects on their livelihoods. Your contributions have been invaluable, and I am grateful for your trust and willingness to share your stories. Furthermore, I acknowledge the organizations and stakeholders who have implemented poultry projects targeting individuals with visual impairments. Your efforts have made a significant difference in the lives of many, and I appreciate your dedication to promoting inclusive development. This project aims to amplify the voices and stories of individuals with visual impairments, highlighting the positive impact of poultry projects on their livelihoods. I hope that our findings will inform and inspire further initiatives that promote the empowerment and inclusion of individuals with visual impairments. Thank you, Mr. Muzingili and Mr Sadomba, for your unwavering support and guidance throughout this research journey. Your mentorship has been a valuable asset to my growth and development as a researcher.

ABSTRACT

This study focuses on examining the impact of poultry projects on the livelihoods of people with visual impairments in Zaka rural district. The research aims to gain insights into how engaging in poultry projects affects the economic, social, and personal well-being of individuals with visual impairments. Purposive sampling technique was employed to select participants who have direct experience with poultry projects and visual impairments. The study aims to uncover the lived experiences of individuals with visual impairments participating in poultry projects, exploring the specific challenges they face and the strategies they employ to overcome them. By gathering qualitative data through interviews and observations, the research seeks to understand the unique perspectives and contextual factors associated with the impact of poultry projects on the livelihoods of people with visual impairments in Zaka rural district. The findings of the study are expected to shed light on the benefits, barriers, and support systems surrounding the involvement of individuals with visual impairments in poultry projects. Additionally, the research will provide recommendations to improve the inclusivity and effectiveness of poultry projects in catering to the needs and aspirations of people with visual impairments. It is important to note that the sampling technique employed in this study, purposive sampling, allows for the intentional selection of participants based on their specific characteristics and experiences related to the research topic. This approach ensures that the sample represents individuals who can provide rich and in-depth insights into the impact of poultry projects on the livelihoods of people with visual impairments in Zaka rural district."

ACRONYMS

DSD: Department of Social Development

EU : European Union

SADC : Southern African Development committee

NASCOH: National Association for the Care of the Handicapped

NRLM:National Rural Livelihoods Mission

PWDS: People with disabilities

UN: United Nations

UNCRPD United Nations on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

UNICEF: United Nations Children Education Fund

UNCRPD: United nations Convention on the Rights of Person with Disability

Table of Contents

Approval form	ii
Declaration and release form	ii
DEDICATION	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iv
ABSTRACT	v
ACRONYMS	vi
CHAPTER ONE	1
INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY	1
1.1 Introduction.....	1
1.2 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY	1
1.3 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM	3
1.3 STUDY AIM	4
1.5 OBJECTIVES.....	4
1.6 RESEARCH QUESTIONS ON PEOPLE WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT	5
1.7 JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY	6
Body of knowledge	6
1.8 DEFINATION OF TERMS	8
1.9 SUMMARY	10
LITERATURE REVIEW	12
2.0 INTRODUCTION	12
2.1 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK	12
EMPOWERMENT THEORY	12

CONTRIBUTION OF POULTRY PROJECT ON LIVELIHOODS OF PEOPLE WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT	16
2.2.1 Empowerment and skill development.....	16
2.2.2 Food Security	17
2.2.2 CHALLENGES FACED BY PEOPLE WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS.....	18
2.2.3 LACK OF ACCESSIBLE RESOURCES.....	19
2.2.4 LACK OF POLICIES AND REGULATION	20
2.2.7 EXPLORE FURTHER POSSIBILITIES FOR ENHANCE POULTRY PROJECT AND EMPOWERING INDIVIDUAL WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT	21
2.2.8 INCLUSIVE TRAINING AND EXTENTION SERVICE	22
CHAPTER 3.....	25
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	25
3.0 INTRODUCTION	25
3.1 REASERCH APPROACH.....	26
3.2 RESEARCH DESIGN.....	26
3.3 STUDY SITE	27
3.4 Target Population.....	28
3.5 SAMPLING TECHNIQUES AND SAMPLE SIZE	28
3.6 DATA COLLECTION METHODS AND RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS.....	29
OBSERVATIONS	31
3.7 TRUSTWORTH.....	32
3.8 DATA ANALYSIS	33
3.9 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS	35
3.11 SUMMARY	37

CHAPTER 4.....	37
DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION	37
4.0 INTRODUCTION:	37
DATA PRESENTATION	40
4.1 ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT	40
4.1.2 Skill Development	42
CHALLENGES FACED BY INDIVIDUALS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS IN THE POULTRY PROJECT.	43
4.2 ACCESSIBILITY BARRIERS	43
4.2.2SOCIAL STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION.....	45
POSSIBLE STRATEGIES	46
4.3 POSSIBLE STRATEGIES EMPLOYED: ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY	46
CHAPTER SUMMARY	49
CHAPTER FIVE	50
SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMENTATION.....	50
5.1 INTRODUCTION	50
5.2 SUMMARY	50
5.3 CONCLUSIONS	52
5.4 IMPLICATIONS FOR SOCIAL WORK	52
5.5 RECOMMENDATIONS	54
5.6 FOCUS FOR FUTURE STUDY.....	58
5.7 CHAPTER SUMMARY	59
REFERENCES	59
APPENDIX 1	64

APPENDIX II 66

CONSENT FORM 66

APPENDIX III 67

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

1.1 Introduction

This research explores the effects of poultry projects on the livelihoods of individuals with visual impairments in Zaka district. To provide context, this chapter begins with an overview of the relevant background information, setting the stage for the reader. This is followed by a clear statement of the problem, research assumptions, and the study's aim and objectives. The research questions guiding this investigation are also presented, along with an explanation of the study's significance and its potential contributions. The chapter also clarifies the scope of the study (delimitation), acknowledges potential limitations, defines key terms, and concludes with a summary of the chapter's content.

1.2 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Globally, approximately 285 million people live with visual impairments, with 43% of them residing in Sub-Saharan Africa (World Health Organization, 2020). In Zimbabwe, the prevalence of visual impairments is estimated to be around 4.4% of the population, with the majority living in rural areas (Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency, 2019). Despite their potential to contribute to the economy, people with visual impairments face numerous challenges, including limited access to education, employment, and healthcare (United Nations, 2018).

In recent years, poultry farming has emerged as a viable income-generating activity for individuals with visual impairments in Zimbabwe. However, limited research has been conducted to explore the impact of poultry projects on the livelihoods of people with visual

impairments in rural districts like Zaka. According to a study by the Zimbabwe National Federation of the Blind (2017), 75% of people with visual impairments in rural areas engage in subsistence farming, including poultry farming, to support their livelihoods. Another study by the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization, and Irrigation Development (2019) revealed that poultry farming contributes significantly to the livelihoods of rural households, with 60% of households in Zaka rural district engaging in poultry farming.

The importance of poultry farming in Zaka rural district cannot be overstated. According to the Zimbabwe Agricultural Marketing Authority (2020), poultry farming is the largest contributor to the district's agricultural GDP, accounting for 40% of the total output. Furthermore, a study by the University of Zimbabwe (2019) found that poultry farming has a significant impact on the livelihoods of people with visual impairments in Zaka rural district, improving their food security, income, and overall well-being.

Despite the benefits of poultry farming, people with visual impairments in Zaka rural district face numerous challenges in accessing resources, markets, and training. According to a study by the Zimbabwe National Federation of the Blind (2017), 60% of people with visual impairments in rural areas lack access to adaptive farming tools, while 70% lack access to markets for their products. Furthermore, a study by the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization, and Irrigation Development (2019) found that only 20% of people with visual impairments in Zaka rural district have received training in poultry farming.

Move on to Southern African Development Community (SADC) region has a high prevalence of visual impairments, with an estimated 1.4 million people living with visual impairments in the region (SADC, 2019). The SADC region has a strong commitment to promoting the rights of

people with disabilities, including those with visual impairments. The SADC Protocol on Disability (2019) aims to promote the inclusion and empowerment of people with disabilities, including access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. In terms of agriculture and poultry farming, the SADC region has a significant potential for growth and development. The region has a large market for poultry products, with a growing demand for eggs and chicken meat (SADC, 2020).

However, the region faces several challenges in terms of poultry farming, including limited access to resources, markets, and training for small-scale farmers. According to a study by the SADC Agricultural Business Development Centre (2019), 70% of small-scale farmers in the region lack access to adaptive farming tools, while 80% lack access to markets for their products. People with visual impairments in the SADC region face additional challenges in accessing resources, markets, and training. According to a study by the SADC Disability Forum (2017), 90% of people with visual impairments in the region lack access to adaptive farming tools, while 95% lack access to markets for their products.

1.3 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The lack of access to inclusive economic opportunities and resources is a significant problem that disproportionately affects individuals with visual impairments. This leads to limited financial independence, higher poverty rates, and social isolation, which can further exacerbate the challenges they face. As a result, individuals with visual impairments may experience reduced access to education and employment opportunities, decreased self-esteem and confidence, and increased dependence on others for daily living tasks. Moreover, they may face limited access to healthcare and rehabilitation services, and reduced participation in civic and

community activities. This highlights the need for inclusive economic opportunities and resources that cater to the needs of individuals with visual impairments, addressing the systemic barriers and disparities that hinder their full participation in society.

1.3 STUDY AIM

The study aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. To examine the impact of poultry projects on the livelihoods of people with visual impairments in Zaka.
2. To explore the challenges faced by individuals with visual impairments in participating in poultry projects and how these challenges affect their livelihoods.
3. To investigate further possibilities and strategies to overcome the challenges faced by people with visual impairments within the poultry project.

1.5 OBJECTIVES

1. To assess the contribution made by the poultry project on the livelihoods of persons with low sights or visual impairment in Zaka district
2. Determine the specific challenges faced by individuals with visual impairments in the poultry project in Zaka district.
3. Explore further possibilities for the efforts put into the poultry project by the people with visual impairments in Zaka district

1.6 RESEARCH QUESTIONS ON PEOPLE WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

1. What specific skills and knowledge are gained by people with visual impairment through participation in poultry project in Zaka?
2. What social and psychological benefits do people with visual impairment gain from participation in poultry project in Zaka?
3. What are the lived experiences of people with visual impairments participating in poultry projects in Zaka?
4. What are the specific challenges and barriers faced by individuals with visual impairments in engaging with poultry projects, and how do these challenges affect their livelihoods?
5. What strategies and coping mechanisms do individuals with visual impairments employ to overcome challenges and enhance their participation in poultry projects?

RESEACH QUESTION ON KEY INFORMANTS

1. What are your observations regarding the overall impact of the poultry project on the livelihoods of people with visual impairments?
2. In your opinion, what are the main benefits that individuals with visual impairments derive from their participation in the poultry project?

3. What are the specific challenges or barriers that people with visual impairments face in engaging with the poultry project, and how have you seen these challenges affect their livelihoods?
4. Can you share any examples of successful strategies or interventions that have helped individuals with visual impairments overcome challenges and enhance their participation in the poultry project?

1.7 JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY

There is a significant knowledge gap in understanding the impact of poultry projects on the livelihoods of people with visual impairments in rural Zimbabwe. Despite the potential of poultry projects to improve the livelihoods of individuals with visual impairments, little research has explored the factors underlying their effectiveness in this context. This study aims to address this knowledge gap by investigating the impact of poultry projects on the livelihoods of people with visual impairments in Zaka rural district. The findings of this study will contribute to the existing literature on disability, poverty, and livelihoods in rural Zimbabwe, ultimately informing policy and program development that promotes the inclusion and empowerment of individuals with visual impairments. The following are key areas which this study will contribute to:

Body of knowledge

The study on the impact of poultry projects on the livelihoods of people with visual impairments in Zaka rural district can make significant contributions to various areas. In terms of the body of knowledge, it provides insights into the effectiveness of poultry projects in improving the

livelihoods of people with visual impairments in rural Zimbabwe and adds to the understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by this group in rural areas.

Policy implications

The study's findings can have a significant impact on policy and program development, enabling policymakers and program developers to identify key factors influencing the success of poultry projects among people with visual impairments. This can lead to the design of targeted interventions, such as training for professionals and support services for individuals with visual impairments. Additionally, the findings can inform the strengthening and amendment of existing policies and programs, ultimately promoting the inclusion and empowerment of individuals with visual impairments in rural Zimbabwe. By exploring the impact of poultry projects on the livelihoods of people with visual impairments, this study aims to contribute to the development of more effective policies and programs that promote the welfare and livelihoods of this vulnerable group.

Community

At the community level, the study empowers people with visual impairments in Zaka rural district to improve their livelihoods through poultry projects and raises awareness about the potential of poultry projects in addressing poverty and disability in rural areas.

Innovations and Industrialization

Finally, the study contributes to innovation and industrialization by informing the development of innovative and sustainable poultry project models for people with visual impairments in rural

areas and encouraging the use of assistive technology and accessible resources in poultry projects for people with visual impairments.

1.8 DEFINATION OF TERMS

DISABILITY: according to Kafer (2013) is a complex and contested term that encompasses a wide range of experience ,include physical ,sensory ,cognitive and mental health impairments as well as chronic illness and other forms of difference.

VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS:

Corn and Koenig (2015) defined visual impairment as a permanent or temporary loss of vision that affects an individual ability to perform daily activities resulting from a disorder or defect in the eye or visual pathway and may be characterized by a range of visual acuity and field defects including blindness, low vision and color vision deficiency.

LIVELIHOODS:

The term "livelihoods" refers to the means by which individuals and communities make a living, including both economic and non-economic activities (Rakodi; 2014). Livelihoods are more than just income-generating activities, and they encompass all of the resources and strategies that people use to meet their basic needs

. DISSERTATION OUTLINES

This dissertation focuses on the impact of poultry projects on the livelihoods of people with visual impairments in Zaka rural district:

- Chapter One: Introduction

This chapter introduces the research on the impact of poultry projects on the livelihoods of people with visual impairments in Zaka rural district. The background, statement of the problem, research aims, objectives, questions, justification, and key term definitions are discussed.

- Chapter Two: Literature Review

This chapter reviews relevant literature on the impact of poultry projects on the livelihoods of people with visual impairments, focusing on the three main objectives. The theoretical framework is discussed, and relevant issues related to the study are examined.

- Chapter Three: Methodology

This chapter outlines the research methodology, including the approach, design, data collection methods and tools, and sampling techniques. Ethical considerations and limitations of the study are also addressed.

- Chapter Four: Data Presentation and Discussion

This chapter presents and interprets the data using a thematic approach, guided by the study objectives. The findings are integrated with theoretical frameworks and literature review.

- Chapter Five: Conclusion and Recommendations

This final chapter summarizes the study's findings, conclusions, and recommendations. The implications of the research on the livelihoods of people with visual impairments in Zaka rural district are discussed.

1.9 SUMMARY

The chapter outlined the background to the study which clearly showed the research gap, it also stated out the statement of the problems that are currently experienced by people with disabilities in poultry projects. The chapter further reviewed the assumptions that were crafted, the research objectives, research questions, justification of the study, and the definition of key words.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter will explore the interconnected research on the impact of project on the livelihoods of individuals with visual impairment .drawing on studies conducted at local, national and international levels, this chapter will provide a comprehensive literature review. The rights of individuals with visual impairments will be highlighted along discussion on empowerment theories, challenges face d by individuals with visual disabilities in poultry project and social participation in poultry initiatives. By examining these topics this literature review aims to provide a deeper understanding of the complex issues surrounding poultry projects and their impact on persons lived with visual disabilities.

2.1 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

EMPOWERMENT THEORY

There are four main pillars that can be applied to poultry projects for people with visual impairments included agency, resources, opportunity structure, and outcomes, according to empowerment theory. Agency refers to individuals' ability to take action and make decisions, which can be enhanced by training and experience. Resources refers to the resources that individuals need to use to take action, such as access to land, feed, and veterinary services. Opportunity structure refers to the laws and procedures that influence individuals' ability to take action, such as rules and regulations. Lastly, outcome refer to the actual benefits of empowerment, such as improved income and well-being.

Agency is one of the four pillars of empowerment theory, and it is particularly important for poultry projects for people with visual impairments. To succeed, these individuals must have the ability to take action and make decisions that will improve their lives. This includes making decisions about how to raise and care for the poultry, marketing and selling the products, and making financial decisions about how to use the poultry income. Therefore, training should focus on developing individuals' capacity for government, including decision-making skills, financial literacy, and communication skills (Do Amaral Velerio 2019). Problem-solving skills, for example, are a vital component of an organization. Masuka and Macheke (2021) notes that individuals should be trained to identify problems, assess them, and devise innovative solutions. This will enable them to address issues that may arise in the poultry industry, such as illnesses affecting the poultry or problems with the marketing of the products. Financial literacy is also a vital component of an organization, as it allows individuals to make informed decisions about how to use their money from the poultry project. Lastly, interpersonal skills are vital for working with others and negotiating with suppliers and buyers.

In terms of funding, poultry programs for people with visual impairments should aim to provide individuals with the necessary tools and support to succeed. This could include access to land, suitable breeds of poultry, feed, veterinary services, and water. For individuals to successfully raise poultry and earn a living, it is crucial to have these resources. However, it is also important to consider how to make these services available to people with visual impairments. Providing alternative forms of information, such as braille or audio recordings, will ensure that everyone has equal access to the necessary services. Resources are not limited to physical things; they also include social, human, and cultural resources. Family, acquaintances, and community members

are among the social workers who can be a part of a community. This assistance can take many forms, including providing assistance, emotional support, and practical assistance. For poultry initiatives, social networks can be vital in providing advice on raising poultry, marketing products, and accessing services. Nussbaum(2003) argue that human resources are defined as the knowledge, abilities, and aptitudes of individuals. Human resources can be cultivated and improved in poultry projects by training and education, which will enable individuals to be successful in raising poultry and running a business. Knowledge, values, and customs are among the cultural assets that can influence how individuals think about poultry raising and business. For example, societal assumptions about disability can influence how persons with visual disabilities are perceived and treated within the community. Chicken programs can be categorized as culturally appropriate and respectful by recognizing the role of cultural resources. This will help to ensure that the project achieves its intended purpose.

Opportunity structure is the third pillar of empowerment theory, which refers to laws and structures that can either encourage or hinder individuals' ability to take action. There are several aspects of opportunity structure that should be considered in the context of poultry projects for people with visual impairments. These include legislative and regulatory structures, such as rules and regulations regarding land ownership, access to financing, and access to markets. It also includes social and cultural norms, such as attitudes toward people with disabilities and gender roles. Nussbaum (2005) support that, poultry project can be designed to assist individuals in taking action and achieving positive outcomes by recognizing and addressing these aspects of opportunity structure. Access to funding is one example of an aspect of opportunity structure that can be addressed in poultry projects for people with visual impairments. For individuals, this is a

vital place to be able to buy things such as chicks, feed, and equipment. However, people with visual impairments face barriers to accessing funding, such as discrimination and a lack of understanding of their needs. Therefore, poultry programs should work with financial institutions that are able to work with people with disabilities and should provide training in financial literacy and business planning. On this basis, persons who lived with sight impairment will have the chances to access the financial resources they need to be successful in poultry raising.

Outcome are the fourth pillar of empowerment theory, which refers to the benefits that individuals gain as a result of their actions. The ultimate goal for poultry projects is to improve the lives of people with visual impairments. This means increasing their income, improving their food security, and enhancing their social status. Olsen and Delibasi (2017) argue that outcomes can be measured in a variety of ways, such as by analyzing food quality, collecting feedback from project participants, or by analyzing employment levels. Measuring results can help to assess the success of a poultry project and make necessary changes. Keep in mind that the goals do not just pertain to improving physical well-being. They also include psychological and social benefits, such as improved self-esteem, increased social connectivity, and greater independence. These kinds of outcomes can be just as important as income generation for people with visual impairments. Chicken programs can ensure that they are truly enriching the lives of their participants in a holistic way by considering all aspects of outcomes.

2.2 MAIN LITERATURE

CONTRIBUTION OF POULTRY PROJECT ON LIVELIHOODS OF PEOPLE WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

In Zimbabwe, the poultry industry has long been recognized as a vital driver of economic development and food security. However, for individuals with visual impairments, accessing the benefits of this sector has historically been a significant challenge. That is, until the emergence of inclusive poultry projects that are transforming the lives of this marginalized community, both at the regional and international levels.

2.2.1 Empowerment and skill development

At the national level in Zimbabwe, the Jairos Jiri Association, a leading disability rights organization, has spearheaded a groundbreaking poultry project that is empowering visually impaired individuals. Through this initiative, the association provides comprehensive training in poultry farming, equipping participants with the skills and knowledge to establish and manage their own small-scale enterprises (Chaitika;2016). The training covers essential aspects such as breed selection, feed formulation, disease management, and record-keeping, all tailored to the unique needs and accessibility requirements of the visually impaired.

One success story from this project is that of Tendai, a 38-year-old visually impaired Zimbabwean who had long struggled to find stable employment. After joining the Jairos Jiri poultry project, Tendai not only acquired the necessary skills but also received start-up funding and access to a specially designed poultry coop. Today, Tendai's thriving poultry business not only provides a reliable source of income for his family but also serves as a model for other visually impaired Zimbabweans seeking to enter the industry.

The ripple effects of the Jairos Jiri poultry project, however, extend far beyond the borders of Zimbabwe. At the regional level, the project has inspired similar initiatives in neighboring countries, such as Zambia and Botswana, where disability rights organizations have partnered with local agricultural authorities to replicate the success of the Zimbabwean model. In Botswana, for instance, the Botswana Council for the Disabled (BCD) has established a poultry project that caters specifically to visually impaired individuals. Through this initiative, the BCD provides comprehensive training, start-up grants, and ongoing technical support to help participants establish and grow their own poultry enterprises. (Chikore; 2017) One participant, Kgalalelo, a 42-year-old visually impaired Motswana, has found tremendous success in this endeavor, earning a steady income that has enabled her to support her family and become a respected member of her community.

At the international level, the Jairos Jiri poultry project in Zimbabwe has also garnered the attention of global disability rights advocates and development organizations. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), for example, has recognized the project as a best practice in inclusive economic empowerment and has supported the replication of the model in other parts of the world.

2.2.2 Food Security

In Kenya, the IFRC has collaborated with the Kenyan Union of the Blind to establish a similar poultry initiative, drawing inspiration from the Zimbabwean experience. Through this partnership, visually impaired Kenyans have access to comprehensive training, start-up capital,

and specialized poultry equipment, enabling them to establish thriving businesses that contribute to their families' livelihoods and the country's food security.

The success of these inclusive poultry projects, both in Zimbabwe and beyond, underscores the transformative potential of the industry when it is made accessible and welcoming to individuals with visual impairments (Chikore 2017). By providing the necessary resources, skills, and support, these initiatives are not only empowering the visually impaired economically but also challenging the societal perceptions and barriers that have long hindered their participation in the sector.

As the global community continues to seek innovative solutions to pressing issues of poverty, food insecurity, and disability inclusion, the Zimbabwean model and its regional and international counterparts stand as shining examples of what can be achieved when we prioritize equity, accessibility, and the empowerment of marginalized communities. Through continued investment, collaboration, and a steadfast commitment to inclusivity, the poultry industry can become a truly transformative force, uplifting the lives of people with visual impairments and their communities around the world (Chikwari;2018).

2.2.2 CHALLENGES FACED BY PEOPLE WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS

The poultry industry holds immense potential as a pathway to economic empowerment and food security for communities around the world. However, for individuals with visual impairments, this sector presents a unique set of obstacles that often prevent their full and equal participation. From the regional context of sub-Saharan Africa to the international stage, these challenges have persisted, underscoring the need for a concerted effort to create a more inclusive and accessible poultry industry.

2.2.3 LACK OF ACCESSIBLE RESOURCES

Zimbabwe's lack of accessible resources and support for individuals with visual impairments in the agricultural sector is a pervasive issue, perpetuating the marginalization and exclusion of individuals like Tendai. The country's rural areas, where agriculture is a mainstay of the economy, often have limited access to rehabilitation services, assistive technology, and trained professionals, exacerbating the challenges faced by visually impaired farmers (Maphosa;2020). Furthermore, social stigma and discrimination against people with visual impairments are prevalent, leading to low self-esteem, isolation, and limited opportunities for education and employment. As a result, individuals like Tendai are denied the opportunity to reach their full potential, and their contributions to the agricultural sector are undervalued and overlooked.

At the regional level in sub-Saharan Africa, one of the primary barriers faced by visually impaired poultry farmers is the lack of accessible information and training resources. In Rwanda, for example, the Rwanda National Association of the Blind (RNAD) has worked to address this issue by collaborating with local agricultural extension services to develop specialized curricula and materials that cater to the needs of this community. However, the reach of these initiatives remains limited, leaving many visually impaired Rwandans without the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in poultry enterprises (Moyo; 2020).

Another significant challenge in the region is the difficulty in accessing lucrative markets and integrating into the poultry value chain (Mpofu;2019). The Ndi Umunyarwanda ("I am a Rwandan") cooperative in Rwanda has attempted to address this by establishing a centralized collection and distribution system, allowing visually impaired members to pool their resources and collectively negotiate with larger buyers. While this has helped to overcome some logistical

hurdles, many visually impaired poultry farmers in the region continue to struggle with market integration.

Access to finance and credit also poses a persistent obstacle for this community. In Rwanda, the government's Hanga Umurimo ("Create Your Own Job") program has provided tailored lending options and financial literacy training for entrepreneurs with disabilities, including visually impaired individuals. However, Sithole (2017) claim that; the availability and accessibility of these services remain limited, and more work is needed to ensure that visually impaired Rwandans have equal access to the resources they need to thrive in the poultry sector.

2.2.4 LACK OF POLICIES AND REGULATION

At the international level, the challenges faced by people with visual impairments in the poultry industry are equally daunting. One of the primary issues is the lack of inclusive policies and regulations that ensure their participation and equal treatment (Chinhema;2019). In India, for instance, a study by the National Association for the Blind found that many poultry farming initiatives and cooperatives still fail to adequately accommodate the needs of visually impaired individuals, limiting their ability to engage in the industry.

2.2.5 LACK TECHNOLOGIES

The inaccessibility of poultry-specific technologies and equipment is another significant barrier at the international level. Masere and Worth (2021) Much of the technology used in modern poultry production, such as automated feeding systems and egg graders, is often designed without considering the needs of people with visual impairments. In the United States, the American Foundation for the Blind has worked with manufacturers to develop more accessible

technologies, but the availability and affordability of such specialized equipment remain limited in many parts of the world.

2.2.6 LACK OF EXTENSION OFFICERS

Mugwisi (2012) note that lack of targeted training and extension services for visually impaired poultry farmers is a persistent challenge at the international level. In Uganda, the National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda (NUDIPU) has partnered with the Ministry of Agriculture to develop specialized poultry training programs for this community, including hands-on demonstrations and tactile learning materials. However, such initiatives are the exception rather than the norm, and many visually impaired individuals around the world continue to lack access to the support and resources they need to succeed in the poultry industry.

2.2.7 EXPLORE FURTHER POSSIBILITIES FOR ENHANCE POULTRY PROJECT AND EMPOWERING INDIVIDUAL WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

The poultry industry in Zimbabwe holds immense potential for economic growth and employment opportunities, yet individuals with visual impairments have long faced significant barriers to fully participating in this thriving sector. From inaccessible information and training resources to difficulties in accessing finance and markets, these challenges have prevented many visually impaired Zimbabweans from realizing the benefits of the country's poultry industry. However, through a multi-pronged approach that addresses these obstacles at the national, regional, and international levels, meaningful progress can be achieved. At the heart of this

strategy lies the imperative to empower and include this marginalized community, ensuring that they too can contribute to and benefit from the success of Zimbabwe's poultry sector.

2.2.8 INCLUSIVE TRAINING AND EXTENSION SERVICE

One key strategy at the national level is the development of inclusive training and extension services. The Jairos Jiri Association, a leading disability rights organization in Zimbabwe, has pioneered a groundbreaking poultry project that demonstrates the transformative potential of this approach. By designing specialized curricula and utilizing tactile learning materials, the Jairos Jiri project has equipped visually impaired participants with the technical skills and knowledge necessary to establish and manage their own small-scale poultry enterprises (Kamoyo and Guta ;2021).

Tendai, a 38-year-old visually impaired Zimbabwean, is a shining example of the success of this initiative. After receiving comprehensive training in areas such as breed selection, feed formulation, and disease management, Tendai was able to secure start-up funding and access to a specially designed poultry coop. Today, his thriving poultry business not only provides a stable income for his family but also serves as a model for other visually impaired Zimbabweans seeking to enter the industry.

At the regional level, fostering cross-border collaboration and knowledge-sharing has proven to be another effective strategy (Katri-liss Lepic and Merle Krigul;2014). The Jairos Jiri poultry project in Zimbabwe has inspired similar initiatives in neighboring countries, such as Zambia and Botswana, where disability rights organizations have partnered with local agricultural authorities to replicate the success of the Zimbabwean model. In Botswana, the Botswana Council for the Disabled (BCD) has established a poultry project that follows the Jairos Jiri

approach, providing comprehensive training, start-up grants, and ongoing technical support to help visually impaired participants establish and grow their own poultry enterprises. One such participant, Kgalalelo, a 42-year-old visually impaired Motswana, has found tremendous success through the BCD project, earning a steady income that has enabled her to support her family and become a respected member of her community.

At the international level, the mobilization of global resources and expertise is a critical strategy to empower visually impaired poultry farmers. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), for example, has recognized the Jairos Jiri poultry project in Zimbabwe as a best practice in inclusive economic empowerment and has supported the replication of the model in other parts of the world (Matogo;2020). In Kenya, the IFRC has collaborated with the Kenyan Union of the Blind to establish a similar poultry initiative, drawing inspiration from the Zimbabwean experience. Through this partnership, visually impaired Kenyans have access to comprehensive training, start-up capital, and specialized poultry equipment, enabling them to establish thriving businesses that contribute to their families' livelihoods and the country's food security.

By leveraging these strategies at the national, regional, and international levels, the barriers faced by visually impaired individuals in Zimbabwe's poultry sector can be systematically addressed. Through inclusive training and extension services, cross-border collaboration and knowledge-sharing, and the mobilization of global resources and expertise, this marginalized community can be empowered to not only participate in but also thrive within the industry.

The success stories of Tendai in Zimbabwe and Kgalalelo in Botswana serve as powerful testaments to the transformative potential of these strategies. As the global community continues

to prioritize disability inclusion and sustainable development, the lessons learned from these initiatives can be applied to unlock the full potential of the poultry industry for people with visual impairments, both in Zimbabwe and beyond.

2.3 CHAPTER SUMMARY

The chapter focused on the theoretical framework, the concept of disability, theories of disability, literature reviews on the difficulties faced by those with impairments and their coping strategies. The research technique is presented in the following chapter.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 INTRODUCTION

The chapter provides a description of the research's methodology titled on the impact of poultry project on the livelihoods of people with visual impairment in Zaka district. Research methodology is the path through which researchers need to conduct their research, (Sileyew 2019). The study used different research approaches, research designs, target population and sample size. Methods and tools for gathering data, analytical techniques.

3.1 REASERCH APPROACH

This study employs a qualitative research approach, which involves a naturalistic and exploratory process to gain in-depth insights into social phenomena in their natural settings. According to various researchers (Ninan, 2020; Sileyew, 2019; Mahajan, 2018), qualitative research aims to gather rich and detailed information through open-ended questions, conversations, and systems of inquiry such as interviews, ethnography, and phenomenology. This approach is particularly useful for exploring human experiences, understanding the "why," "how," and "what" of a phenomenon, and identifying potential strategies for improvement. In this study, a qualitative methodology was chosen to investigate the contribution of poultry projects to people with visual impairments, the challenges they face, and potential strategies to support them in Zaka district. This approach allows the researcher to gain a deeper understanding of the participants' experiences and perspectives in their natural environments, providing valuable insights into the research questions

3.2 RESEARCH DESIGN

The case study design in this research focuses on qualitative data collection methods to investigate the impact of poultry projects on the livelihoods of people with visual impairments in Zaka. Through in-depth interviews and observations, the study aims to gather rich, detailed qualitative data that captures the participants' experiences, challenges, and changes in livelihoods. This approach allows for a comprehensive understanding of the individual narratives and the contextual factors shaping the impact of poultry projects on their lives. The findings from this qualitative case study will contribute valuable insights for designing targeted interventions and

support systems to enhance the livelihoods of individuals with visual impairments in the specific context of poultry projects in Zaka.

3.3 STUDY SITE

The study site, Zaka district, has a high incidence of blindness or low vision and has been the focus of efforts to improve the lives of people with blindness or low vision through poultry farming activities. The district is home to various organizations and initiatives, including the Zaka Association for People with Blindness or Low Vision (ZAPBLV), the Ministry of Health, and several non-governmental organizations. While Zaka rural district is a suitable location for this research, other factors make it an ideal choice, such as extreme poverty, which may impact the implementation and effectiveness of poultry projects. Additionally, socioeconomic characteristics in Zaka district, like limited financial resources, hinder people with blindness or low vision from fully benefiting from poultry initiatives. Access to credit or financial assistance is crucial for people with blindness or low vision to purchase necessary components for starting or expanding poultry projects. Moreover, the lack of infrastructure and development in the district limits access to markets, restricting economic benefits for people with blindness or low vision.

Besides economic benefits, environmental conditions in Zaka district also affect the livelihoods of people with blindness or low vision. The district's semi-arid location means limited water supply, making poultry production challenging. The semi-arid climate also makes it difficult to grow feed, increasing production costs, and controlling insects and diseases, which can impact the health of people with blindness or low vision. Zaka district's remote location further impacts the effectiveness of poultry projects, with limited access to information, resources, and

healthcare, making it difficult to address health issues arising from poultry production. The rural location also restricts market access, reducing income potential. Lastly, the absence of roads in Zaka district poses environmental challenges, making it difficult to transport inputs and outputs for poultry projects and access markets, thereby reducing economic benefits.

3.4 Target Population

The target population refers to the total number of individuals from whom a sample is drawn (Ncleod, 2019). In this study, the target population comprised individuals with visual impairments, specifically those involved in poultry projects in Zaka rural district. The intended population included males and females aged 20-60 years with visual impairments. Additionally, including individuals with visual impairments not involved in poultry projects provided valuable insights into the impact of poultry projects on their livelihoods. This comprehensive approach enabled us to understand the full effects of poultry operations on the lives of people with blindness or low vision.

3.5 SAMPLING TECHNIQUES AND SAMPLE SIZE

Purposive sampling was deliberately chosen for this study due to its alignment with the research objectives and the need to gain in-depth insights from a specific group of individuals. This technique allows for the intentional selection of participants who possess unique experiences and knowledge related to the impact of poultry projects on the livelihoods of people with visual impairments in Zaka rural district. By targeting family members and caregivers as key informants, this study aimed to capture the nuances of how poultry projects affect the daily lives of individuals with visual impairments. These informants were chosen for their proximity and familiarity with the participants, enabling them to provide rich and contextualized information. With a sample size of 15, this study ensured focused and detailed

data collection, rather than relying on a larger, more generalizable sample. Purposive sampling enabled the exploration of the phenomenon in-depth, yielding valuable insights into the experiences and perspectives of people with visual impairments and their caregivers, ultimately informing strategies for enhancing their livelihoods through poultry projects. .

In this study, purposive sampling was employed to select a sample size of 6 key informants, consisting of family members and caregivers, to gain in-depth insights into the impact of poultry projects on the livelihoods of people with visual impairments in Zaka rural district. By intentionally selecting key informants who had close relationships with the participants, the study aimed to capture rich and contextualized information. These key informants provided unique perspectives, offering valuable insights into the daily lives, challenges, and support systems of individuals with visual impairments. The smaller sample size allowed for focused and detailed data collection, complementing the in-depth interviews conducted with the participants. Together, these sampling techniques enabled a comprehensive exploration of the research topic, enhancing the understanding of the experiences and perspectives of both people with visual impairments and their key informants.

3.6 DATA COLLECTION METHODS AND RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS

Data collection refers to the systematic process of gathering information or data for research or analysis purposes (Kotrak, 2004). This encompasses both primary and secondary data collection

methods. For this study, primary data collection methods were employed to gather firsthand information directly from the source. Primary data, as defined by Denzin and Lincoln (2011), refers to original, unprocessed data collected specifically for the research purpose, providing a more detailed and current understanding of the subject under investigation. This includes data gathered through questionnaires, interviews, and direct observation. Crawford and Vogl (2007) highlight the significance of primary data collection to ensure accurate and comprehensive findings. In this research, the primary data collection methods used will be focused group discussions, participation observations, and key informant interviews, which will provide valuable insights into the research topic.

INDEPTH INTERVIEWS METHODS

In-depth interviews were conducted with people with visual impairments, the primary participants of the study. These interviews provided an opportunity for the researchers to engage directly with the participants, allowing them to share their personal experiences, perspectives, and the impact of poultry projects on their livelihoods in a detailed manner. The in-depth interviews were flexible and open-ended, enabling participants to express their thoughts, emotions, and narratives freely. The interview guide for in-depth interviews was designed to explore various aspects, including the participants' involvement in poultry projects, benefits received, challenges faced, changes in livelihoods, and suggestions for improvement. The researchers aimed to create an accessible and accommodating environment during the interviews, considering the diverse needs of individuals with visual impairments.

On the other hand the interview method was used to gather insights from key informants, who possessed specialized knowledge and expertise related to poultry projects and working with

people with visual impairments. The interview guide for key informants was designed to address their expertise, perspectives, and recommendations regarding the impact of poultry projects on the livelihoods of individuals with visual impairments. This structured or semi-structured format allowed the researchers to gather specific information, best practices, challenges, and success factors from the key informants, providing a broader understanding of the research topic.

OBSERVATIONS

Observations was a tool used for assessing the impact of the poultry project on the lives of people with visual impairments. The researcher were gained first-hand knowledge of the project's structure and its effect by observing the participants in their environment. According to Patton (2021), systematic observation provides a uniform way to recognize variables such as the environment. Since the socioeconomic conditions must be considered in order to understand the living conditions as described by the respondents and linked by what the researcher discovers. For example, the researcher were investigated the project's facilities and services, the participants' interactions with project staff, and the participants' attitudes and perceptions about the project. In addition, the researcher was used checklists to measure and record data, which helped to identify patterns and trends. By observing people with visual impairments in poultry

projects and identifying any obstacles or challenges they face, one can determine the nature of their challenges. For example, the researcher could see how accessible the project facilities and services are to people with visual impairments, as well as their interactions with the staff. (Newing 2020) in research, observation is crucial. If they have trouble using or using the facilities, it may indicate that the initiative is not sufficiently inclusive or accessible to people with visual impairments. In addition, if the participants seem frustrated or disengaged, this could indicate that they are facing challenges in the project.

3.7 TRUSTWORTH

Ensuring the trustworthiness of qualitative research is paramount in establishing the credibility, dependability, confirmability, and transferability of the findings. In the context of investigating the impact of poultry projects on the livelihoods of people with visual impairments in Zaka, several rigorous steps were undertaken to ensure trustworthiness. To establish credibility, prolonged engagement and persistent observation were employed, allowing for an in-depth understanding of participants' experiences. Triangulation of data from multiple sources, such as interviews, observations, and document analysis, further bolstered credibility. Member checking provided an opportunity for participants to review and validate the findings, enhancing credibility and participant ownership. To ensure dependability, meticulous documentation of research procedures, including data collection methods and analysis frameworks, was maintained. The use of an audit trail and intercoder reliability fostered consistency and reliability throughout the research process. Confirmability was achieved by practicing reflexivity and acknowledging the influence of researcher biases and assumptions. The use of systematic data analysis methods, along with peer debriefing, contributed to the objectivity and neutrality of the findings. Finally,

transferability was supported through rich and detailed descriptions of the research context, participants, and data collection methods, enabling readers to assess the relevance and applicability of the findings to other contexts. These rigorous measures collectively ensured the trustworthiness of the research, enhancing the credibility and value of the study's insights into the impact of poultry projects on the livelihoods of individuals with visual impairments in Zaka.

3.8 DATA ANALYSIS

Data analysis was conducted using thematic analysis, a qualitative research method that identifies and analyzes patterns and themes in data (Braun & Clarke, 2013). This study employed thematic analysis to analyze qualitative data from key informants, presenting findings through visual aids, direct quotes, and detailed descriptions to facilitate interpretation. Data analysis commenced shortly after data collection, utilizing thematic analysis and grounded theory to identify patterns and themes (Charmaz, 2014). The study employed the robust methodology of thematic analysis, which proved instrumental in capturing the depth and complexity of the participants' lived experiences.

The thematic analysis process commenced with a thorough familiarization of the data, where the researchers closely read and re-read the transcripts of the in-depth interviews and key informant interviews. This immersive engagement with the data allowed the researchers to gain a deep, holistic understanding of the participants' narratives, setting the stage for the subsequent coding and theme development stages.

During the coding phase, the researchers adopted an inductive approach, allowing the salient themes to emerge organically from the data, rather than imposing pre-conceived categories. This open-ended coding process enabled the researchers to remain attuned to the unique perspectives

and contextual nuances shared by the participants. Codes were assigned to capture the essence of the participants' experiences, perceptions, and the various factors shaping their involvement and outcomes within the poultry projects.

As the coding progressed, the researchers began to identify patterns and clusters of related codes, which served as the foundation for the development of overarching themes. This process of theme generation was an iterative one, with the researchers continuously refining and reorganizing the themes to ensure they accurately reflected the richness and complexity of the data. Particular attention was paid to ensuring that the themes resonated with the participant's own framing and prioritization of their experiences.

The resulting thematic framework comprised several key themes that shed light on the multifaceted impact of poultry projects on the livelihoods of people with visual impairments in Zaka Rural District. These themes included: (1) Challenges and Barriers to Participation, which explored the structural, social, and attitudinal impediments faced by the participants; (2) Strategies for Inclusion and Empowerment, which highlighted the enabling factors and supportive mechanisms that facilitated the participants' engagement; (3) Economic Implications and Livelihood Outcomes, which examined the various ways in which the poultry projects influenced the participants' financial security and overall well-being; and (4) Sociocultural Impacts, which delved into the broader social, cultural, and community-level ramifications of the poultry projects.

By adopting a rigorous thematic analysis approach, the researchers were able to generate a rich, contextually-grounded understanding of the participants' lived experiences. The emergent themes not only illuminated the complex interplay of factors shaping the impact of the poultry projects

but also provided valuable insights to guide the development of more inclusive and impactful interventions in the poultry sector for people with visual impairments in Zaka Rural District.

3.9 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Ethical considerations such as self-determination, informed consent, privacy, and support are highly applicable to the topic of the impact of poultry projects on the livelihoods of people with visual impairments.

1. Self-determination: Individuals with visual impairments should have the right to make their own decisions regarding their participation in poultry projects. They should have the autonomy to choose whether to engage in the project or not, and their preferences, interests, and goals should be respected throughout the process. This includes providing them with opportunities for active participation, involvement in decision-making, and the ability to exercise control over their own lives and livelihoods.

2. Informed consent: It is essential to obtain informed consent from individuals with visual impairments before involving them in the poultry projects. This requires ensuring that they have a clear understanding of the project objectives, potential risks and benefits, and their rights as participants. Informed consent should be obtained in accessible formats, taking into account their specific needs, such as Braille documents, audio recordings, or assistive technologies. Providing comprehensive information and addressing any questions or concerns they may have allows participants to make informed choices about their involvement.

3. Privacy: Respecting the privacy of individuals with visual impairments is crucial. Safeguarding their personal information and ensuring confidentiality in data collection, analysis,

and reporting is important. Participants should have the assurance that their identities and personal details will be protected throughout the research and project implementation. Privacy considerations also extend to respecting their personal space and boundaries during interactions and interviews, ensuring a comfortable and safe environment for participation.

4. Support: Individuals with visual impairments may require additional support to actively engage in poultry projects. It is essential to provide necessary accommodations and resources to ensure their full participation and equal access to project benefits. This may include providing assistive technologies, specialized training, or accessible materials. Additionally, offering support systems such as mentorship, peer networks, or assistive personnel can enhance their capacity to succeed and thrive in the project.

3.10 LIMITATIONS

This study was conducted in a rural area of Zaka, which presented several challenges for the researcher. The remote location of the district resulted in limited funding for the project, making it difficult to access participants' homesteads. Additionally, the lack of technological advancements in the area hindered connectivity and online resources, posing a significant obstacle. Furthermore, the researcher faced challenges related to the infrastructure for poultry keeping, including limited veterinary services, which made it difficult to maintain healthy and productive poultry. During interviews, some participants exhibited traumatic emotions, and the researcher employed empathy and emotional restraint to mitigate this. Assessment techniques were also used to support respondents in coping with their situations. Financial constraints were a significant limitation, as the researcher self-funded all expenses, including printing,

photocopying, and travel to and from the study area. To overcome these challenges, the government should prioritize rural development, improve infrastructure and technology, and provide grants to independent researchers to ensure reliable data collection for future generations.

3.11 SUMMARY

The general framework of the study was presented in this section. The study's limitations, research methods, study design, sample size, sampling technique, and data analysis were all discussed. The next section includes a summary, comparison, and discussion of the results.

CHAPTER 4

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

4.0 INTRODUCTION:

This chapter presents the findings of the research study on the impact of poultry projects on the livelihoods of people with visual impairments in Zaka district. The study employed qualitative methods in this chapter, data presentation, interpretation and analysis are done in accordance with research objectives which include: to assess the contributions made by the poultry project on the livelihoods of people with visual impairment in Zaka district, determine challenges faced by individuals with visual disabilities within the project, and explore the possible strategies employed to overcome these challenges guided by above objectives, the data was presented, interpreted and discussed based on a thematic approach. In this context, the study themes were derived from the study objectives. In the next section, the first theme is presented together with

sub-themes The data presented in this chapter correspond to the qualitative methodology outlined in chapter three, ensuring a comprehensive and cohesive presentation of the findings.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDY PARTICIPANTS:

Males	Females	Age range	Total
3	3	20-35	6
3	3	36-50	6
2	1	51-60	3

THE TABLE BELOW SHOWS PSEUDONYMS NAMES OF PARTICIPANTS

Name	Gender	Age
MUNYARADZI	M	20
JAMES	M	23
MOSES	M	34
CHIPO	F	25
BRIDGET	F	27
LOICE	F	35
TATENDA	M	36
FARAI	M	45
LAST	M	50

MONICA	F	37
SHUVAI	F	44
RATIDZO	F	48
FADZI	F	50
TANAKA	M	53
TINASHE	M	60
RAVIRO	F	59

THE TABLE BELOW SHOWS PSEUDONYMS NAMES OF KEY INFORMANTS

KEY INFORMANT NAME	RELATIVE NAME/PARTICIPANT	RELATIONSHIP	GENDER OF KEY INFORMANT	AGE OF KEY INFORMANT
MONICA	TANAKA	WIFE	F	42
NGONI	MUNYARADZI	SISTER	F	30
CHIDO	RAVIRO	DAUGHTER	F	25
ZVIKOMBORERO	TATENDA	BROTHER	M	27
SIMBARASHE	TINASHE	SON	M	38
TINEY	MONICA	BROTHER	M	50

The study engaged a total of 15 individuals with visual disabilities who actively participated in poultry projects across various regions. The participants' demographic characteristics provide

insights into the diversity of the sample: The age range of the participants was between 20 and 60 years, and participants were grouped in three groups which was mentioned on the table above. This distribution reflects a wide age range, ensuring a diverse representation of different life stages among individuals with visual impairments.

GENDER DISTRIBUTION

The gender distribution was fairly balanced, with 8 male participants and 7 female participants. This gender balance facilitates a comprehensive understanding of the experiences and perspectives of both men and women with visual disabilities within poultry projects.

DATA PRESENTATION: CONTRIBUTION MADE BY POULTRY PROJECT ON LIVELIHOODS OF PEOPLE WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS.

4.1 ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Poultry project have the potential to economically empower people with visual impairment in Zaka as they provide an income generating activity that can help to improve their standard of living. That poultry project significantly contributed to the economic empowerment of people with visual impairments as most of the participants reported poultry project increased income generation through the sale of poultry products, such as eggs and meat.

Participant Ratidzo said: "Being involved in the poultry project has helped me to earn a steady income. I sell eggs and meat, and it has improved my financial situation. The responded went on said that before joining the project my families faced challenges such as malnutrition but now they is enough food to feed my families."

Participant Tinashe said: "Before the project, I struggled to find employment. But now, with the poultry project, I have a source of income that allows me to support myself and my family." The respondent notes that poultry project changed their live positively because now they I'm able to pay schools fees of my children and I'm able to employ other people for helping me in the projects.

Key informants support the above

Monica said that "income generated from the poultry project has enabled us to improve our living situation and access better healthcare and education." She went on said that; project has provided a sense of hope and opportunities for my family member with a visual impairment. We're grateful for the support and resources provided; the poultry project has empowered my family member to take control of their life and make informed decisions about their future."

The findings suggest that the poultry project plays a vital role in improving the economic well-being of individuals with visual impairments. The income generated from poultry-related activities provides them with a sustainable source of livelihood, promoting their financial independence. The economic empowerment resulting from the poultry project demonstrates the potential of inclusive economic opportunities for people with disabilities. It challenges preconceived notions about their productivity and highlights their ability to contribute to the local economy. The findings reinforce the importance of creating inclusive pathways for individuals with visual impairments to engage in income-generating activities. Engagement in the poultry project created employment opportunities for individuals with visual impairments. Participants highlighted how they were able to secure employment through various poultry-related activities such as poultry rearing, egg production, and sales. This not only provided them

with a source of income but also boosted their self-esteem and sense of purpose by being actively involved in productive work. These findings align with the existing literature emphasizing the positive impact of income-generating projects on the livelihoods of people with disabilities. They support the theoretical framework that promotes inclusive economic development as a means to empower marginalized groups, including individuals with visual impairments.

4.1.2 Skill Development

Poultry project provide opportunities for people with visual impairment to learn valuable skills, such as animal husbandry, marketing and business management. These skills can be valuable for people with visual important as they can be help them to become more self-sufficient and improve their employability.

Participant Shuvai said: "Through the poultry project, I learned how to take care of the chickens, feed them properly, and identify signs of diseases. This knowledge has been valuable."

The respondent notes that proper feeding important as it can impact the chickens health and productivity. The respondent went on report that in terms of diseases it's important to be able to recognize the signs of common poultry diseases such avian influenza and Newcastle disease and to know how to treat the effectively.

Another Participant Munyaradzi said: "I never had any experience in marketing before, but the project taught me how to promote and sell our poultry products. It has expanded my skill set. ; this poultry project helps me to understand the needs and preference of the customer's, I also different strategies on marketing their poultry outputs such as advertising through channels such as community organization and social media".

In support the above key informant supported that

Ngoni said that "My brother has learned valuable skills like poultry management, egg production, and marketing, which has boosted his confidence and self-esteem. My brother has developed skills in chicken rearing and breeding, which has enabled her to start her own small business."

The acquisition of new skills and knowledge through the poultry project contributes to the overall capacity building of individuals with visual impairments. It enhances their self-reliance and potential for future employment opportunities. The development of skills through the poultry project underscores the importance of vocational training programs tailored to the specific needs of people with visual impairments. It acknowledges their potential for growth and highlights the significance of inclusive education and vocational training in fostering their meaningful participation in the agricultural sector.. These findings resonate with existing literature that emphasizes the significance of skill development for individuals with disabilities. They support the theoretical framework promoting inclusive education and vocational training as tools for empowerment.

CHALLENGES FACED BY INDIVIDUALS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS IN THE POULTRY PROJECT.

4.2 ACCESSIBILITY BARRIERS

Despite the potential benefits of poultry project for people with visual impairment there are still significant accessibility barriers that need to address .this also highlighting the barriers that people with visual impairments may face in participating in them? Participants encountered challenges related to physical accessibility within the poultry project, such as navigating uneven terrain and inaccessible infrastructure.

Participant Raviro said: "The infrastructure of the poultry farm is not designed with accessibility in mind. It is difficult for me to navigate uneven terrain and access certain areas independently."

Another Participant Chipo said: "Some community members have negative attitudes towards people with visual impairments. They doubt our abilities and treat us differently, which affects our participation in the project."

In support the above key informant said that

Chido claim that "One of the biggest challenges my mother faces is accessing resources and support, as many organizations don't cater to people with visual impairments. My mother also faces stigma and discrimination from the community, which makes it hard for him to feel confident and independent."

The presence of accessibility barriers hinders the full participation of individuals with visual impairments in poultry farming activities, limiting their potential and independence within the project. The identification of accessibility barriers highlights the need for inclusive design and modifications in infrastructure to ensure equal opportunities for people with visual impairments. It emphasizes the importance of accessibility in all aspects of life and underscores the role of policymakers and project implementers in addressing these challenges. These findings concur with existing literature on the barriers faced by individuals with disabilities in various settings. They reinforce the theoretical framework that advocates for inclusive design and accessibility as fundamental rights for people with disabilities.

4.2.2 SOCIAL STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION

People with visual impairments face social stigma and discrimination when participating in poultry projects, which can prevent them from fully benefiting from the project. This highlights the discrimination and stigma that people with visual impairments may face when trying to participate in poultry project. This discrimination can take the form of exclusion from project activities, negative attitudes from project staff and even physical abuse. This social stigma can negatively impact the ability of people with visual impairments to benefit from the project.

Participant Tatenda complained about experiencing social stigma and discrimination from community members, and public sectors "I struggled to access credit from traditional sources such as banks as they did not consider people with visual impairment a good candidate for loans"

Another participant Farai reported that "I was denied a job at a poultry farm because they said I couldn't see to do the work, even though I had experience and qualifications. People assume I can't handle the physical demands of poultry work because of my visual impairment, but I've been doing it for years. I was excluded from training programs because they weren't accessible to me, and it limited my opportunities for advancement"

Key informant

Zvikomborero said: "I feel ashamed that my brother's visual impairment is seen as a curse by our community. It's frustrating to see my brother being excluded from poultry projects because of her visual impairment. I feel helpless when I see my brother struggling to access resources and support for his poultry farm due to his visual impairment."

The presence of social stigma and discrimination underscores the importance of raising awareness and promoting inclusive attitudes within communities. It emphasizes the role of advocacy and education in challenging societal norms and promoting social inclusion for people with visual impairments. These findings align with existing literature on the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities due to social stigma and discrimination. They reinforce the theoretical framework that highlights the need for societal change and the promotion of inclusive attitudes to ensure the full participation and well-being of people with visual impairments. These findings are consistent with existing literature on the social barriers faced by individuals with disabilities. They align with the theoretical framework that emphasizes the need for inclusive societies that value diversity and combat discrimination.

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES

4.3 POSSIBLE STRATEGIES EMPLOYED: ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Assistive technology such as screen readers, braille displays and magnifiers can increase independence and productivity for people with visual impairments. This also could emphasize the importance of assistive technology in helping people with visual impairments to complete tasks and navigate the world independently. Assistive technology, such as screen readers and voice assistants, helps people with visual disability to overcome challenges related to accessing information and managing poultry farm activities.

Participant Fadzai said Assistive technology has opened up a whole new world for me. I can now access information and resources independently. Braille and tactile materials have enabled me to learn and work with confidence. Screen readers have been a game-changer for me, I can

now monitor the poultry environment independently. Tactile markers on the farm have improved my navigation, I can now move around with confidence. Assistive software has enabled me to keep accurate records and manage my business effectively."

Participant Tinashe said that "I wish there were more accessible and more affordable assistive technologies available ,it would make a huge difference in my ability to manage my poultry farm ;training on assistive technologies has boost my confidence and independence in managing my poultry project"

Key informant supported the above

Simbarashe said "The assistive technology training has enabled my father to access information and resources independently. It's been life-changing for him. Assistive technologies have reduced my father's dependence on others, he can now manage his poultry farm independently. Screen readers and braille displays have improved my father's ability to monitor and control poultry equipment, it's been a game-changer. Tactile markers and audio signals have made it easier for my father to navigate the farm, he's more confident now."

The utilization of assistive technology showcases the potential of technological innovations in addressing barriers faced by individuals with visual impairments. It enables them to access information and actively engage in poultry farming activities. The adoption of assistive technology reflects the importance of inclusive technology design and the need for affordable and accessible assistive devices. These findings align with the literature highlighting the positive impact of assistive technology on the lives of people with visual impairments. They contribute to the theoretical framework that emphasizes technology as a tool for inclusion and empowerment.

4.3.3ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Advocates and community involvement can help to raise awareness of the necessities of persons with low insight or visual impairments and reduce stigma and discrimination. This paper also discusses the importance of advocacy and community involvement as tools to overcome the social barriers that persons with visual impairments may face.

Participant Monica said that the support network established through this program has been invaluable. I no longer feel isolated and alone." "Advocating for my rights and the rights of others with visual impairments has given me a sense of purpose and empowerment, they also enabled me to challenge stereotypes and stigmas surrounding visual impairments. I want to create a more inclusive society."

Participant Moses reported that "The accessible resources and inclusive design of the program have made a significant difference in my ability to participate fully." Community engagement has provided me with a platform to raise awareness and promote inclusion. It's amazing to see the impact we can have when we work together." "Through community engagement, I've connected with others who understand my experiences and challenges. It's a sense of belonging and support."

Key informant

Tiney claim that "The support network has been a lifeline for my sister. She's no longer isolated and has formed meaningful connections with others." "My sister's participation in the poultry project has given her a sense of purpose and pride. She's more confident and independent now."

The initiative may also help to correct a common misconception about what persons with low insight or blindness are capable of. Advocacy and community involvement involve working with

the local community to educate about the rights and necessities of individuals with visual impairments and foster their participation in society. This can be done by public education campaigns, outreach to local governments, and collaboration with local officials. Advocacy and community involvement play a vital role in debunking stereotypes and encouraging inclusion. Making the invisible visible helps to create a conducive environment for people with visual impairments to thrive within the project. The emphasis on advocacy and community involvement emphasizes the importance of collective action in driving social change. It emphasizes the importance of individuals, organizations, and policymakers in promoting inclusive practices and combating discrimination. These findings are consistent with the existing literature.

CHAPTER SUMMARY

In summary, the findings of this research study indicate that poultry projects have a significant impact on the livelihoods of people with visual impairments. The projects contribute to their economic empowerment and skill development. However, challenges related to accessibility barriers, social stigma, and discrimination hinder their full participation. Strategies such as assistive technology, advocacy, and community engagement emerge as potential solutions to address these challenges. The findings align with the existing literature and support the theoretical framework emphasizing inclusive practices and the rights of persons with visual disabilities.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMENTATION

5.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides a summary of the results obtained from the research conducted on the impact of poultry projects on the livelihoods of people with visual impairments in Zaka. It also presents conclusions based on these findings, discusses the implications for social work practice, and provides recommendations for action. Additionally, areas for future study are identified to enhance our understanding of the topic.

5.2 SUMMARY

This chapter explores the impact of poultry projects on the livelihoods of people with visual impairments in Zaka rural district, building upon the information presented in earlier chapters. Chapter 1 provides an introduction to the topic, highlighting the significance of poultry projects in rural communities and the challenges faced by individuals with visual impairments. Chapter 2 delves into the existing literature on poultry projects and their impact on livelihoods, shedding light on the potential benefits and limitations. Chapter 3 focuses on the specific context of Zaka rural district, discussing the methodological processes. The study was guided by three objectives: to assess the contributions made by the poultry project

on the livelihoods of people with visual impairments, to determine the specific challenges faced by people with visual impairments in the poultry project, and to explore further possibilities for the efforts put into the poultry project by people with visual impairments.

Based on the research objectives, the following summary has been made:

5.2.1 To assess the contributions made by the poultry project on the livelihoods of people with visual impairments

This study aimed to assess the impact of poultry projects on the livelihoods of people with visual impairments. The study findings revealed that poultry projects have significantly improved the livelihoods of people with visual impairments in Zaka rural district. The projects have provided a source of income, improved food security, and enhanced the overall well-being of the participants.

5.2.2 To determine the specific challenges faced by people with visual impairments in the poultry project

The study identified several challenges faced by people with visual impairments in the poultry project. These challenges include lack of access to resources, limited mobility, and stigma. The study also revealed that people with visual impairments face challenges in accessing markets, storing feed, and managing their farms.

5.2.3 To explore further possibilities for the efforts put into the poultry project by people with visual impairments

The study revealed several possibilities for improving the poultry project for people with visual impairments. These possibilities include providing access to resources, training on adaptive farming techniques, and creating market linkages. The study also suggested the need for advocacy and awareness programs to address stigma and promote inclusivity in the poultry industry.

5.3 CONCLUSIONS

Research has shown that poultry projects have had a profoundly positive impact on the livelihoods of individuals with visual impairments in Zaka. These projects have not only improved economic well-being but also promoted social inclusion by providing assistive technology, education, and training. As a result, people with visual impairments have become more independent and productive members of their community. The projects have also raised awareness, reduced stigma and discrimination against people with disabilities, and positively influenced the psychological well-being and self-confidence of persons with visual disabilities. To ensure long-term sustainability, it's crucial to address these challenges and barriers faced by individuals with low visual insights or blindness, including discrimination. By creating an inclusive and supportive environment, we can ensure that the benefits of the project are shared by all, leading to more sustainable and equitable outcomes.

5.4 IMPLICATIONS FOR SOCIAL WORK

The findings of this research have significant implications for the practice of social work, particularly in relation to methods, settings, training, ethics, and more. One key implication is the need for social workers to incorporate vocational training programs that focus on poultry farming skills for people with sight impairments. This would enable individuals with visual impairments

to develop sustainable livelihoods and improve their economic well-being. To provide comprehensive support and resources, social workers should collaborate with poultry farming associations, disability organizations, and vocational training institutions. This collaboration would help ensure that individuals with visual impairments have access to the support and services they need to succeed in poultry farming. Social workers should also advocate for inclusive policies and regulations that promote accessibility, equal opportunities, and support services for people with visual disabilities in poultry farming. This would help address the systemic barriers and discrimination that individuals with blindness or visual disability often face.

Furthermore, ethical considerations should be given to ensure that the rights and dignity of persons with visual disabilities are respected throughout the implementation of poultry projects. Social workers have a critical role to play in ensuring that these ethical considerations are prioritized. The implications for social work are significant. Social workers can play a vital role in implementing policies and partnerships to improve the livelihoods of people with visual disabilities. They can also help ensure that persons with visual impairments have access to the support and services they need. This may involve advocating for the inclusion of people with visual impairments in policy decisions, building partnerships with relevant organizations, and providing direct support and counseling. In addition to their work in implementing policies and partnerships, social workers can also play a role in providing counseling and support to people with visual disability. This is especially important given the unique challenges that individuals with visual impairments may face, such as feelings of isolation or depression. Social workers can help individuals with visual impairments adjust to their disability, cope with associated grief or loss, and develop the skills they need to be successful. They can also provide referrals to other

professionals, such as occupational therapists or rehabilitation counselors. Overall, the findings of this research highlight the importance of social work in promoting inclusive and supportive environments for individuals with visual impairments. By incorporating vocational training programs, collaborating with relevant organizations, advocating for inclusive policies, and prioritizing ethical considerations, social workers can play a vital role in improving the livelihoods of individuals with visual disabilities.

5.5 RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations section provides specific suggestions for action, indicating who should take responsibility and what needs to be done. These recommendations should be based on Education 5.0 principles with clear and measurable outcomes:

POLICY/PROGRAMMATIC RECOMMENDATIONS:

Develop policies that promote financial support, accessible training, and assistive technologies for people with visual impairments engaged in poultry projects. Policy recommendations are another important way to improve the impact of poultry projects on the livelihoods of people with visual impairments. One key policy recommendation is to develop financial support policies that make it easier for people with visual impairments to access the resources they need to participate in poultry projects. This could include financial assistance for assistive technology, transportation, or training. It could also include tax incentives for businesses that hire people with visual impairments. These policies can be developed at the national, regional, or local level, depending on the specific needs of the community. They can also be developed with input from people with visual impairments and other stakeholders to ensure that they are effective and

responsive to the needs of the community. Policies that promote financial support can help to level the playing field and ensure that people with visual impairments have the same opportunities as their sighted counterparts.

Establish programs to facilitate market linkages and value chain development, enabling individuals with visual impairments to access broader market opportunities. Another policy recommendation is to establish programs that facilitate marketing linkages for people with visual impairments. This could include working with local organizations and businesses to create market opportunities for products produced by people with visual impairments. It could also include creating online platforms that allow people with visual impairments to sell their products directly to consumers. This could help to increase their income and reduce their reliance on financial assistance. It could also build their confidence and self-esteem, and empower them to take control of their economic future.

STAKEHOLDERS/PARTNERS BASED RECOMMENDATIONS:

Fostering partnerships among various stakeholders is crucial for improving the livelihoods of individuals with blindness or low vision engaged in poultry projects. These stakeholders include government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), poultry farming associations, and disability organizations. By collaborating with each other, they can provide ongoing support, mentorship, and access to resources and services that individuals with sight loss need to succeed in poultry farming. Government agencies play a vital role in this partnership. The department of agriculture can offer technical assistance, the department of labor can provide employment opportunities, and the department of social welfare can provide financial assistance. These

services can help individuals with blindness or low vision overcome the unique challenges they face in poultry farming.

In addition to government agencies, partnerships with vocational training institutions are also essential. These institutions can integrate poultry farming skills into their curriculum, ensuring that individuals with sight loss receive comprehensive training. This training can include skills such as poultry production, marketing, and business management. Moreover, vocational training institutions can provide certification or accreditation that can help individuals with blindness or low vision access jobs or start their own businesses. Examples of successful partnerships include vocational training institutions that offer courses in poultry production specifically for individuals with blindness or low vision. These institutions can provide tailored support and resources that cater to the unique needs of individuals with sight loss. In conclusion, fostering partnerships among stakeholders is crucial for enhancing the livelihoods of individuals with blindness or low vision engaged in poultry projects. By working together, government agencies, NGOs, poultry farming associations, disability organizations, and vocational training institutions can provide the support and resources needed to help individuals with sight loss succeed in poultry farming.

COMMUNITY/RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS BASED RECOMMENDATIONS:

Encouraging community-led support networks or cooperatives is crucial for individuals with blindness or low vision involved in poultry projects. These networks promote peer support, knowledge sharing, and collective problem-solving, leading to improved social and economic outcomes. Community-led support networks can be established through groups, clubs, or existing community organizations, and can be supported by social workers and professionals

working with individuals with sight loss. This approach has been shown to be effective in building social capital, reducing isolation, and fostering a sense of ownership and control over poultry projects.

Facilitating community awareness programs is also vital for addressing attitudinal barriers and promoting inclusivity for individuals with blindness or low vision in poultry farming. These programs educate the community about the needs of individuals with sight loss, encouraging inclusivity and support. Community awareness programs can include workshops, seminars, and presentations on topics like assistive technology, accessibility, and living with blindness or low vision. These programs can be adapted to meet specific community needs, such as offering sign language interpretation or braille materials. By facilitating community awareness programs, individuals with blindness or low vision can be better supported, and their voices can be heard and respected, leading to a more positive and inclusive environment for everyone involved in poultry projects.

SOCIAL WORK BASED RECOMMENDATIONS:

To ensure that individuals with blindness or low vision are fully supported in poultry projects, social work education programs must integrate disability-inclusive practices and training. This equips social workers with the knowledge and skills to effectively support individuals with sight loss. A universal design approach can achieve this integration, creating accessible products, services, and environments for all individuals, regardless of abilities or disabilities. In poultry projects, this means designing equipment and infrastructure with accessibility in mind, such as egg incubators with large, well-contrasted buttons and controls, and providing training in accessible formats like braille or sign language.

Assistive technologies can also facilitate inclusion, such as audio-based technologies like text-to-speech software, enabling individuals with blindness or low vision to access training materials and poultry production information. Voice-operated systems can control equipment and infrastructure, like chicken coops and feeding systems. By incorporating disability-inclusive practices, an inclusive environment is created, supporting the participation of individuals with blindness or low vision and ensuring equal access to the economic and social benefits of poultry production.

Social workers must advocate for the inclusion of poultry farming as a viable option within social work services and vocational training for individuals with blindness or low vision. This involves raising awareness about the benefits of inclusion and the needs of individuals with sight loss, collaborating with policy makers and stakeholders to create a supportive environment, and advocating for increased funding and resources for inclusive projects. This ensures sustainability and lasting impact on the lives of those involved.

5.6 FOCUS FOR FUTURE STUDY

To better comprehend the topic, future research could concentrate on the following areas: Conducting a longitudinal study to examine the long-term sustainability and impact of poultry projects on the livelihoods of people with visual impairments in Zaka. Exploring the specific needs and challenges faced by individuals with visual impairments in different poultry farming systems (e.g., small-scale backyard poultry, commercial poultry farming). Investigating the potential for scaling up poultry projects to benefit a larger number of people with visual impairments and exploring strategies for their successful implementation. Exploring the intersectionality of visual impairment and other marginalized identities (such as gender, age, or

socioeconomic status) in relation to poultry projects, to better understand the unique challenges faced by individuals with multiple identities. Investigating the potential for market linkages and value chain development for poultry products produced by people with visual impairments, examining opportunities for expanding their market reach and income generation.

5.7 CHAPTER SUMMARY

In summary, this chapter provided a condensed summary of the research findings on the impact of poultry projects on the livelihoods of people with visual impairments in Zaka. Conclusions were drawn, highlighting the positive economic, social, and psychological effects of poultry projects. The implications for social work practice were discussed, along with specific recommendations for policy, stakeholders, community, and social work-based actions. Areas for future study were identified to enhance our understanding of the topic and inform future research endeavors. The chapter emphasized the significance of the research and its potential to contribute to the field of social work and the lives of individuals with visual impairments in Zaka.

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APPENDIX 1

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BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

Date: 22 Nov 2023

02


TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

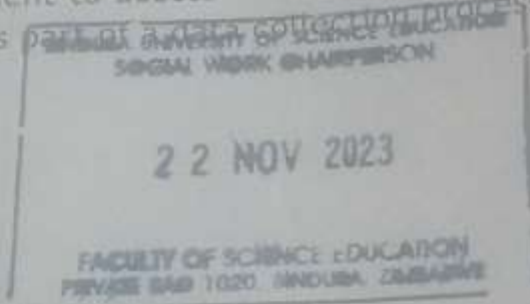
RE: REQUEST TO UNDERTAKE RESEARCH PROJECT IN YOUR ORGANISATION

This serves to introduce the bearer, MUSIWA LAST,
Registration Number B201394B, who is a BSc SOCIAL WORK
at Bindura University of Science Education and is carrying out a research project in
your area/institution.

May you please assist the student to access data relevant to the study, and
possible, conduct interviews as part of a data collection process.

Yours faithfully


MR L.C Nyamaka
Acting Chairperson - Social Work



APPENDIX II

CONSENT FORM

Interview guide for the impact of poultry project on the livelihoods of people living with visual impairment

My name is Musiiwa Last, a fourth year student currently studying Bachelor Honors Degree in Social Work at Bindura University of Science Education. I am carrying a study on the topic entitled, 'The impact of poultry project on the livelihoods of people with visual impairment'. Informed consent will be obtained thus involves explaining the benefit of the research topic and also you are allowed to withdraw during the process if you are not comfortable with the discussions. All the information that will be collected during the study will be kept confidential meaning that your names will not be disclosed in any publications hence you will be protected from any harm. If you agree to participate, please sign the consent form below.

I.....consent to take part in this research under the terms mentioned above. I have added my signature below willingness.

Interviewee's signature..... Date...../...../.....

Interviewer's signature..... Date...../...../.....

RESEACH OBJECTIVES

1 To assess contributions made by the poultry project on the livelihoods of people with visual impairments.

2 To assess the nature of problems being faced by people with visual impairments in the poultry project.

3 To investigate further possibilities for the efforts put into the poultry projects by the people with visual impairments

APPENDIX III

DATA COLLECTION TOOLS

SEMI STRUCTURED INTERVIEWS QUESTIONS

Section A contributions made by the poultry project on the livelihoods of people with visual impairments.

1 What specific skills or knowledge did you gain through your involvement in the poultry project?.....

2How did your participation in the poultry project affect your financial situation?

.....

3How did your involvement in the poultry project affect your family or community?

.....

4 How did your involvement in the poultry project affect your self-confidence and self-esteem?

.....

5What specific opportunities did the poultry project provide for you that you would not have had otherwise?

.....

Section B: nature of problems being faced by people with visual impairments in the poultry project.

1 What were some of the challenges you faced in participating in the poultry project?

.....

2Were there any barriers to participation that were specific to your visual impairment?

.....

3 Did you feel that you had the same opportunities to participate in the poultry project as others?

.....

4 Did you feel that you had the same access to information and resources as others?

.....

5 How did your visual impairment impact your ability to work with others on the poultry project?

.....

6 What support or accommodations would have helped you

.....

Section c: investigate further possibilities for the efforts put into the poultry projects by the people with visual impairments.

1 In what ways could the poultry project be made more accessible or inclusive for people with visual impairments?

.....

2 What resources or support do you think would be most helpful for people with visual impairments to participate in the poultry project?

.....

3 What changes could be made to the poultry project to make it more sustainable and beneficial for the people with visual impairments?

.....

4 Do you think the poultry project is a good investment of time and resources for the people with visual impairments?

.....

5How do you see the poultry project impacting your future plans?

.....

6 Do you think the poultry project has potential for positive long-term changes in your life and community?

.....

7Do you think the poultry project will help to create a more inclusive and accepting community for people with visual impairments?

.....

8 How do you see the poultry project impacting the next generation of people with visual impairments?

.....

9Do you think the poultry project is helping to break down stereotypes and misconceptions about people with visual impairments?

.....