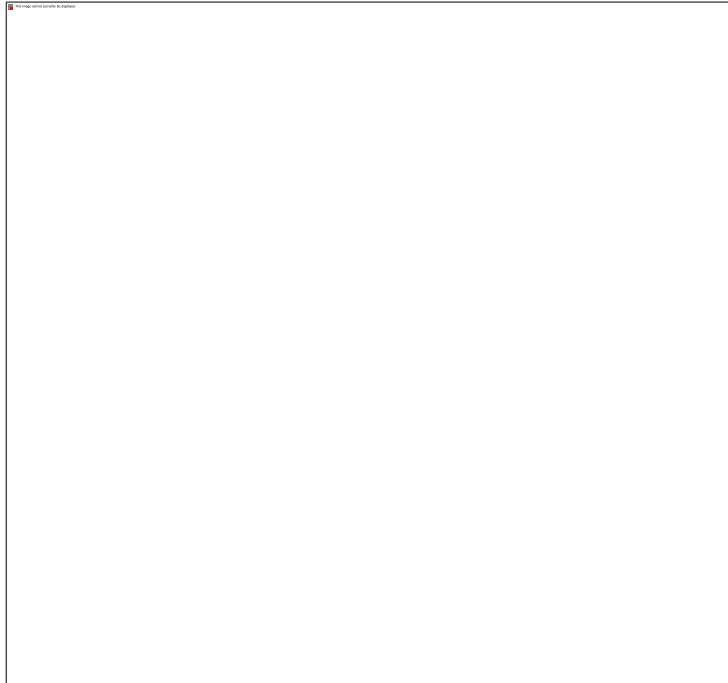BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Department of Social Work

CHALLENGES FACED BY CHILDREN RAISED BY SEX WORKERS IN ZIMBABWE. A CASE STUDY OF CHIVI DISTRICT WARD 25 NGUNDU.

BY

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SUPERVISOR: Ms. Muregi

A DISSERTATION REPORT PRESENTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK, BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION, FACULTY OF SCIENCES, AND HUMANITIES IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE RESULTS FOR THE SOCIAL WORK HONOURS DEGREE.

June   2024

APPROVAL FORM

Supervisory form

I certify that I have supervised Tafadzwa Nelia Ndlovu in conducting an explorative study titled: **Challenges Faced by Children Raised by sex workers in Zimbabwe. A case study of Chivi District Ward 25 Ngundu,** in partial fulfillment of a bachelor of science (honors) degree in social work accepted by Bindura University of Science Education

Name..................................signature.................date.......................

The department board of examiners chairperson

The undersigned represent that the department board of examiners is confident in the following project report: **Challenges faced by children raised by sex workers in Zimbabwe.** A case study of Chivi District ward 25 Ngundu by Tafadzwa Nelia Ndlovu. I therefore recommend that the dissertation paper be accepted by Bindura University of Science Education in partial fulfillment of the requirements of a bachelor of science (honors) degree in social work chairperson.

name......................................signature......................date...............................

Declaration form and release form

I Ndlovu Tafadzwa Nelia, studying for a Bachelor of Science (honors) Degree in Social Work, is truthfully expressing this fact: the project report titled '**Challenges faced by children raised by sex workers in Zimbabwe**' is a comprehensive study. "A case study of Chivi District ward 25 Ngundu" is a result of my own research and has not been copied. In my work with social work, I have followed the research ethics established by the EPA. Bindura University of Science Education has been granted permission to use this dissertation report solely for academic purposes.

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Abstract

This study explores the experiences of children living with parents who engage in sex work in Chivi District, Ward 25 Ngundu, Zimbabwe. The aim is to identify the challenges and needs of this population and propose strategies to address them. The research adopts a qualitative approach, specifically a case study design, to gain an in-depth understanding of the social, emotional, and psychological experiences of these children. Ten children between the ages of 5 and 17 were purposively sampled as participants. In-depth interviews and key informant interviews were conducted to collect data on their experiences. The findings reveal that children raised by sex workers face various challenges, including stigma, trust issues, barriers to education, and social isolation. However, they also develop coping mechanisms such as seeking peer support, focusing on education and extracurricular activities, and finding support from extended family, community members, and non-governmental organizations. Recommendations include implementing comprehensive sex education programs in schools, creating vocational training opportunities, conducting sensitization campaigns, advocating for the rights of these children, and providing parental support and economic opportunities for families of sex workers. This study contributes to the understanding of the experiences of children raised by sex workers and provides insights for parents, educators, and policymakers to better support this vulnerable population.

Acknowledgement

I would like to start by thanking God for the guidance, courage, and strength He has given me throughout my entire research journey. I want to express my gratitude to my supervisor, Ms. Muregi, for guiding me during the research. I also want to thank my family and friends for their support. A big thank you to the study participants who helped make this research successful. Finally, I am thankful to my lovely husband for helping with finances.

Dedication

I dedicate this dissertation to those who have played a significant role in my research journey, providing continuous support and inspiration. You have been instrumental in my success and made this journey meaningful and enjoyable through your love, encouragement, and belief in my abilities.

I dedicate this research to my husband (Witness) and my parents, Mr and Mrs. Ndlovu, whose endless love and support have been a constant source of motivation throughout my studies.

Acronyms

AIDS — Acquired immune deficiency syndrome

COPE — Children of Prostitutes Empowerment

CFS — Child-Friendly Schools

CPG — Child Protection Grants

CSE — Comprehensive Sexuality Education

CPIMS — Child Protection Information Management System

DSD — Department of Social Development

HIV — Human lmmunodeficiency Virus

NGOs — Non-Governmental Organizations

ZAPPT — Zimbabwe AIDS Prevention Project Trust

MOPSE — Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education

ZNAP-OVC — Zimbabwe National Action Plan on Orphans and Vulnerable Children

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

The experience of children living with parents who engage in sex work is often overlooked, and there is a lack of research in this area. This research explored the social, economic, and psychological impact of this situation on children, and looked at how these children can be better supported by social workers and other service providers. The investigation also needs to consider the scientific implications of this study. This chapter provides an overview of the study's background, the problem statement, goals, aims, objectives, findings, conclusions, limitations, delimitations, the study's justification, and the chapter outline.

1.1 Background of the study

Prostitution is the act of engaging in sexual activity that is not discriminatory, particularly with someone who is not a partner or a friend, in exchange for immediate compensation in money or other valuables (Olofinbiyi 2019). Prostitutes can be male, female, or transgender, and prostitution can include heterosexual or homosexual activity, but the overwhelming majority of prostitutes are traditionally women, with the bulk of clients being male. Prostitution perceptions are based on culturally determined assumptions that differ between cultures. In some societies, prostitutes have been considered members of a recognized profession, but in others, they have been marginalized, detained, and even faced death. Workers have had little or no legal problems in many societies. In some cultures, prostitution has been imposed on young girls as a rite of puberty or as a way of obtaining a dowry, and some religions have allowed for the prostitution of a particular group of priestesses.

Sex work is a global phenomenon, and the experiences of sex workers and their children can differ greatly among countries and cultures. However, children of sex workers face some common challenges. These include poverty, stigma, a lack of access to education, and an increased risk of violence and abuse. The experiences of children of sex workers can differ according to the region and culture. For example, sex work may be more economically acceptable in some nations, and there may be more employment support services in place for children of sex workers. Sex work in other nations can be illegal or highly stigmatized, making life for children even more difficult (Vanwesenbeeck 2017). The Netherlands is a good example of a country where sex work is legal and socially acceptable. Sex work is considered a legitimate

form of employment in the Netherlands, and there are laws and regulations in place to protect the rights of sex workers and their children. In countries like the Netherlands, it's often easier for children of sex workers to access education and health services (Wijers & Doorninck 2016). On the other hand, sex work in countries such as the United States is illegal, and children of sex workers may be faced with more difficulties in finding employment and support.

1.2 Problem statement

In an ideal world, children should be raised in a nuclear family in which both parents are involved in raising their children and the children learn valuable skills that the parents can do as a unit family. Children with strong links with their parents and a sense of belonging in their families are more likely to cope and thrive. On the contrary, not all children are born in a nuclear family, some are divorced, and some are dying, causing some parents to commit resolute prostitution. Children learn from the family by observing and demonstrating, so they will conform and mimic the people around them in their behavior and actions. When it comes to the development of a child, the family is the primary socialization unit, so children are molded by values, and norms that they learn to live with. A child who is raised in a society in which the parent is involved in sex work can be socially and psychologically impacted. Despite the vulnerability of children who live with parents who engage in sex work, little is known about their experiences and the challenges they face in seeking help. This dissertation seeks to fill this void in knowledge by investigating the lives of children in this situation and identifying the support needs of this group.

1.3 Aim of the study
To explore the experiences of children living with parents who engage in sex work, to identify the challenges and needs of this population, as well as potential strategies for addressing these challenges

1.4 Objective of the study
1.4.1 To explore the social, emotional and psychological challenges faced by children living with parents who engage in sex work.

1.4.2 To identify coping mechanisms and support systems utilized by children living under the care of parents who engage in sex work.

1.4.3 To provide recommendations for parents, educators, and policymakers to better support children who are raised by parents involved in sex work.

1.5 Research questions

1.5.1 what are the social, emotional and psychological challenges faced by children living with parents who engage in sex work?

1.5.2 what are the mechanisms and support systems utilized by children living under the care of parents who engage in sex work?

1.5.3 what are the recommendations for parents, educators, and policymakers to better support children who are raised by parents involved in sex work?

1.6 Assumption of the study

Assumption is a term used to describe concepts that are accepted as true by reason or logic, but without proof or verification. There are possible assumptions in the case study, which include: children living under the care of parents who are prostitutes are at increased risk of adverse health, educational, and social outcomes. Another assumption of the study is that challenges faced by these children are complex and require a multi-faceted approach to address them. Additionally, the study assumed that there is a lack of knowledge and understanding about the specific challenges faced by these children. It is also assumed that there are barriers to accessing support for these children and their families.

1.7 Significance of the study

The significance of the research is a written statement that explains why your research is necessary (Terrell, 2022). It is a defense of the value of a project and its effect on a research field; it is a contribution to new knowledge and how others will benefit from it. The case study helps to raise awareness of the challenges faced by children who are under the custody of prostitutional parents, as well as the provision of more appropriate support services to these children. In addition, the case study helped to better grasp the larger issue of child care and the role of family in child development. Therefore, it is important that, the researcher has the necessary time to carry out the investigation. This could help draw up a variety of different interpretations of the findings and address any gaps that may have been overlooked by previous scholars who performed similar research.

1.8 Delimitations of the study

The student should limit the number of questions she asks during the interview. This could help to make sure that the children do not feel overwhelmed or pressured to provide more information than they are comfortable with. The researcher could also consider setting boundaries and the kinds of questions she asks. For example, she could avoid asking questions that are too personal or that might make the children feel uncomfortable. Instead, she could focus on asking questions that are relevant to her research, but that are not too intrusive.

1.9 Iimitations of the research

The possible limitations of the study are the fact that children might not be able to accurately recall or describe their challenges. They also have a hard time understanding the questions asked by the researcher or they might not feel comfortable being completely honest. The researcher might face an ethical dilemma which is the potential for causing emotional harm to the children by asking them to talk about their challenges since this is a sensitive topic. This is a particularly difficult issue to navigate because she wants to get accurate information from the children, but she wants also to make sure they are not being harmed by participating in the research.

1.10 Definition of key terms

Children: According to the United Nations of Conventional Rights of Children (UNCRC) a child is every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, the majority is attained earlier. Also, both the Constitution of Zimbabwe (section 81) and the Zimbabwe National Orphan Care policy define a child as any person below the age of 18 years.

Sex Worker: engage in sexual intercourse as a means of earning money. Sex workers are adults who receive money or goods in exchange for consensual sexual services or erotic performances, either regularly or occasionally (Eboh 2022).

Prostitution: according to Big-Alobo (2023) prostitution, is the practice of engaging in relatively indiscriminate sexual activity, in general with someone who is not a spouse or a friend, in exchange for immediate payment in money or other valuables.

1.11 Ethical considerations

Ethical considerations are a set of principles that govern student study research proposals and methods. Ethics is about separating right and wrong, as well as providing a framework for a responsible and acceptable code of conduct. Ethical considerations are used to protect the rights and interests of both the study participants and the researcher. The following ethical considerations could be used in this study.

1.11.1   Confidentiality

Confidentiality refers to the act of gathering or storing records. When working with children, confidentiality is one of the most important ethical considerations. To ensure confidentiality, the researcher should make sure that the children understand that their information will be kept private and that it will only be used for the research. She should also have a plan in place for how the children's information could be stored and who could have access to it. In addition, she should make sure that the children know how to contact her if they have any questions or concerns about the confidentiality of their information

1.11.2 Informed Consent

To ensure informed consent the researcher should make sure that the children are given all the relevant information about the research in a way that they can understand. The information could include the purpose of the study, the research's methods, the methods used in it, the risks and benefits of participating in the study, and the ability to withdraw at any time. It is also important to make sure that the children can ask questions and get answers before they decide whether or not to participate.

1.11.3 Autonomy

Autonomy is about respecting the children's right to make their own decisions. When it comes to research, this means that the children should be able to decide for themselves whether or not they want to participate. It is important to remember that children's autonomy is not the same as adults' autonomy. Children's capacity for making decisions is still developing, so they may not have the same level of autonomy as adults. The writer should still do her best to respect their autonomy as much as possible.

1.11.4   Beneficence

This ethical consideration is all about doing well and avoiding harm. In the context of research with children, it means making sure that the research is beneficial and that it does not cause any unnecessary harm. To ensure beneficence, the researcher should make sure that the research is designed in a way that benefits the children and that any risks or harms are minimized as much as possible. She should also make sure that the potential benefits of the research outweigh any risks or harms.

1.12 Chapter summary

The chapter introduced the study and provided background information. The chapter also provided the aim, objectives, significance of the study, research questions, assumptions of the study, delimitations of the study, limitations of the study, definition of key terms and ethical considerations. The following chapter reviews relevant literature and provides a theoretical framework that guides the study.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

In this chapter, the researcher explored the experiences of children who are raised by sex workers. The researcher started by examining the theoretical framework that guided her research, specifically the social learning theory and systems theory. These theories could help to understand the experiences of children living with parents involved in sex work. Additionally, she reviewed the existing literature that relates to the study. This chapter provides an overview of the current research to identify areas that her study aims to address.

2.1 Theoretical framework

The purpose of this study is to investigate the lives of children who grow up with parents involved in sex work. To better understand the experiences of children raised by parents engaging in sex work, the researcher used two theoretical frameworks; systems theory and social learning theory. The research aims to highlight the unique challenges and opportunities faced by these children while concurrently considering the broader social implications. The theoretical framework could provide a comprehensive lens to examine the intricate relationships between the individual, family, and social factors influencing their development and well-being. The study aims to gain a deeper understanding of the lives of these marginalized populations and to inform policies and support structures that can improve their resilience and overall development. Due to the nature of their parents' careers, children raised by them often face unique challenges and stigmatization. Understanding the lives of these children is critical to implementing appropriate interventions and support services that can be tailored to their specific needs. The theoretical foundation for this study is based on systems theory and social learning theory.

2.1.1 System theory

The systems theory, first introduced by Ludwig von Bertalanffy (Bertalanffy, 1973), focuses on the complex interrelations within an entity, envisaging it as an interconnected whole. In the case, this entity represents the network of events, influences, and circumstances impacting the children studying. Systems theory emphasizes the interconnectedness and interdependence of various systems, such as the family, community, and society, in shaping individual experiences and outcomes. By examining the interactions between these systems, this framework provides a

holistic understanding of the complex dynamic which play in the lives of children raised by parents engaged in sex work.

Systems theory is often used in research that focuses on complex phenomena, like the experience of children who are raised by parents who engage in sex work. This is because systems theory takes into account the interconnectedness of all the elements that make up a system (Sony & Naik 2020). In this instance, the family unit is the system, and the components are the parents, children, and the social and economic context in which they live. So, using systems theory, researcher could consider how all of these elements interact with each other and how they affect the children's experiences. For example, researcher could look at how the parents' involvement in sex work affects their relationships with their children, how it affects the children's relationships with other people, and how it affects the children's access to resources like education and health-care. She also considered how the social and economic context of the family affects these relationships and resources.

Systems theory could help researchers understand the complex ways in which the experience of being raised by parents who engage in sex work can affect children. It can also help to identify the different factors that influence these experiences, and how they interact with each other. This understanding could then be used to develop interventions and policies that take into account the needs of these children and their families. Hayden & Hastings, (2022) suggested that systems theory could also be used in practice, for example, in working with children who are raised by parents who engage in sex work, researchers could use a systems-based approach to identify the different needs of the children and their families, and to develop interventions that address these needs. These could include things like providing social support for children and their families, having access to education and health-care, and implementing measures to reduce stigma and discrimination. In addition, systems theory is not just about identifying and addressing needs, it is also about recognizing and building on the strengths of children and families (Anderson 2019). This approach is commonly known as a strengths-based approach. So, in this research, the researcher also looked at the strengths of the children and their families and considered how these strengths could be used to improve their well-being. Also, systems theory does not just focus on the individual elements of a system, but also on the relationships between them. This is called interdependency so, when looking at children who are raised by parents who engage in sex

work, not only consider the children's needs and experiences, but also how these are affected by the parents' needs and experiences, and by the family's relationships with others.

2.1.2 Social learning theory

Social learning theory, as postulated by Albert Bandura, emphasizes the pivotal role of observational learning, imitation, and modeling in acquiring new behaviors, values, and attitudes. This becomes crucial in assessing the influence of parental engagement in sex work on their children's understanding and interpretation of societal norms and personal values. Aker (2017) proposed that social learning theory, on the other hand, focuses on how individuals acquire knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors through observation and imitation of others. This theory posits that children learn from their parents and other significant figures in their lives, both directly and indirectly. By applying social learning theory, the research aimed to explore how children raised by parents engaged in sex work navigate their unique circumstances and how their parents' occupation influences their development.

According to Edinyang (2016), social learning theory is based on the idea that people learn through observation and imitation, and that this learning occurs in a social context. This makes it a useful framework for understanding the experiences of children who are raised by parents who engage in sex work. Researchers could consider how the children learn about the world how they understand their own experiences, and how these are shaped by their observations of their parents and the world around them. One of the main ideas of social learning theory is that people learn through modeling, which is when they observe and imitate the behavior of others. In this research, researchers could consider how children who are raised by parents engaged in sex work might model their behavior and attitudes. She also considered how they might model the behaviors and attitudes of others who interact with their parents, such as friends, relatives, and members of the community.

Another key concept in social learning theory is reinforcement. This is when certain behaviors are rewarded or punished, which can affect whether or not those behaviors are repeated in the future (Bandura 1976). In this research, the researcher looked at how children's behavior might be reinforced or punished as a result of their parents' work. For example, the children might receive praise or criticism from others based on their parents' behavior. The last key concept is

self-efficacy, which is the belief that a person can successfully perform a task or achieve a goal. In this research, the researcher considers how the children's self-efficacy might be affected by their parents' work and by the reactions of others. For example, if the children observe that their parents are praised for certain behaviors, this might increase their self-efficacy.

2.2 Experiences of sex workers in developed countries

Globally, the experiences of prostitution in developed countries differ significantly from those in developing countries. Pitcher & Wijers (2014) argued that most developed countries have a legal and regulated system for sex work. This can mean that sex workers have more protections and access to health care and other services. However, it can also mean that they are subject to stricter regulation and control. In some cases, they may even be criminalized. This creates a complex environment for sex workers, who may have to navigate multiple systems to get the support they need. Many advocates argue that the Nordic model is the best way to regulate sex work while still protecting the rights of sex workers (Mathieson, Branam & Noble, 2016). The Nordic model does not criminalize the selling of sex, but it does criminalize the buying of sex. The objective of this model is to lower the demand for sex work while also offering assistance to sex workers. Critics of the Nordic model argue that it still results in the stigmatization of sex workers and does not fully protect their rights.

The Netherlands has a long tradition of illicit prostitution, according to Outshoon (2012), and a number of studies have been conducted on sex work. Prostitution in the Netherlands is largely fueled by economic need, according to one study published in the journal 'crime, law, and social change.' Most women who engage in prostitution also do so out of necessity, not by choice, according to the study. According to another study published in the journal 'Social Science & Medicine, many women in the Netherlands enter prostitution because they have no other way to make a living. The Netherlands is often cited as an example of a developed country that has legalized and regulated sex trade. In the Netherlands, there are an estimated 25,000 sex workers, and the industry is tightly controlled (Seals 2015). Sex workers must be at least 21 years old, must register with the government, and must perform regular health checks. The government also works to combat sex trafficking and abuse. In a developed country like the Netherlands, there are a variety of reasons why someone might engage in sex work. It may be a way to earn a living for some. According to Azam, Adriaenssens & Hendrickx (2021), sex workers earn a

higher wage in the Netherlands than the national average. It may be a way to gain autonomy and control over their own lives for others. It may be seen as a way to express themselves or to express their sexuality, according to others. The economic reasons for sex work are complex and multifaceted. In some cases, people are able to function without interruption.

2.3 Experiences of sex workers in developing countries

Sex work in developing countries is often very different from sex work in developed countries. In many developing countries, sex employment is not regulated and often takes place in the informal sector (Boels 2016). Sex workers are therefore much more vulnerable to abuse. For example, sex jobs are often linked to human trafficking in countries such as Thailand and Cambodia. These countries are often destinations for sex tourists from developed countries. Poor conditions, according to Overs(2020), are a major contributor to illicit work in developing countries.

In many cases, people turn to sex work as a way to support themselves and their families. They may have no other means of earning a living, and sex work may be the only way to make ends meet. This is often compounded by other factors, such as a lack of education and gender inequality. While poverty is a major factor, it's also important to consider the role of other factors, such as gender norms and social pressures. In many developing countries, gender norms dictate that men are the breadwinners and women are responsible for domestic duties (Boudet 2014). This can put pressure on women to provide for their families, even if it means engaging in sex work. Additionally, there is often a stigma associated with sex work, which can make it difficult for women to find other sources of income. In addition to poverty and gender norms, it's also important to consider the impact of globalization and migration. In many developing countries, people are forced to migrate in search of work, and they may end up in sex work as a way to survive. Globalization can also lead to the expansion of sex tourism, which can further drive the demand for sex work.

2.4 Experiences of sex workers in South Africa

South Africa is a region where sex work is widespread, and there are a variety of factors that contribute to its prevalence. As mentioned before, one of the main factors is poverty. Mtetwa et al (2020), found that South Africa also has a high incidence of HIV/AIDs, which can lead to women turning to sex work to pay for medical expenses. In addition, South Africa has a long

history of abuse against women, which can lead to the participation of women in sex activities out of curiosity. In South Africa, several studies have been conducted on sex employment. According to a survey conducted by researchers at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, poverty and violence were the primary catalysts of sex work in Durban, South Africa (Coetzee et al 2018). Sex work was also found to be viewed as a last resort for women who had no other means of earning a living, according to the report.

According to another study published in the journal AIDs Care," the majority of sex workers in Johannesburg, South Africa, were drawn to sex work due to economic necessity and suffered high rates of violence. The prevalence of sex work in South Africa has remained relatively stable in recent years, with an estimated 1-3 percent of adults engaged in sex work (Schreiber et al 2020). However, there is a significant regional disparity, with the highest prevalence occurring in urban areas and the lowest prevalence occurring in rural areas. In recent years, the number of male and transgender sex workers has increased. Another interesting trend is emerging amid the summer.

2.5 Experience of sex workers in Zimbabwe

Sex work in Zimbabwe is punishable by severe punishment. Nonetheless, it is also a common practice, and there have been several studies on sex work. According to a study published in the journal 'Reproductive Health Matters,' the majority of sex workers in Zimbabwe were pushed into the profession by poverty (Elmes et al 2017). According to the report, sex workers in Zimbabwe are at a high risk of HIV/AIDs as well as violence and abuse. According to another report published in the "international journal of gynecology & obstetrics," sex workers in Zimbabwe face a variety of challenges, including limited access to health-care and economic instability. Several studies have also examined the legislative and regulatory frameworks that govern sex employment in Zimbabwe (Mabuza 2005). According to another report published in the journal 'African Journal of Law and Criminology,' the legal system in Zimbabwe is ineffective in shielding sex workers from abuse and discrimination. According to another report published in the "British Medical Journal," the criminalization of sex labor in Zimbabwe has resulted in further marginalization and exclusion of sex workers from mainstream society (British Medical Association 1881). Another study, published in the 'Journal of Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndromes," looked at the relationship between sex work and HIV/AIDs in

Zimbabwe. According to the report, sex workers are particularly vulnerable to HIV/AIDs, and the criminalization of sex employment has made it much more difficult for them to access HIV prevention and treatment services. A final report was published in the Southern African Journal of HIV Medicine. According to Aborisade (2019), sex workers often face physical, sexual, and emotional abuse from clients, pimps, and law enforcement officials. In addition, they are often targeted by criminals because they are seen as vulnerable. As a result, many women in the sex work industry live in fear and don't have access to legal protections. They also face social stigma and discrimination, which makes it difficult for them to access health care and other basic services.

According to Mudzviti et al (2020), over 100,000 women are involved in sex work in Zimbabwe. This includes both formal and informal sex work, and it is important to note that the numbers are difficult to quantify due to the stigma and discrimination associated with the job. The majority of women who participate in sex jobs are poor and do not have any other employment opportunities. Many of them also have children to care for, and they often turn to sex work out of love. Violence is one of the biggest challenges for women in the sex work industry in Zimbabwe. (Mavhandu-Mudzusi & Moyo 2022). The government of Zimbabwe has taken steps to address the challenges facing women in the sex work industry. They have, for example, established health clinics that provide free or low-cost services to sex workers. They have also started programs to assist women in finding alternative sources of income. However, these efforts have been sluggish, and many women are now facing violence, poverty, and other challenges. Arresting violent perpetrators could help to create a safer environment for women in the sex industry. However, some people argue that this approach could have unintended consequences. For example, it could increase underground sex jobs, making it even more dangerous for women. Several anti-trafficking programs use empowerment as a key component. Empowerment-based programs aim to develop the ability and confidence of women so that they can make informed decisions about their lives and avoid being marginalized (Samarasinghe & Burton 2007). There are several ways to do this, including job training, financial literacy training, and others.

2.6 The social, emotional and psychological challenges of children living with parents engaged in sex work

The report also includes a review of the literature on the social, emotional, and psychological challenges that children may face when living with parents engaged in sex work. The study examines social stigma and oppression, as well as difficulties in establishing and maintaining peer relationships due to shame, secrecy, social alienation, bullying, teasing, or social alienation from peers who are judgmental about the parent's sex activity, putting an end to mental health problems such as depression anxiety or PTSD.

2.6.1 Social challenges

2.6.1.1Social Stigma and Discrimination

In, 2008 Diangelo, Stephens, and Busza conducted a major study on this social stigma and discrimination, in which they interviewed 33 young adults who were raised by sex workers (Malibu 2014). According to the results of the survey, many of these young adults were stigmatized, with shame, and secrecy as a result of their parent's employment. Children of sex workers are often subjected to a lot of social stigma and discrimination from their peers, teachers, and wider community members. There is a widespread misconception that sex work is immoral or unlawful, which results in fear and judgment directed at the child. This can be manifested in subtle social marginalization, open hostility, or even institutional discrimination (e.g., racial discrimination, or even institutional discrimination). Teachers are treating the child unfairly, according to the article. As a result, the child may be ashamed, defensive, or isolated.

2.6.1.2 Difficulty Forming Peer Relationships

Children of sex workers faced the difficult task of establishing a peer group. Their parents' occupation is notorious for their shame, secrecy, and social alienation, which makes it difficult for them to establish and maintain healthy peer relationships. They may be compelled to conceal their family situation, causing confusion and alienation. Because of their parents' employment, children can be subjected to social alienation, bullying, and discrimination (Rosenberg, 2002). Peers who discover the truth can use judgment, coercion, or abandonment, leaving the child feeling marginalized and unable to fully participate in normal childhood social activities. Children of sex workers are also the subject of cruel bullying, teasing, and social alienation. Some of the young adults also reported difficulties in trusting others and building close

friendships, as they constantly felt the need to shield themselves from potential rejection and betrayal. Other children may mock, taunt, or dismiss them because of their parent's occupation, which they regard as offensive or deviant. This can have a detrimental effect on the child's self-esteem, mental stability, and overall well-being. They may internalize the stigma and come to regard themselves as inferior or less than their peers.

2.6.2 Emotional challenges

2.6.2.1 Feelings of shame, embarrassment, or low self-worth
Children of sex workers may be ashamed or embarrassed about their parents' work, especially if it is stigmatized in their community. This can result in a loss of self-esteem and a feeling of not being worthy. They also had difficulties in developing close friendships with others. The high degree of stigma and shame experienced by these young adults was a particularly worrying finding in this study. For many, their parents' work was a source of shame, forcing them to keep it a secret from others (Hlavka 2017 as cited by Stephen & Busza 2008). They may have felt isolated and isolated as a result. To avoid being judged or insulted by peers, they may try to conceal or minimize their parents' activities. This can be isolating and discourage them from fully expressing their feelings. The child will be perceived as less valuable or "tainted" by association by internalized stigma about sex work, affecting their self-image and confidence.

2.6.2.2 Fear, anxiety, or worry
Sex work carries inherent risks, like violence, exploitation, or health issues. Children may constantly worry about their parent's physical and emotional safety. Children may worry about their parents' safety, legal issues, and financial stability (Sloss & Harper, 2004). They may fear their parent will be arrested, hurt, or taken away from them, causing significant anxiety and insecurity. Concerns about their parent's financial stability, housing, or ability to provide can also weigh heavily on a child's mind. Witnessing the difficulties and uncertainties of their parent's work can be traumatic and make the child feel powerless to help. In the area of study Ngundu in Chivi District Zimbabwe, there are likely many reasons for the prevalence of sex work in Ngundu. One possible reason is the high rates of poverty in the area due to natural disasters such as drought. With limited economic opportunities, some people may turn to sex workers, as a way to earn an income. Karamouzian (2016) reveals that lack of access to education and health care seems like the only option for some people to engage in sex work. The location of Ngundu a

major trucking route may also be a factor. Many truck drivers may be looking for companionship or sexual services while they are on the road, which may contribute to the demand for sex work in the area. Therefore, children of sex workers in Ngundu may face unique social and psychological effects. Additionally, they may experience anxiety and stress related to the uncertainty of their home life. Therefore, it is important to note that, the economic situation of the country can determine the challenges of living under the care of sex workers. In countries with high levels of poverty, children of sex workers may be more likely to experience food insecurity, lack of shelter, and other challenges related to poverty for instance Zimbabwe

2.6.2.3 Confusion, psychological stress, or identity issues

Growing up with a parent in the sex work industry can lead to significant confusion and psychological stress for the child. Children may experience anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem due to their parents' occupation (Cunningham et al., 2011). They may struggle to reconcile their parent's profession with societal norms and expectations, leading to identity issues and a sense of being different or "abnormal" compared to their peers. This confusion can also manifest in feelings of shame, stigma, or a desire to keep their parent's profession a secret, further isolating the child and exacerbating their emotional and psychological distress. The child may also grapple with questions about their future and whether they will follow a similar path, or how to navigate the potential challenges and stigma associated with their parent's work.

2.6.3 Psychological challenges

2.6.3.1 Increased risk of mental health issues like depression, anxiety, or PTSD

Many of these young adults had suffered various forms of abuse, ranging from neglect to physical and sexual abuse, according to the report. Children of sex workers are at a greater risk of experiencing mental health problems such as depression, anxiety disorders, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Children can be subjected to abuse, neglect, or sexual harassment, resulting in post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms (Farley & Barkan, 1998). However, there were some similarities. Children in the Netherlands were more likely to receive help from their parents, and the stigma associated with their parents' employment was less severe. The experiences of children can therefore vary depending on the cultural and legal context in which they live. The study also looks at the lives of children and social workers, as well as adults who were raised by sex workers. Taylor and colleagues (2013), for example, interviewed 19 adult

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women who were raised by mothers who were sex workers. According to the report, the majority of the women suffered some form of injury or loss as a result of their mother's employment. However, children of sex workers may have greater access to basic needs and services in countries with greater economic stability. The lives of children of sex workers are shaped by a variety of factors, including the social and legal context, the economic situation, and the country's culture, according to Benoit et al (2018). It's also important to note that each child's learning is unique

2.6.3.2 Problems with emotional regulation and impulse control

At a young age, disruptions in parenting and exposure to adult themes and behaviors can impede a child's ability to effectively develop emotional regulation and impulse control skills. Children can have trouble coping skills and establishing effective coping skills (Hester, 2017). The unfavorable home environment and a lack of consistent, appropriate parenting for many children of sex workers can result in delays or disruptions in their overall development, including cognitive, social, and emotional development.

2.7 Coping mechanism and support systems utilized by children living with parents who engaged in the sex work

There are a few studies that have specifically examined the coping mechanisms and support systems utilized by children in environments where their parents engage in sex work. One such study was conducted by Deacon (2015) in South Africa. Researchers found that children in these environments often use different coping mechanisms, such as avoidance, distraction, and emotion-focused coping. The research also found that children who have a strong support system, such as supportive adults or siblings, tend to have better outcomes. Some scholars like Lansdown (2022) proposed that children who can develop a sense of agency and empowerment are better able to cope with the challenges they face. This agency can be developed through activities such as education, sports, or involvement in community organizations. These studies suggest that there are a variety of ways in which children can cope with the challenges of growing up in an environment where their parents engage in sex work.

2.7.1 Avoidance and Emotion-focused coping

Avoidance coping involves evading or escaping from stressful situations or emotions. Children of sex workers in Zimbabwe may avoid discussing their parent's occupation with family and

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friends, and even sex workers hide their work from others, or avoid seeking medical attention for fear of being judged or stigmatized (Mungati, 2017). Avoidance coping can provide temporary relief but may exacerbate problems in the long run. Emotion-focused coping involves managing emotions to reduce stress. Children of sex workers in Zimbabwe may use emotion-focused coping strategies like denial, self-blame, or emotional numbing to deal with their situation (Mungati, 2017). While emotion-focused coping can provide temporary relief, it can also prevent individuals from addressing underlying issues and developing more effective coping strategies. Other studies support the use of these coping mechanisms among children of sex workers globally. For example, a study in South Africa found that children of sex workers used avoidance and emotion-focused coping to deal with stigma and discrimination (Sloth-Nielsen & Skelton, 2007). Another study in the United States found that children of sex workers used distraction coping, such as substance abuse, to manage stress and emotions (Cunningham et al., 2011).

2.7.2 Government, Non-governmental Organization Community based support
In addition, looking at coping mechanisms, it would also be useful to explore the various support systems that are available to children in these environments. This could include government programs, non-governmental organizations, and community-based support systems. One example of a government program that has been implemented in a number several is the Child-Friendly Schools (CFS) initiative (UNICEF 2010). This program aims to create safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environments for children. CFS also provides training for teachers and other education staff on child protection, and it works to promote children's participation in decision-making processes. According to Kostelny, & Wessells, (2013), the CFS initiative has been shown to have a positive impact on children's resilience, sense of safety, and academic achievement. Dizon et al (2018) say that another example of a government program that provides support to children is the Child Protection Grant (CPG) in South Africa. This program provides financial assistance to families who have vulnerable children or need care including children living with parents who are engaged in sex work. The CPG has been found to improve the health and well-being of children, as well as their educational attainment (Drapeau et al 2022). These are just two examples of the types of support systems that are available to children in environments where their parents engage in sex work. Many other programs and initiatives are working to improve the lives of these children.

Several organizations work with children in Zimbabwe, such as UNICEF and Save the Children, that could be valuable sources of information (Lee et al 2002). These organizations often conduct research and publish reports that could be useful for the dissertation. One source of information that could be useful is the Zimbabwe National Action Plan on Orphans and Vulnerable Children (ZNAP-OVC). The plan was developed by the government of Zimbabwe in partnership with UNICEF and other organizations (Mizeck 2012). It provides an overview of the situation of orphans and vulnerable children in Zimbabwe, as well as strategies for addressing their needs. According Maingi (2022), another other source of information could be the Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS), which is a system that is used to track data on children who need protection for example neglected children including children living with parents who engaged in sex work. This system is managed by UNICEF in collaboration with other organizations.

2.7.3 Child Welfare and Protection system

According to Mutambanengwe (2022), there have been some studies conducted in Zimbabwe that have explored the impact of child welfare and protection systems on children who have been affected by sex work. These studies have found that children involved in the child welfare system often experience a variety of challenges, including homelessness, trauma, and mental health issues. However, they have also found that there are some promising approaches to addressing these challenges, such as the use of trauma-informed care. In addition, Busza et al (2014) review that, their studies conducted in Zimbabwe have explored the experiences of children whose parents engage in sex work. These studies have found that these children often feel stigmatized and isolated, and they may experience difficulties in school and with their peers. However, according to Wight & Fullerton, (2013), some effective interventions can be implemented to support these children, such as providing them with safe and supportive environments, and ensuring that, they have access to high-quality education. There is also, a growing body of literature on the experiences of children whose parents engage in sex work in other countries, such as Canada and Australia. Also, according to Wight and Fullerton, this literature has focused on a variety of issues, including the impact of HIV/AIDS on these children, the experiences of girls who are engaged in transactional sex, and the role of child-headed households. The literature has also examined the issue of child labor and the relationship between poverty and the engagement of parents in sex work. This literature has provided

valuable insights into the experiences of these children and their families, and it has also highlighted the need for effective interventions to support them.

2.8 Recommendations for parents, educators and policy makers to better children in raised by parents engage in sex work.

Haney et al (2020) proposed that, in the United States, there is a growing body of literature on how to support children with parents who engage in sex work. One of the leading scholars in this area is Dr. Melissa Farley, who has conducted several studies on this issue. Dr. Farley's work has focused on the impact of prostitution on children, including the effects of parental prostitution on the child's development, identity, and family relationships (Farley 2018). Her research has also looked at the importance of supportive services for children and families affected by prostitution. One of Dr. Farley's key findings is that children of parents who engage in prostitution are at increased risk for several negative outcomes, including depression, anxiety, and substance abuse. Additionally, these children may experience difficulties with their self-esteem and sense of self-worth. They may also have problems forming healthy relationships, and they may be at risk for sexual exploitation themselves. Dr. Farley's research has also found that it is important to provide children and families with services that are trauma-informed, culturally competent, and strengths-based (Blair 2022).

2.8.1 Trauma - informed care

Trauma-informed care, according to Classen & Clark, (2017), is a method that takes into account the effects of trauma on an individual's life and helps them to recover from it. It is based on the assumption that many people who have been affected by trauma have developed coping skills that may be difficult or harmful. In the recovery process, trauma-informed care emphasizes the importance of stability, confidence, and empowerment. Culturally competent care, according to Williamson & Harrison (2010), is an approach that respects an individual's cultural background while still taking into account how culture can influence their experiences and needs. Finally, strengths-based care focuses on the individual's potential resilience rather than on their weaknesses. A trauma-informed, culturally competent, and strengths-based approach can provide a nurturing environment for children and families affected by prostitution (Janicic 2018). This form of care can reduce the chance of further injury and promote healing. It is important to note that these strategies are not limited to mental health professionals; they can be used by anyone

who works with children and families affected by prostitution, including social workers, educators, and other service providers.

2.8.2 School Support system

It is also important to consider the role of the school system in supporting children who engage in prostitution (Murnan, Bates & Holowacz, 2020). Schools can play a vital role in providing a safe and nurturing environment for these children. They can also help to identify children who may be at risk and provide them with the appropriate assistance. In addition, schools can play a role in educating children about healthy relationships and sexual wellness. Herrmann et al (2013) argued that by implementing Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE), schools can further support children with parents who engage in prostitution. Comprehensive Sexuality Education stands for cultural sexuality and relationships, which provides accurate and age-appropriate information about human sexuality and relationships (People 2021). This form of education is effective in reducing risky sexual conduct and ensuring positive outcomes for young people. Schools can also take steps to foster a healthy learning environment. To do so, we need to create a safe and nurturing environment in which all students are valued and appreciated. This can be achieved by adopting policies and practices that promote inclusion, fairness, and diversity. In addition, schools can work to foster a sense of belonging and belonging among students.

2.8.3 Case Management and advocacy

According to Murnan, Bates & Holowacz (2020) social workers like policymakers can play a vital role in supporting children with parents who engage in prostitution. Social workers can provide individual and family therapy, as well as case management and advocacy services. They can also connect families to community resources, such as food assistance, housing, and clothing. Social workers can also help to educate families about the legal system and their rights. In addition to the support provided by social workers, there is also a need for more systemic change, this could include policies that address the root causes of prostitution, such as poverty, inequality, and gender discrimination (Finn 2020). It could also include increased funding for programs that support families and children affected by prostitution. Another important factor to consider is the role of the community in supporting children with parents who engage in prostitution. Terry & Townley, (2019) revealed that community members can provide social support, serve as role models, and help to advocate for policy changes they can also help to create a more accepting

and nurturing environment for these children. An example of a community-based program that supports children with parents who engage in prostitution is the Los Angeles-based organization Children of Prostitutes Empowerment (COPE). COPE works to empower children and their families through education, advocacy, and other services (Zastrow & Hessenauer, 2022). They also provide a safe place for children to express themselves and their stories.

2.3 Literature gaps

While some studies emphasize the importance of support services, more research is needed to be done on the effectiveness of specific interventions and support services for children of sex workers. The bulk of research is centered on mothers in sex work, with no focus on the role and impact of mothers or other caregivers. In addition, research often ignores the interrelated identities (e.g., gender, sexuality, and class) that may influence the lives of children of sex workers. An intersectional study may lead to a more nuanced understanding. Different policy and legal regimes can influence the lives of children of sex workers, and research could uncover best practices for supporting these families. Addressing these gaps will help deepen our understanding of the complex challenges that confront children of sex workers and inform the development of effective support services and policies.

2.3 Chapter summary

The chapter adopts systems theory and social learning theory as theoretical frameworks, the research aimed to shed light on the experiences of children raised by parents engaged in sex work. The chapter examined literature that was global, regional, and local to explain why people engaged in sex work were portrayed in the literature. In addition, this report aims to expand the existing knowledge base and inform initiatives and support programs that can improve the well-being and resilience of children who live with parents who engage in sex work. By understanding their experiences, policymakers, social workers, and community organizations can develop appropriate interventions and support mechanisms to improve the well-being of these children and address the unique challenges they face.

CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY

3.O Introduction

This section presents a qualitative research design to investigate the impact of parental involvement in sex work on children's well-being in Chivi District, Ward 25 Ngundu, Zimbabwe. The chapter also explored the target population, sample size, data collection method and data presentation and analysis.

3.1 Research approach

In this study, a qualitative research method was used. Qualitative research is useful for examining complex and nuanced topics, such as the experiences of children raised by sex workers. This approach allows for an in-depth study and appreciation of the experiences, perceptions, and challenges faced by children in this context. Qualitative research yields rich and detailed results, capturing the nuanced perspectives of children affected by parents who engage in sex work.

3.2 Research design

In qualitative research, the case study approach is often used to gain a deeper appreciation of a particular individual or group. In this case, the researcher concentrated on a small number of children who have been raised by sex workers in Zimbabwe Ngundu district. To gather data about their experiences, the researcher used in-depth interviews and a key informant interview. This approach allows us to investigate the unique environment in which these children live and the unique challenges they face.

3.3 Target population

The target population included the children of sex workers. The research targeted children between the ages of 5 and 17 who have parents directly involved in sex work in Chivi District, Ward 25 Ngundu. These children were selected based on their exposure and involvement in their parents' sex work activities.

3.4 Sample size and techniques

In terms of sample size, there is a need to consider the resources available for the study and the level of precision required. Due to the sensitive nature of the subject and the limited resources

available, a purposive sampling method was used. The goal is to select participants who are most likely to provide valuable insights into the experiences of children raised by sex workers. A sample size of 10 children participated, thus ensuring a manageable data collection and analysis process.

3.5 Data collection methods

In-depth interviews and key informant interviews were conducted to gain a complete picture of the children's lives. These methods allow for open-ended questioning and encourage participants to share their thoughts, emotions, and experiences related to their upbringing.

3.5.1 In-depth Interviews

In qualitative research, unstructured interviews have been the most popular data collection technique, according to Ritchie and Lewis (2003). An in-depth interview can be defined as an open-ended study suited to investigating any phenomenon from the perspective of the intended audience (Mckenna and Denver, 2013). The in-depth interviews were crucial in determining subjective aspects of the study, such as experiences, attitudes, perceptions, values, and other aspects of the population being investigated (Showkat, 2017). The method used in this study calls for collaboration between the researcher and the study participants, which effectively avoids power imbalances and excludes the participants (Ritchie and Lewis, 2003). The researcher's primary purpose was to investigate to determine the breadth of responses to the situation of children raised by sex workers in Zimbabwe's Chivi District ward 25 Ngundu. The researcher used open-ended questions in a non-threatening manner, allowing the participants to express themselves in response to various questions, thereby improving the quantity of information (perceptions) that was explored during the discussions (Neergaard and Uhhoi, 2017). The in-depth interviews were crucial in establishing the experience of children raised by sex workers in Chivi district ward 25 Ngundu Zimbabwe.

3.5.2 Key informant interviews

Key informant interviews were used to gather data from the key informants, such as two teachers and four social workers. Key informants are individuals or groups who have a great deal of expertise in a particular area of study (Shabani & Pauline 2023). Since they both work with children, the purpose of the key informant interviews was to fill knowledge gaps. The involvement of the key informants is due to a growing awareness in the research community of

the importance of examining the lived experiences of sex workers' children (Mckenna 2013). Interviewing these key informants gave us a better insight into the lives of children who live with parents who engage in sex work.

3.6 Data collection tools

According to Kumari (2022), the term data collecting tools refers to the devices or systems used to gather data, such as a paper questionnaire or a system for computer-assisted interviews. To gather results from a variety of perspectives, an in-depth interview and a key informant interview were used in this study. Key informants Interview and in-depth interview was developed to ensure consistency across data collection sessions. These tools contain open-ended questions and prompts that focus on various aspects, including the impact of their parents' involvement in sex work on relationships, education, emotional well-being, and community perception.

3.6.1 In-depth interview guide

When using in-depth interviews as a data collection technique, the tool that came with it was the in-depth interview guide. An in-depth interview guide is a formalized way of gathering data that includes basic open-ended questions related to the problem being investigated (Guion et al., 2012). The interview guide contained questions about specific topics that were relevant to the research questions. These questions sought to understand the experience of children who are living under the care of sex workers in Chivi District Ward 25 Ngundu. The interview guide's structure was flexible enough for the participants in the study to prioritize areas they were comfortable with (Ritchie and Lewis, 2003). This enabled the researcher to respond to the questions raised by the participants by investigating (Cresswell, 2012). The basis of the interview guide was a set of questions.

3.6.2 Key informant interview guide

The key informant interview guide was used to gather data from the key informants, who are information reservoirs within the community. A key informant interview checklist is a set of interview questions aimed at people who have an in-depth knowledge of what is happening in their communities (Marshall, 1996). In Chivi District Ward 25 Ngundu, the key informant interview guide contained open-ended questions on the lives of children who are raised by parents who engage in sex work. This allowed us to get a sense of the perceptions that might have been overlooked or ignored during the in-depth interviews. The main informant interview

guide provided examples in which gaps in accessible information were eliminated (Guion et al., 2012). In this study, the key informants were social workers at ZAPPT and Development of Social Development and teachers.

3.7 Data presentation and analysis

The findings were presented through narrative descriptions, direct quotes, and ensuring a clear and engaging presentation of the research outcomes. These thematic categories present a comprehensive understanding of the experiences of children raised by parents involved in sex work in Chivi District, Ward 25 Ngundu. The collected data was analyzed using thematic analysis. This involves identifying and organizing recurring themes, patterns, and concepts that emerge from the data.

3.8 Pilot testing /pretesting of instruments

Before commencing the study, a pilot testing or pretesting of the data collection tools was conducted. It involves engaging a small group of children (not part of the target population) to provide feedback on the clarity, relevance, and suitability of the interview guides and focus group discussion guides. Necessary revisions were made based on their feedback, ensuring the data collection tools were appropriate and effectively captured the desired information.

3.9 Ethical considerations

In research, ethical considerations are a set of rules that guide the researcher in determining research goals and strategies. These principles include voluntary participation, informed consent, anonymity, confidentiality, risk assessment, and results communication. When conducting a study, ethical considerations must be taken into account. It is vital that the children enrolled in the study are not endangered in any way, and that their privacy and anonymity be respected. It is also important to consider the potential benefits of the experiment for the participants and to ensure that they are properly conversant with the experiment and its implications. Ethics is about separating right and wrong, as well as providing a framework for a responsible and acceptable code of conduct. The rights and interests of both the study participants and the researcher are protected by ethical considerations. In this research, the following ethical considerations were used.

3.9.1 Confidentiality

Confidentiality refers to the act of gathering or storing records. When working with children, confidentiality is one of the most important ethical considerations. To keep confidential, the researcher should make sure that the children understand that their information will be kept private and that it will only be used for the investigation. She also has a blueprint for how the children's information will be stored and who will have access to it. In addition, she made sure that the children knew how to contact her if they had any questions or concerns about her records' confidentiality.

3.9.2 Informed Consent

To ensure informed consent, the researcher should make sure that the children are given all of the relevant information about the study in a manner that they can comprehend. The information collected includes the purpose of the study, the research's design, the methods used, the benefits and drawbacks of participating in the study, and the ability to withdraw at any time. She also ensured that the children were able to ask questions and get answers before deciding whether or not to participate.

3.9.3 Autonomy

Autonomy is about respecting the children's right to make their own decisions. When it comes to research, this means that the children should be able to decide for themselves whether or not they want to participate. It is important to remember that children's autonomy is not the same as adults' autonomy. Children's capacity for making decisions is still developing, so they may not have the same level of autonomy as adults. The researcher did her best to respect their autonomy as much as possible.

3.9.4 Beneficence

This ethical consideration is all about doing good and avoiding harm. In the context of research with children, it means making sure that the research is beneficial and that it does not cause any unnecessary harm. To ensure beneficence, the researcher should make sure that the research is designed in a way that benefits the children and that any risks or harms are minimized as much as possible. She was also ensuring that the potential benefits of the research outweigh any risks or harms.

3.10 Chapter summary

The chapter presented the research approach, research design, study population, sampling methods and techniques. Data collection methods, data collection tools, data analysis and the ethical considerations were discussed within the chapter. This proposed research design aimed to shed light on the experiences of children who are raised by parents involved in sex work in Chivi District, Ward 25 Ngundu. By utilizing qualitative research methods, valuable insights can be gained into the challenges, resilience, and potential support systems available for these children

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter aims to present research findings as well as an overview and discussion of them. The chapter begins with a survey of the demographic age and gender of the respondents to in-depth interviews and key informants, which is presented and discussed in the next section. This section is followed by the qualitative presentation of findings on the experiences of the children raised by sex workers in Zimbabwe Chivi District Ward 25 Ngundu as the study settles. The following section covers coping mechanisms and support systems and ways in which these experiences and challenges can be improved.

4.2 Demographic information
4.2.1Table

Gender and age of partcipants

Age (years)	Male	Female
7-10	0	1
11-13	1	2
14-16	1	1
17-18	2	2

Table 1

As shown in the table above, the demographic breakdown of the respondents shows that the largest age group is 17-18 years old, with 4 out of 10 respondents in this age range. There is an even split between male and female respondents, with 4 males and 6 females. Notably, there are no male respondents in the youngest age group, 7-10 years old. This may be due to that, boys in this age range were less likely to participate in in-depth interviews. The demographic data also shows that there is a slight increase in the number of respondents in the 17-18-year-old age range, compared to the 11-16-year-old age range. This may be because this age range is when young people are going through a period of rapid development and are more likely to be able to engage

in in-depth interviews. It is important to note that the data is based on a small sample size, so it may not be representative of the entire population. Additionally, the demographic shows that in the age range of 11-13, 2 girls participated and a boy. One potential insight that can be gained from the data is that the experiences of children raised by sex workers may vary based on their age. For example, children in the younger age groups may have less understanding of the situation and its implications, while children in the older age groups may have a better understanding but may also face different challenges, such as dealing with stigma or social isolation. Another potential insight from the data is that the experiences of children living with parents who engage in sex work may vary based on their gender. For example, the data suggests that female respondents may be more likely to share their experiences than male respondents, which could indicate that female respondents may be more comfortable talking about their experiences or that they may have had different experiences than male respondents. This insight could be explored further by analyzing the specific experiences shared by female and male respondents.

4.2.2 Table

Demographic Information for key informants for gender organization

Agency	Female	Male
MOPSE	1	1
DSD	1	1
ZAPPT	2	0

Table 2

The above data shows that there are more female than male key informants, with four female and two male key informants. This information suggests that the experiences and insights shared by key informants may be more reflective of the experiences of girls and young women than of boys and young men. This gender imbalance may also reflect the demographics of professionals working with children whose parents engage in sex work, or it may indicate that female professionals are more willing to participate in research on this topic. The data also shows that

key informants were drawn from three organizations, the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, the Department of Social Development, and the Zimbabwe Aids Prevention Project Trust. Given that the key informants were from three different organizations, it is important to consider how the perspectives and experiences of these organizations may differ. For example, the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education may have different insights than the Department of Social Development, and the Zimbabwe AIDS Prevention Project Trust may have a different perspective than the other two organizations. Taking these differences into account helped to ensure that research and interventions are comprehensive and inclusive.

4.3 Social, emotional, and psychological experiences of children living with parents who engage in sex work

In this chapter, the researcher presents the findings of the study on the social, emotional, and psychological experiences of children living with parents who engage in sex work in Chivi District, Ward 25, Ngundu. The objective of this section is to provide an in-depth understanding of the challenges faced by these children and the impact it has on their overall well-being.

4.3.1 Social experiences and challenges

The social experiences and challenges faced by children of sex workers can be varied and complex. According to key informants and in-depth interview participants, one of the most significant challenges is the stigma and discrimination that these children may face, due to the societal attitudes towards their parent's work. They may be judged and treated unfairly by others, even if they have no choice in the matter. This can have a profound impact on their self-esteem and social interactions.

One key informant has to say:

> *"In my opinion, one of the biggest challenges living under the care of parents who engage in sex is stigma. They may be judged or looked down upon because of their parent's work, even if they had no say in the matter. Society's attitudes and perceptions can have a significant impact on the experiences of children of sex workers. If society views sex work in a negative light, this can lead to stigma and discrimination against the children of sex workers. They may be judged by others based on their parent's work, rather than their faced by children own merits."*

Another key informant revealed that:

"The children of sex workers may struggle with issues of trust, as they may be afraid that people will find out about their parent's work and use it against them. They may also have a hard time making friends or forming relationships, as they may worry about how others will react to their parent's work"

Another key informant expressed that:

"Children of sex workers may face barriers to education, due to discrimination, lack of resources, or difficulty attending school due to their parent's work schedule. And also, financial constraints and parental absence can hinder children's access to formal education, affecting their long-term prospects and opportunities.

Participant from in-depth interview has to say:

"Being a child of sex worker affected my relationship with others so much, some children were told not to associate with me because they believed that they might learn bad habits from me due to my mother's work "

Another participant from the in-depth interviews noted that:

"I was constantly subjected to insults and ridicule from my peers and adults because of my mother's work. Once, someone even called me the son of a bitch"

According to the report, children raised by sex workers are often subjected to social stigma and discrimination from their peers, community members, and even extended family members. They are often called names, marginalized, and ridiculed, which can result in feelings of shame, low self-esteem, and social isolation. According to Rigby (2005), many children of sex workers were subjected to bullying and harassment at school due to their parents' occupations, which had a negative effect on their academic success and overall educational experience. They may be marginalized and made to feel like outcasts in their communities, which can have a detrimental effect on their mental health and well-being. The use of derogatory terms such as "son of a bitch" is deeply troubling, because it not only perpetuates the stigma but also marginalizes children who

are already vulnerable. Due to the transient nature of their parents' lives, these children often lack a stable and nurturing environment. Their frequent moves and changes in work environments stifle their social bonds and make it impossible for them to form lasting friendships. They may also be exposed to harmful environments and adult activities at an early age, which can negatively impact their social growth and well-being. Children of sex workers can internalize negative cultural values and assumptions about the discipline, according to social learning theory. They may then begin to apply these behaviors to themselves, resulting in feelings of shame and low self-esteem (Jacob 2026). This could then affect their ability to have healthy relationships and positively communicate with others. In addition, verbal and emotional abuse they may receive from others can worsen these feelings and make it impossible for them to trust others. Discrimination and a lack of funding can make it difficult for children of sex workers to obtain education. In this situation, children may be greeted with hostile attitudes from teachers and peers, as well as a lack of books, equipment, and transportation to school. In addition, the parent's work schedule can make it difficult for the child to attend school on schedule. These factors can have a major effect on a child's ability to learn and achieve their educational goals.

4.3.2 Emotional experiences and challenges

According to the key informants and participants, children of sex workers face unique emotional challenges due to the stigma and lack of understanding from others. They often feel isolated and alone, and they may have difficulty processing their emotions. Additionally, the absence of their parents, particularly at night, can lead to feelings of insecurity and fear. Some children may become emotionally resilient over time, but others may continue to struggle

One key informant says that:

> *"Children of sex workers may struggle with feelings of isolation or loneliness, as they may not have many people who understand what they're going through. They also have a difficult time processing their emotions, as they may feel like they can't talk about their experiences with others."*

Another key informant added that:

> *" Children may experience emotional and psychological stress due to the stigma, discrimination, and family dynamics associated with their parents' occupation."*

One participant from in depth interview expressed that:

> *" In my mind and my deepest of my heart, l feel that l am hurt of being constantly judged and stigmatized because of my mother professional"*

Another participant from the in-depth interviews added that:

> *"My mother is often not at home, especially at night, which has affected me emotionally. In the beginning, I was afraid to be alone when she left to work, but now I have become more emotionally strong and independent."*

The findings here highlight the emotional toll that being a child of a sex worker can take. These children's loneliness and loneliness can have long-term effects on their mental health, and their inability to process their emotions can be extremely damaging. The need for support and understanding is obvious, and the participants' testimony demonstrates that they are resilient in the face of challenges. However, it is important to remember that no child should be able to face this level of hardship alone. Children who live with parents who engage in sexual activity often experience a variety of intense emotions. They may be ashamed, embarrassed, and worried about their family situation. The findings were consistent with Msalabu (2014), who said that the secrecy and stigma surrounding their parents' careers can instill a sense of fear and anxiety about their futures. Since their parents' jobs often take them away from home for extended periods, many children expressed feelings of annoyance, resentment, and abandonment. Moreover, these children are often neglected emotionally and lack a strong bond with their parents as a result of the demands of their occupation. The absence of parental emotional support and guidance can result in feelings of loneliness, loss, and an attitude of being unloved. As a result, some children experience emotional and behavioral problems, such as depression, anxiety, and rebellious behavior. The systems theory can help to understand how the lives of children of sex workers are shaped by their relationships and interactions with the people and environments around them. This method can help to explain why children of sex workers may experience feelings of loneliness and loneliness, and why they may find it difficult to process their emotions. The findings from the key informant and the in-depth interviews have revealed how the emotional and psychological experiences of children with parents in certain occupations are handled by the main informant. According to the key informant, children may be stigmatized and discriminated

against because of their parents' occupations. The participant in the in-depth interview shares this sentiment, expressing a sense of being constantly judged and marginalized. According to their parents' profession, the children may be subjected to social alienation or negative perceptions from others. Stigmatization and bullying can have a significant effect on a child's emotional well-being and self-esteem. The key informant emphasizes that children can be under emotional and psychological strain as a result of stigma, discrimination, and family dynamics associated with their parents' careers. The in-depth interviewer repeats this sentiment, implying that the child is being hurt by constant criticism and stigmatization. This emotional stress can manifest in a variety of ways, including fear, anxiety, or a lack of self-confidence. To improve the children's well-being, it's important to recognize and address these challenges (Taylor 2013). The participant in the in-depth interviews explains that their mother is often not at home at night, especially at night, which has had an emotional impact on them. The absence of a parent due to work obligations can affect a child's emotional well-being, according to the study. The participant also acknowledges that they have become physically strong and independent with time, which highlights the possibility for resilience and personal development in the face of challenging family dynamics. The participant in the in-depth interview stated that their experiences have given them emotional strength and independence. This indicates that children with parents in those occupations can cope with emotional challenges. Although this may be a positive outcome, it is vital to ensure that children are given the appropriate support and resources to cope with their emotions and maintain their overall well-being.

4.3.3 Psychological experiences and challenges

The psychological experiences and challenges faced by children of sex workers can be complex and multifaceted. One of the key concerns identified by the key informants and participants is the risk of sexual abuse and exploitation, either by the parent or by other people and food insecurity. This can have a profound and long-lasting impact on children's psychological well-being. In addition to this risk, children may also experience a variety of other challenges, such as the inability to form close relationships or the feelings of shame and stigma associated with their parent's work, nightmares, intrusive thoughts, and difficulty concentrating.

 One key informant has to say:

"Children of sex workers face the risk of sexual abuse by their parent or ohers. Also, Children of sex workers may be vulnerable to exploitation, including forced labor, trafficking, or involvement in sex work themselves. "Recently we have the case of a 6-year-old who was involved in sexual assault by one of her mother's clients."

Another key informant added that:

"Parents who engage in sex work may have irregular working hours or be absent for extended periods, leading to a lack of consistent parental care and supervision which may lead to sexual abuse and exploitation. I once heard of a case in which a mother locked up two young children, a 3-year-old and a 6-year-old, while the mother was doing sex work at night."

Participants in-depth interviews expressed that

"I was hurt and traumatized when l was left to take care of my siblings at the age of 11 while my mother went to work. One day a man came looking for my mother and we told him that she wasn't home but he forced his way inside and was unable to find her. He then physically assaulted me and my siblings which left me scarred"

Another participant from in-depth interviews has to say

"Hunger and food insecurity are major challenges we often face. Some days, I have to go to school without eating anything because my mother does not have enough money to buy food. This is not an isolated problem, as many children in the same situation face similar challenges."

According to the report, children who live with parents who perform sex work are at a much higher risk of suffering psychological distress and trauma. Sexual activities, abuse, and substance abuse can have a major effect on people's psychological well-being if you see or encounter them. These testimonies demonstrate the vulnerability of sex workers' children to sexual harassment and abuse. This is a critical issue that necessitates immediate attention from policymakers and the wider society. The fact that this child was only six years old when she was sexually abused is concerning because it emphasizes the need for better protection for children of sex workers. In addition, the psychological and psychological distress suffered by children who are left alone

while their parents are engaged in sexual activity is shown in the participant's testimony. This trauma can have long-term effects on the child's well-being, and policymakers must take steps to address these issues. The need for legal protections for the children of sex workers is obvious, but it is also important to consider the role of social services and community-based assistance in preventing abuse and providing care to these children (Gomez, & Floss 2019). Many children reported having nightmares, snarky thoughts, and difficulty concentrating, which impacted their overall mental health and academic success. In addition, the constant fear of being discovered or judged by others can result in a state of chronic stress and anxiety for these children. They often internalize societal norms and develop negative self-perceptions, which can lead to feelings of shame, guilt, and a distorted sense of self-worth. Children are affected by many factors, including family, friends, and the local community, according to the systems theory. According to the results, a lot of children were exposed to trauma and abuse, which may have a long-term effect on their mental and physical well-being. They may have trouble trusting others and building healthy friendships. For children of sex workers, food insecurity is a significant problem, as many children can attend school without eating anything. This is not only a physical challenge, but also a psychological and emotional one. In this situation, children can face a variety of challenges, including a deficit of concentration, poor academic success, and negative thoughts about themselves and their future. To improve the overall well-being of these children, strategies to combat food insecurity are therefore crucial. Children of sex workers may have no access to basic needs and services in countries with greater economic instability. The experiences of children of sex workers are influenced by a variety of factors, including the social and legal context, the economic situation, and the country's culture, according to Benoit et al (2018).

4.4 Coping mechanisms and support systems utilized by children of sex workers

Despite the challenges they face, children raised by sex workers exhibit remarkable resilience and employ various coping mechanisms to navigate their circumstances. The findings identified several coping mechanisms and support systems which include the following.

4.4.1 Peer support

According to findings from participants from in-depth interviews, children found solace and understanding among peers who shared similar experiences. They formed friendships with other

children in similar situations, creating a support network where they could openly discuss their challenges and provide emotional support to one another.

One participant from the in-depth interviews has to say:

> *"l usually play with a child to my mother's friend and we are good friends who do not laugh at each other"*

Key informant has to say:

> *"Children may seek and build supportive relationships with peers, teachers, or other trusted individuals who provide understanding and encouragement."*

4.4.2 Education and extracurricular activities

According to key informants, education and involvement in extracurricular activities, such as sports and clubs, played a significant role in providing a sense of normalcy and purpose for these children. School provided a structured environment where they could develop skills, form friendships, and receive support from teachers and counselors.

Key informant has to say:

> *"Coping mechanisms that can be utilized by children of sex workers is to focus on their education, hobbies, or other personal interests to help them cope with the challenges they face. They may also turn to creative outlets like art, music, or writing to express their feelings and experiences."*

Participant from in-depth interview expressed that:

> *" I can seek for education to copping with my situation. Education can offer a sense of stability, hope, and a pathway to a different future for us children of sex workers."*

4.4.3 Extended Family , Community and Non-governmental Organizations (NGOS) Support

Some children received support from understanding extended family members or community members who were empathetic to their situation. These individuals provided emotional and financial support, acted as positive role models, and offered a sense of belonging.

Key informants expressed that:

"Coping mechanisms that I have observed in children of sex workers is to find a strong support system. This can include finding friends, family members, or other people who understand and accept them for who they are, for example there are some extended family who are take care of children in same situation and sometimes BEAM programme assist with fees"

Another key informant has to say:

"NGOs and support groups can offer a range of services, including counseling, educational support, vocational training, and advocacy for the rights of children of sex workers. For example, at our organization ZAPPT we offer most of these services to children of sex workers"

Participant from the in-depth interviews has to say:

"All thanks to my maternal grandmother who paid for my school fees since l was in primary till completion of secondary school"

Another participant from the in-depth interviews stressed that:

"I had the chance to get financial support from ZAPPT after my mother was arrested when she beat up a policeman"

4.4.5 Barriers to accessing services and support for children of sex workers

Key informants reviewed the barriers to accessing services and support for children of sex workers. They showed that lack of awareness, financial constraints and limited resources can be a barrier for children of sex workers to access resources. One key informant has to say:

"Limited knowledge about available services and support systems can hinder access, especially if there is poor communication or outreach to the community."

Another key informant expressed that:

"Families may face financial barriers in accessing services that require fees or travel expenses, making it difficult for them to access support."

Another key informant added that:

"Inadequate funding and resources allocated to support programs and services can limit their availability and effectiveness."

According to one of the participants, it seems that playing with their companion is a positive experience and that they can have fun without being judged or embarrassed. This is particularly important because children of sex workers can often feel as though they are being judged or rejected by others. For children of sex workers, one of the most important factors in assisting them in coping with their situation is having a strong support system. Friends, family members, or organizations such as BEAM and ZAPPT can all be considered participants in this process. Some children may be aided by extended family members, while others may be relying on external assistance. According to the systems model, the children of sex workers are part of a larger system that includes their families, acquaintances, employers, and workplaces. The help they receive from these programs can be crucial in assisting them in coping with the challenges they face. The grandmother in this study, for example, can be seen as part of the child's support system, providing financial assistance and stability. ZAPPT's assistance can be seen as part of the child's system, providing financial assistance and support when required. The findings were consistent with Dizon et al (2018), who claim that the child protection grant, which is a similar government initiative that assists children, was an example in South Africa. This program provides financial assistance to families with children who are vulnerable or in need of attention, including children who live with parents who perform sex work. According to Drapeau et al 2022, the CPG has been shown to improve children's health and well-being as well as their educational attainment. Education can also be a vital component in assisting children of sex workers in their recovery because it provides them with the knowledge and opportunities to create a better future for themselves. In addition, financial assistance, whether from an organization or family members, can be vital in helping these children cope with their circumstances. Having access to this kind of assistance can be a lifeline for children of sex workers, giving them stability and hope for the future. In addition, children can find comfort in focusing on their interests and hobbies when faced with the challenges of having a parent who engages in sex work. These pursuits can be a source of comfort and stability, whether it's through study, the arts, or other pursuits. Children can shift their attention away from the difficult

realities of their lives and experience joy and fulfillment in their lives by focusing on these things. According to some scholars such as Lansdown (2022), children who have a sense of control and control are more apt to tackle the challenges they face. This organization can be developed through activities such as education, sports, or involvement in community organizations. In situations that may seem otherwise out of their control, these coping mechanisms can also give one a sense of control and autonomy. The findings highlighted the lack of knowledge about the available services and support systems. Due to this barrier, individuals and families are unprepared for the services and support programs that are available to them. This lack of information can be attributed to poor service providers' or organization's communications or outreach efforts. To solve this problem, it is vital to improve communication channels and outreach activities to ensure that people are well-informed about the various services and support systems available. According to the report, families may face financial difficulties when accessing services that require fees or travel expenses. This financial burden can limit their ability to obtain the assistance they need. To overcome this obstacle, it is important to consider options such as financial assistance or subsidies to help reduce the costs of accessing services. In addition, exploring options such as telehealth or online services can cut travel costs and make services more available to those with financial difficulties. The findings highlight the effect of insufficient funding and support on the availability and effectiveness of support services and programs. Limited funding can result in a shortage of staff, inadequate facilities, and a decrease in service availability. To overcome this barrier, it is essential to advocate for increased funding and resource allocation to support programs and services. This can involve engaging with policymakers, raising awareness about the importance of these services, and highlighting their positive impact on individuals and communities.

4.5 Recommendations for parents, educators, and policymakers

Based on the findings of the study, key informants and participants propose the following recommendations to better support children who are raised by sex workers:

4.5.1 Education and awareness

Some key informants recommended that educators and policymakers should implement comprehensive sex education programs in schools to promote understanding, and empathy, and

dispel myths and stereotypes surrounding sex work. Such programs should address the rights and well-being of children raised by sex workers, aiming to reduce stigma and discrimination.

One key informant proposed that:

> *"Policymakers should ensure that children of sex workers have access to quality education. Which includes making sure that schools are safe and supportive environments, and that there are resources in place to help children of sex workers."*

Another key informant adds on to say:

> *"Creating vocational training programs can equip older children with skills to secure better employment opportunities and financial independence in the future."*

4.5.2 Sensitization and advocacy

Most key informants suggested that, sensitization campaigns should be conducted to raise awareness about the challenges faced by children raised by sex workers and to promote empathy and understanding within the broader community. Advocacy efforts should aim to reduce stigma, discrimination, and social marginalization experienced by these children and their families. One key informant noted that:

> *"Policymakers can create policies that protect the rights and well-being of children of sex workers, such as policies that prohibit discrimination and ensure access to health care and other services."*

Another key informant expressed that:

> *"Policymakers should review existing laws and regulations to ensure the protection of children raised by sex workers. Legal frameworks should prioritize the best interests of the child, addressing issues such as child custody, child protection, and access to basic services"*

4.5.3 Parental support and guidance

key informants revealed that, parents engaged in sex work should strive to maintain open communication with their children, providing them with emotional support and guidance. Efforts

should be made to create a stable and nurturing home environment, ensuring that children's basic needs are met and that they feel loved and valued.

One key informant noted that:

"My recommendation is that, government should create economic opportunities for families of sex workers. This could include job training programs, micro-loans, and other initiatives that help families build financial stability. This is especially important given that many families of sex workers live in poverty."

Another key informant has to say:

"Government should ensure that the parents or guardians have access to the necessary support and resources to enable them to care for their children. This could include providing financial assistance, such as cash transfers or vouchers, to cover basic needs like food, clothing, and housing. It could also involve providing access to health care, including mental health services, and educational opportunities for both the parents or guardians and their children."

4.5.4 Community involvement

key Informants suggested that, community organizations and stakeholders should work collaboratively to create safe spaces and support networks for children raised by sex workers. This can include community centers, after-school programs, and mentorship initiatives that provide positive role models and opportunities for personal development.

Key informant has to say:

"Here at ZAPPT, we provide support groups for children of sex workers, ages 7 to 16, in which we educate them on HIV and AIDS prevention. Given their heightened risk of exposure, we believe it is crucial to offer them a safe space to learn about HIV. We also aim to support them in other ways, such as providing emotional support and helping them to develop healthy coping mechanisms."

Another key informant adds on to say:

"In my opinion, policymakers can invest in community-based programs that support children of sex workers and their families."

Another key informant expressed that to create a more inclusive and supportive environment for Children of sex workers there should be involvement of the community:

"Engage community members, religious leaders, and other influential figures to actively participate in supporting and creating a nurturing environment for these children."

Participants from in-depth interviews came up with the encouragement that can help the children raised by sex workers who are not able to express themselves.

Participants from the in-depth interviews expressed that:

"I would like l say to a child in the same situation as mine, who is afraid to speak up about their challenges that they are not alone. There are many other children out there who have gone through similar experiences and who understand what they are doing. It's important to find a safe space to express their feelings, whether it's with a trusted adult, a friend, or a therapist."

Another Participant from the in-depth interviews noted that:

"In my opinion, accessible and culturally sensitive mental health services should be made available to children raised by sex workers including counseling, therapy, and support groups to address their emotional and psychological needs and help them develop healthy coping mechanisms."

According to the findings, efforts should be made to create a conducive and nurturing home environment, ensuring that children's basic needs are met and that they feel respected and appreciated. This can be achieved by implementing job training programs, micro-loans, and other initiatives that support families in achieving financial stability. This is a good idea, and it would be a practical way to address the root causes of the problems faced by children of sex workers. They can reduce the stress and instability that comes from living in poverty by supporting families in establishing financial stability. This could improve the quality of life for

children and help them to have a more optimistic outlook on life. These findings also highlight the need for a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach to supporting children of sex workers. Policymakers should consider investing in community-based programs that provide a variety of services to these children and their families. Police officers, like Murnan, Bates & Holowacz (2020), can play a vital role in supporting children who have engaged in sex. Social workers can provide individual and family therapy, as well as case management and advocacy services. They can also connect families to local services such as food, shelter, and clothing. Social workers can also assist in educating families about the legal system and their rights. Mental health services such as support and therapy should be included in these programs, as well as educational and social opportunities. Policymakers can help children develop effective coping skills and increase resilience by providing these services. Community members can provide social assistance, act as role models, and help to advocate for policy changes, according to Terry & Townley (2019). They can also help to create a more accepting and nurturing environment for these children. The Los Angeles-based organization Children of Prostitute's Empowerment (COPE) is a case study of a community-based initiative that supports children with parents who engage in prostitution. Darüber Hinaus, making these services available and culturally appropriate is crucial to ensure that they are effective and inclusive of all children. This will further help to break down barriers and stereotypes and will enable children to seek help and support when they need it. In addition, it is important to provide safe spaces for children to express themselves and connect with others who have shared similar experiences. For their overall well-being, it is vital to have a nurturing and nurturing environment for these children. According to the findings, policymakers should prioritize the development of laws and policies that safeguard the interests of children of sex workers. This includes enacting legislation that prohibits discrimination and guarantees access to essential services such as health care and education. Children of sex workers are a part of a larger scheme that includes government policies and regulations, according to the application of systems theory. The policies and regulations in place affect the child's well-being. Policies that prohibit discrimination and provide access to health care and other services can, for example, have a positive effect on a child's life. This perspective emphasizes the interdependence of systems and the importance of considering the child's well-being when designing policies. In addition, it is important to review and update existing legislative structures to ensure that they take into account the child's best interests. This includes addressing issues such as custody,

safety, and access to facilities. Policymakers can help to improve their quality of life and reduce future harm by strengthening legal rights for these children. Quality education can be a key factor in assisting children of sex workers to reach their full potential and tackle obstacles. Schools should be safe and supportive environments that cater to the specific needs of children of sex workers. In addition, there should be a system in place to help children cope with learning difficulties or limitations. As discussed in the literature review, it is also important to consider the role of the school system in supporting children with parents who engage in prostitution. Schools can play a vital role in providing a safe and nurturing environment for these children. They can also help to identify children who may be at risk and provide them with the appropriate assistance. In addition, schools can play a role in educating children about healthy relationships and sexual wellness. The findings were consistent with Herrmann et al (2013) who highlighted that one way that schools can further support children with parents who engage in prostitution is by implementing Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE). COPE works to empower children and their families through education, advocacy, and other services (Zastrow & Hessenauer, 2022).

4.6 Chapter summary

The chapter summarized the study findings and analyzed and discussed them. The step was done chronologically by the objectives of the study. The findings of this study reveal the social, emotional, and psychological challenges of children raised by sex workers in the Chivi district, Ngundu. People can work towards creating a more inclusive and nurturing environment for these children by recognizing their unique challenges and identifying effective support structures, enabling them to flourish and achieve their full potential.

CHAPTER FIVE. SUMMURY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENTATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This is the final chapter of the study on the experiences of children of sex workers in Chivi district ward 25 Ngundu Zimbabwe. The chapter includes a study summary, conclusion, recommendations, and suggestions for future research.

5.1 Summary

The study aimed to explore the social, emotional, and psychological experiences of children raised by parents engaged in sex work in Chivi District, Ward 25, Ngundu, Zimbabwe. The report highlights the challenges faced by children of sex workers and their effect on their overall well-being. Children of sex workers' social situations and challenges are varied and complex. They face a significant stigma and discrimination as a result of their parents' social norms. These children can be unfairly judged and treated by others, affecting their self-esteem and social relationships. The stigma can also compel people to form personal relationships and friendships, preventing them from forming meaningful relationships and friendships. In addition, barriers to study, financial constraints, and parental absence can hinder their access to formal education. Children of sex workers face unique challenges emotionally. They often feel isolated and have trouble processing their emotions due to stigma and lack of empathy from others. The absence of their parents, especially at night, can result in feelings of fear and anxiety. Some children will gain emotional strength with age, but others will struggle with their emotions. These children face a variety of psychological challenges. The risk of sexual abuse and exploitation, either by their parent or others, is a significant concern. The parent's irregular working hours and absence can result in a lack of consistent parental care and supervision, increasing their vulnerability. They may also have trouble establishing close relationships, feelings of shame and stigma, nightmares, irritated thoughts, and difficulty concentrating. These children's food insecurity is another major challenge, that affects their psychological well-being.

Despite the challenges faced by children of sex workers, they display remarkable resilience and employ various strategies to cope with their circumstances. Peer support has been noted as one of the coping strategies. Children find solace and understanding in peers who have similar experiences. They form friendships with other children who are in similar situations, forming a

support network in which they can openly discuss their challenges and offer emotional support to one another. In addition, children can seek and develop friendships with peers, teachers, or other trusted individuals who provide guidance and support. Education and participation in extracurricular activities play a vital role in instilling a sense of normalcy and purpose in these children. Schools provide a structured environment in which students can learn skills, form friendships, and receive assistance from teachers and counselors. Focusing on education, hobbies, or other personal interests helps children cope with the challenges they face. Creative outlets such as art, music, or writing also serve as ways for people to express themselves and their opinions. For these children, extended family and community assistance, including Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), are vital. Some children are supported by knowing extended family members or community members who act as role models and offer emotional and financial assistance. NGOs and support organizations offer a variety of services, including counseling, vocational training, and advocacy for the rights of vulnerable children. However, there are barriers to accessing services and support for children of sex workers. Access to assistance can be hampered by a lack of knowledge of available funds, financial constraints, and limited funds. The absence of knowledge of the available services can be exacerbated by poor communication or outreach to the community. Families may be unable to receive assistance due to financial constraints such as fees or travel expenses. Inadequate funding and limited funds are being used to support programs and services, which further reduces their availability and effectiveness.

The reports provide tips to parents, teachers, and policymakers on how to better support children who are raised by sex workers. The plans seek to address the challenges faced by these children, eliminate stigma and discrimination, and provide a more inclusive and nurturing environment for their well-being. The first set of recommendations focuses on providing greater assistance to children raised by sex workers. Education and awareness are emphasized as critical elements. It is suggested that comprehensive sex education programs be implemented in schools to foster empathy, and ignition, and dispel myths and stereotypes about sex life. These programs should respect the dignity and well-being of children raised by sex workers, to reduce stigma and discrimination. In addition, it is suggested that policymakers ensure that these children have access to quality education, create safe and supportive school environments, and provide them with assistance. Sensitization and advocacy are also emphasized. It is suggested that awareness

campaigns be launched about the challenges that children are faced by sex workers and to foster empathy and understanding within the community. These children and their families should be subjected to stigma, injustice, and social exclusion as a result of advocacy efforts. It is suggested that policymakers work to promote the interests and well-being of children of sex workers, such as ones that prohibit discrimination and guarantee access to healthcare and other services. It is also important to review existing laws and regulations to prioritize the best interests of the child, including issues such as child support, child protection, and access to basic services. The second set of recommendations focuses on creating a more inclusive and nurturing environment for the children of sex workers. As a rule, parental assistance and support are emphasized as vital. Parents who engage in sex work are encouraged to maintain open communication with their children, providing them with emotional support and guidance. Efforts should be made to create a conducive and nurturing home environment, ensuring that children's basic needs are met and that they feel understood and appreciated. In addition, it is suggested that the government provide economic opportunities for families of sex workers using employment development programs, micro-loans, and other initiatives that improve financial stability. Also, community involvement is emphasized. Community organizations and individuals are encouraged to collaborate to create safe spaces and support networks for children raised by sex workers. Community centers, after-school programs, and mentoring initiatives can be among those that offer positive role models and opportunities for personal growth. Policymakers are encouraged to invest in community-based initiatives that support children of sex workers and their families. It is suggested that community members, religious figures, and other influential figures be involved in supporting and creating a nurturing environment for these children. The third set of recommendations is based on suggestions for assisting children of sex workers. Children in similar situations should be assured that they are not alone and that others understand their journeys, according to in-depth interviews. Finding a safe place to express their feelings, whether with a trusted adult, a mentor, or a friend, is essential or a therapist, is important. It is also recommended that accessible and culturally sensitive mental health services, such as counseling, therapy, and support groups, be made available to address their emotional and psychological needs and help them develop healthy coping mechanisms.

5.2 Conclusions

The study introduced and explained its background, aim, objectives, significance, research questions, assumptions, delimitations, limitations, and key terms. The research used systems theory and social learning theory as theoretical frameworks, and it sought to uncover the experiences of children raised by parents engaged in sex work. To illustrate how people engaged in sex work were depicted in the literature, the study examined literature that was global, regional, and local. In addition, this report aims to broaden the existing knowledge base and inform initiatives and support programs that can improve the well-being and resilience of children who live with parents who engage in sex work. Policymakers, social workers, and community organizations can identify their own experiences by identifying their needs and assisting them in achieving their goals. It also detailed the research approach, design, population, sampling, sampling methods, and techniques. The research design was focused on understanding the experiences of children raised by parents involved in sex work in Chivi District, Ward 25 Ngundu.

The study found that these children face social, emotional, and psychological challenges due to the stigma and discrimination associated with their parents' occupation. This leads to negative impacts on their self-esteem, social interactions, and ability to express emotions, especially when their parents are absent at night. However, the report also found that these children use coping skills and are supported by peers, extended family members, community members, and educational programs. However, barriers such as poor awareness, financial constraints, and insufficient funding can make it difficult to get assistance. These obstacles should be addressed and comprehensive support services for children of sex workers should be provided. The goals of the proposals are to foster empathy, encouragement, and inclusion for children raised by sex workers, addressing their unique challenges while simultaneously ensuring their well-being and future opportunities.

5.3 Recommendations

Parental support and guidance, sensitization and advocacy, education and awareness, and community involvement are the recommendations. These recommendations are based on the understanding that holistic support systems are essential for addressing the diverse needs and challenges faced by children of sex workers.

5.3.1 Education and Awareness

❖ Implement comprehensive sex education programs in schools to promote understanding, and empathy, and dispel myths and stereotypes surrounding sex work.

❖ Address the rights and well-being of children raised by sex workers in these programs to reduce stigma and discrimination.

❖ Ensure access to quality education for children of sex workers by creating safe and supportive school environments and providing necessary resources.

❖ Establish vocational training programs to equip older children with skills for better employment opportunities and financial independence in the future.

5.3.2 Sensitization and Advocacy

❖ Conduct sensitization campaigns to raise awareness about the challenges faced by children raised by sex workers and promote empathy and understanding within the broader community.

❖ Advocate for policies that protect the rights and well-being of these children, including prohibiting discrimination and ensuring access to healthcare and other services.

❖ Review existing laws and regulations to prioritize the best interests of the child, addressing issues such as child custody, child protection, and access to basic services.

5.3.3 Parental Support and Guidance

❖ Encourage parents to engage in sex work to maintain open communication with their children, providing them with emotional support and guidance.

❖ Create economic opportunities for families of sex workers through job training programs, micro-loans, and other initiatives to help them build financial stability.

5.3.4 Community Involvement

❖ Collaborate with community organizations and stakeholders to create safe spaces and support networks for children raised by sex workers.

- ❖ Establish community centers, after-school programs, and mentorship initiatives that provide positive role models and opportunities for personal development.

- ❖ Offer support groups and educational programs on topics like HIV and AIDS prevention, considering the heightened risk of exposure for these children.

- ❖ Engage community members, religious leaders, and influential figures to actively participate in supporting and creating a nurturing environment for the children of sex workers.

- ❖ By implementing these recommendations, parents, educators, and policymakers can contribute to the well-being and empowerment of children raised by sex workers, reducing stigma, and providing them with the support they need for a brighter future.

5.4 Area of future study

In dealing with vulnerable children, including children of sex workers, future research may focus on the policy processes involved and put to concern children of sex workers. This can be done within the scope of the policy process of policy formulation, implementation, and evaluation. Based on the findings of the study, future studies may investigate the effect of a lack of basic services on the mental health of children of sex workers. The challenges faced by organizations when addressing vulnerable children, especially children of sex workers in Zimbabwe, are the suggestions that should be considered for future research.

5.5 Chapter summary

In conclusion, the chapter highlights the summary, and conclusion on the challenges faced by children raised by sex workers in Zimbabwe. The chapter presents recommendations for parents, educators, and policymakers to better support these children. By implementing these recommendations, it is hoped that the well-being and social integration of these children can be improved.

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APPENDIX 1: IN DEPTH INTERVIEW GUIDES QUESTIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS

"My name is Tafadzwa Ndlovu and I'm a Social Work student, at Bindura University of Science Education (BUSE). As part of the requirements for my learning, I am conducting research entitled, "Experiences of children raised by sex workers in Zimbabwe. A Case study of Chivi District ward 25 Ngundu." Thank you for participating in this interview. I would like to start by asking you some questions about your background and experiences. There are no right or wrong answers, and I would like you to be as open and honest as possible. Please note that all information you provide is kept confidential. If you are not comfortable answering a question, that's okay, and you can let me know. Are you ready to begin?"

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION OF RESPONDENT.

Gender	Age	Date

SECTION A: SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EXPERIENCES AND CHALLENGES FACED BY THE CHILDREN OF SEX WORKERS

1. Can you tell me about your experience of being raised by a parent who is involved in sex work?

2. What challenges have you faced as a result of being raised by sex worker?

3. Has these challenges and experience impacted your relationships with others?

SECTION B. COPPING STRATEGIES AND SUPPORT SYSTEM USED BY CHILDREN OF SEX WORKERS

4. How have you coped with these challenges?

5. Have you received any financial or other support from your extended family?

6. Have you ever felt like you needed support or counseling due to your challenges?

SECTION C. SOLUTION TO THE CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7. What kind of support do you feel would be most helpful for children in the situation like yours?

8. What advice would you give to other children in your situation who might be afraid to speak up about their challenges.

9. Do you have any final thoughts or comments before we conclude?

"Thank you so much for sharing your experiences and insights with me. This information is incredibly valuable and will help me to better understand the needs of children of sex workers. I really appreciate your time and willingness to be open and honest.

APPENDIX 2: KEY INFORMANTS INTERVIEW GUIDE

"My name is Tafadzwa Ndlovu and I'm a Social Work student, at Bindura University of Science Education (BUSE). As part of my learning l am conducting a research study entitled," Experiences of children raised by sex workers in Zimbabwe. A Case study of Chivi District ward 25 Ngundu." Thank you for taking the time to speak with me today. I know you are very busy, and I appreciate your insights and expertise. I would like to hear your thoughts on the experiences and needs of children of sex workers. You can be as open and honest as you would like, and I will respect your privacy and confidentiality. Do you have any questions or concerns before we begin?"

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION FOR KEY INFORMANTS

Gender		
Organization		
Date		

SECTION A: CHALLENGES AND EXPERIENCES OF CHILDREN OF SEX WORKERS

1. Can you describe the social, emotional, and psychological experiences of children living with parents who engage in sex work in Chivi District, Ward 25 Ngundu?

2. What are some common challenges faced by children raised by sex workers in this community?

3. How do you think society's attitudes and perceptions affect the experiences of children of sex workers?

SECTION B: COPPING MECHANISMS AND SUPPORT SYSTEMS THAT CAN BE UTILIZED BY CHILDREN OF SEX WORKERS RESPOND TO THE CHALLENGES.

4. What are some of the coping mechanisms you have observed in children who are raised by sex workers?

5. What services and support do you think would be beneficial to children of sex workers?

6. What are some of the barriers to accessing services and support for children of sex workers?

SECTION C: SOLUTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO BETTER SUPPORT CHILDREN OF SEX WORKERS

7. How can parents, educators, and policy makers better support children who are raised by sex workers in Chivi District Ward 25 Ngundu?

8. What can be done to create a more inclusive and supportive environment for children of sex workers?

9. Based on your knowledge and experience, what recommendations would you provide to improve the overall well-being and support of these children?

10. Do you have any last comments or questions for me?"

"Thank you so much for taking the time to speak with me and share your knowledge and expertise. I have learned a lot from this interview and I really appreciate your willingness to share your experiences and thoughts.

APPENDIX 3: LETTER TO REQUEST TO CONDUCT RESEARCH