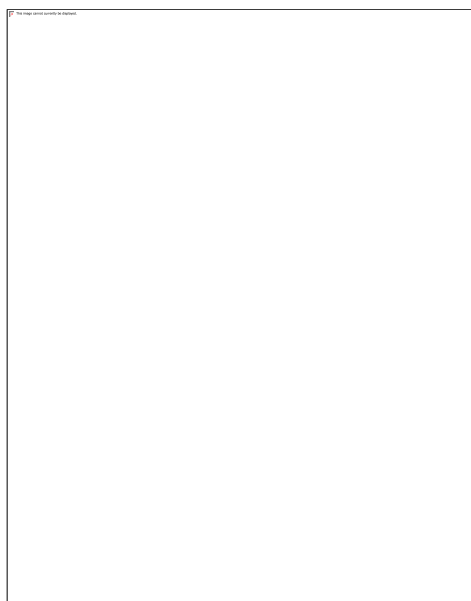


BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF PEACE AND GOVERNANCE



**AN EVALUATION OF THE DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT IN CURBING DRUG ABUSE. A
CASE OF ZENGEZA 4, CHITUNGWIZA**

BY

TINOTENDA KEITH BENHURA

B211054B

**RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PEACE AND
GOVERNANCE IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
HONOURS DEGREE IN PEACE AND GOVERNANCE**

MS SUPU

BINDURA, ZIMBABWE

31 MARCH 2025

ABSTRACT

This study evaluates the effectiveness of the Dangerous Drug Act in curbing drug abuse in Zengeza. Qualitative research approach was used in the study. Interpretivism research design was used to explore the findings in Zengeza. Questionnaires and document analysis were used as data collection methods. A sample size of 20 was used thus 4 police officers, 4 health professionals, 4 community members and the remaining 8 were the victims of drug abuse. The findings highlight systematic challenges such as lack of resources, corruption, inadequate training and low public cooperation and awareness which undermined enforcement and policy outcomes. To address the gaps, dual strategies were used such as strengthening enforcement through resource allocation, anti-corruption measures and specialized training for law enforcement. Prioritizing public health initiatives such as decriminalizing personal drug use, expanding harm reduction services, integrating drug education into school curricula and launching anti-stigma campaigns to foster community reintegration. Therefore, these strategies aim to transform the Act into a balanced framework that addresses root causes of drug abuse, aligns enforcement with rehabilitation and promotes community safety and well-being in Zengeza. Recommendations proffered include, allocation of more resources to enhance capacity to enforce Dangerous Drug Act by the Republic of police and enhancement of awareness campaigns so as to educate the community about the provision of the Dangerous Drug Act and the dangers of drug abuse by the Ministry of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services.

DECLARATION

I Tinotenda Keith Benhura B211054B, hereby declare that this project is my own original work and that it has not been copied or lifted from any other source without acknowledgement.

Student's Name: Tinotenda Keith Benhura

Student's Signature: 

Date: 30 March 2025

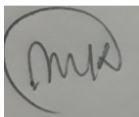
Supervisor's Name: Ms Supu

Supervisor's Signature: 

Date: 12/09/25

Chairperson's Name: Dr Kurebwa

Chairperson's Signature.....



Date16/09/2025.....

DEDICATION

This research is dedicated to my family.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all those who supported and assisted me throughout my dissertation journey. First and foremost, I am deeply grateful to my supervisor, whose expertise, guidance and encouragement from the initial to the final level enabled me to develop an understanding of the subject. I appreciate the useful feedback and constructive criticism provided, which served to strengthen my work.

I would also like to thank my friends and family for their continuous support, understanding and patience throughout this process. Their encouragement kept me motivated during challenging times. I wish to acknowledge Bindura University of Science Education for providing me with resources and facilities that facilitated this research. The knowledge and skills I gained here were invaluable.

I am also thankful to the various individuals who participated in my study. This dissertation would not have been possible without their valuable insights, perspectives and contributions. Finally, I offer my regards and blessings to all of those who supported me in any respect during the completion of my dissertation.

RELEASE FORM

Registration number: B211054B

Dissertation Title: An evaluation of the Dangerous Drugs Act in curbing drug abuse. A case of Zengeza 4, Chitungwiza.

Year granted: 2025

Permission is granted to the Bindura University of Science Education Library and the Department of Peace and Governance to produce copies of this dissertation in an effort it deems necessary for academic use only.

Signature of student

Date signed

Permanent Address and Contact

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

DDA	Dangerous Drugs Act
EMCDDA	European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Act
MASCA	Medicines and Allied Substance Control Act
NDLEA	National Drug Law Enforcement Agency
NIDA	National Institute on Drug Abuse
SADC	Southern African Development Community
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs
WHO	World Health Organization
ZCLDN	Zimbabwe Civil Liberties and Drug Network
ZRP	Zimbabwe Republic Police

Table of Contents	
ABSTRACT	2
DECLARATION	3
DEDICATION	4
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	5
RELEASE FORM	6
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	7
1.0 INTRODUCTION	11
1.1 Background of the Study	11
1.2 Statement of the problem	14
1.3 Purpose of the study	15
1.4 Objective of the study	15
1.5 Research Questions	15
1.6 Assumptions of the study	15
1.7 Significance of the study	16
Policy Makers	16
Government Agencies	16
Community Leaders	17
Civil Society Organizations	17
Educational Institutions	17
1.8 Limitations of the study	18
1.9 Delimitations of the study	19
1.10 Definitions of key words	19
1.11 Dissertation Outline	20
Chapter 1: Introduction and background of the study	20
Chapter 2: Literature review	20
Chapter 3: Methodology	20
Chapter 4: Data presentation and analysis	21
Chapter 5: Summary, conclusion and recommendations	21
CHAPTER TWO	23

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK	23
2.1 Introduction	23
2.2 Theoretical Framework	23
2.2.1 Labelling Theory	23
2.3 An overview of The Dangerous Drugs Act.....	24
2.9 Chapter Summary	35
CHAPTER THREE	36
3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND DESIGN.....	36
3.1 Introduction	36
3.2 Research philosophy	36
3.5 Targeted Population.....	38
3.6 Sample Size	38
3.7 Sampling Techniques	39
3.8 Data collection	39
3.8.1 Questionnaire	40
3.8.2 Document analysis	40
3.9 Validity and reliability	40
3.10 Ethical considerations.....	41
3.11 Confidentiality	42
3.12 Informed consent	42
3.13 Anonymity.....	43
3.14 Chapter summary	43
CHAPTER FOUR.....	45
4.0 DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS	45
4.1 Introduction	45
4.2 Participant Demographic Data	45
Table 1 presentation of demographic information	45
4.3 Enforcement Mechanism of the Act on Drug Abuse in Zengeza 4.	46
4.4.1 Community Involvement and Awareness	49

4.5 Challenges in implementing the Act.....	50
4.5.1 Lack of Resources	50
4.5.2 Corruption	51
4.5.3 Limited Awareness	51
4.6 Recommendations for Improvement.....	52
4.6.1 Increased Funding	52
4.6.2 Anti-Corruption Measures	52
4.6.3 Community Education	53
4.6.4 Rehabilitation Programs	53
4.7 Chapter Summary	55
5.0 SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS AND AREAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH.....	56
5.1 Introduction.....	56
5.2 Summary of the Study	56
5.3 Summary of finds.....	58
5.4 Conclusions.....	59
5.5 Recommendations	60
REFERENCE.....	63
Appendix 2: Questionnaire	71

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Drug abuse has emerged as a significant global challenge, impacting millions of people around the world. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reports that a recent study estimates approximately 275 million individuals worldwide engaged in drug use in 2020, a number that continues to escalate, especially among younger populations (UNODC, 2021). Studies show that drug abuse is associated with considerable health, social, and economic consequences, resulting in higher morbidity rates, social fragmentation, and financial burdens for both individuals and governments. A prominent case is that of the United States, where drug-related fatalities reached a record high in 2020, exceeding 93,000 deaths, primarily due to opioid overdoses (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2021). Likewise, in Europe, drug-induced mortality remains a pressing concern, with countries like Scotland reporting the highest rates of drug-related deaths in the region (European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction [EMCDDA], 2021). Governments around the world have sought to address this issue through legislation, public health initiatives, and law enforcement measures; however, the intricate nature of drug markets and the socio-economic factors at play complicate efforts to find a resolution (World Health Organization [WHO], 2021).

Brazil is grappling with a severe drug abuse crisis, particularly with crack cocaine and opioids. According to the Brazilian Ministry of Health, approximately 2.6 million Brazilians use cocaine, with 1.2 million using crack cocaine (Brazilian Ministry of Health, 2019). The country's favelas, or urban slums, have become hotspots for drug trafficking and abuse, fuelling violence

and social instability. In Rio de Janeiro, for instance, drug-related violence has led to the displacement of thousands of residents (Human Rights Watch, 2020). The economic burden of drug abuse in Brazil is estimated to exceed R\$100 billion (approximately USD \$25 billion) annually (Instituto Brasileiro de Economia, 2020). To address this crisis, the Brazilian government has implemented initiatives such as the National Drug Policy (2019) and expanded treatment programs.

On the African continent drug abuse is experiencing a worrying upward trend with a notable rise in both consumption and trafficking. Africa's geographical situation facilitates the convergence of global drug trafficking routes, particularly for substances such as cannabis, cocaine, and heroin (UNODC, 2019). The continent also suffers from a growing synthetic drug problem, particularly with amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS), which have become prevalent in countries like Nigeria and South Africa (United Nations Economic Commission for Africa [UNECA], 2020). In Nigeria, drug-related arrests doubled between 2018 and 2021, highlighting the escalating efforts to combat illicit drugs (National Drug Law Enforcement Agency [NDLEA], 2021). Moreover, Kenya has recently seen a surge in heroin use, particularly along its coastal regions, with Mombasa emerging as a key transshipment point for international drug syndicates (NACADA, 2020). Despite these challenges, African countries have implemented legislative measures to counter drug abuse, although enforcement remains inconsistent due to resource constraints and corruption (UNECA, 2020).

Regionally, Southern Africa is vulnerable to drug trafficking and abuse due to its geographical location. Countries like Mozambique and South Africa have been identified as major passage points for heroin trafficking from Afghanistan to Europe and North America, contributing to local drug consumption (Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, 2020). In

Mozambique, the heroin trade is believed to generate millions of dollars annually, exacerbating corruption and undermining governance (Gastrow, 2021). In South Africa, with high rates of methamphetamine (locally known as tik) and cannabis has led to increasing violence and crime in urban areas, with Cape Town being a hotspot (SACENDU, 2021). However, South Africa has been able to implement policies to combat drug abuse such as The National Drug Master Plan (2019-2024). This plan outlines South Africa's strategy for addressing drug abuse, focusing on prevention, treatment and law enforcement. These policies have contributed to some progress which are increased access to treatment with more people having access to treatment services and law enforcement efforts which allowed police operations to seize illicit drugs (South African Police Service, 2020). Botswana considering its smaller population base, has also seen an increase in drug-related crimes, particularly involving cannabis and synthetic drugs (Botswana Police Service, 2020). In response to these findings, regional bodies such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC) have called for more coordinated efforts to tackle drug trafficking and abuse through introducing the SADC Regional Drug Strategy (2016-2026) which outlines a comprehensive approach to prevent and reduce drug abuse but progress has been slow due to the regions porous borders and limited resources (SADC, 2021).

In Zimbabwe, drug abuse poses an increasing threat to community health, particularly among the youth. The Dangerous Drugs Act of Zimbabwe, first enacted in 1955 and amended several times, including in 2019, have the primary objective of regulating the production, distribution and consumption of dangerous drugs (Government of Zimbabwe, 2019). Despite this legislation, the country has witnessed an increased prevalence of drug abuse driven crimes surge, particularly in urban areas. Recent reports suggest a disturbing upward trend in the use of crystal methamphetamine (commonly known as mutoriro), which has devastated communities, especially

in Harare and Bulawayo (Zimbabwe Civil Liberties and Drug Network [ZCLDN], 2022). Moreover, cannabis cultivation and use have increased substantially, despite the government's efforts to control its production (Mavhunga, 2021). While the Zimbabwean government has taken measures to mitigate drug abuse through legislation and awareness campaigns, enforcement of the Dangerous Drugs Act has been hampered by insufficient resources, corruption and inadequate rehabilitation facilities (ZCLDN, 2022).

The global drug abuse problem requires comprehensive and context specific solutions. This research aims to enhance the current body of knowledge by assessing the efficacy of the Dangerous Drug Act in Zimbabwe, with a particular focus on Zengeza. By examining the strengths and limitations of this legislation, this research aims to inform evidence-based policy decisions and interventions to address drug abuse in Zimbabwe.

1.2 Statement of the problem

The ongoing issue of drug abuse in Zengeza 4 despite the existence of the Dangerous Drugs Act highlights a significant gap in the effectiveness of this legislation in addressing the problem, which affects not only the individuals involved but also their families, communities and the society as a whole leading to increased healthcare costs, lost productivity and social instability. This issue is particularly concerning as it undermines the well-being of individuals, erodes social cohesion and strains economic resources. According to the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (2019), the prevalence of drug abuse in Zengeza 4 is estimated to be around 30% with the most commonly abused drugs being cannabis, cocaine and heroin. The ongoing prevalence of drug abuse in Zengeza 4, despite the enforcement of the Dangerous Drugs Act, prompts significant inquiries regarding the effectiveness of existing strategies and highlights the necessity for a more holistic

approach to tackle this intricate issue. Moreover, the World Health Organization (2018) emphasizes that drug abuse constitutes a substantial public health challenge, contributing to considerable morbidity, mortality, and economic strain on a global scale.

1.3 Purpose of the study

To critically evaluate the effectiveness of the Dangerous Drugs Act in reducing drug abuse in Zengeza 4, Chitungwiza.

1.4 Objective of the study

- To analyse the enforcement mechanisms of the Dangerous Drugs Act in Zengeza
- To assess the effectiveness of the Dangerous Drugs Act in reducing drug abuse in Zengeza.
- To evaluate the challenges faced by law enforcement agencies in implementing the Dangerous Drugs Act in Zengeza.

1.5 Research Questions

- What are the enforcement mechanisms of the Dangerous Drugs Act in Zengeza?
- How effective has the Dangerous Drugs Act been in curbing drug abuse in Zengeza?
- What challenges do law enforcement agencies face in implementing the Dangerous Drugs Act in Zengeza?

1.6 Assumptions of the study

- Stakeholders (Law enforcement, healthcare professionals, community leaders) have adequate knowledge of the act.
- The Acts provision and enforcement mechanisms, are intended to curb drug abuse.

- The study's results will contribute to the development of evidence-based drug abuse legislation.

1.7 Significance of the study

Policy Makers

These are responsible for drafting and amending legislation. This study will provide policymakers with critical insights to inform evidence-based legislation, policy reforms, and strategic interventions. The findings will enable policymakers to assess the effectiveness of the Dangerous Drugs Act, identify gaps and develop targeted solutions. Additionally, the research will inform resource allocation, enhance law enforcement strategies and support public health initiatives, ultimately contributing to the development of comprehensive national drug policies.

Government Agencies

These agencies, including health ministries, law enforcement and social services, are responsible for implementing policies aimed at reducing drug abuse and ensuring public safety. This study will provide valuable insight to government agencies enabling them to assess the effectiveness of the Dangerous Drugs Act and inform evidence based policy decisions. The finding will help optimize resource allocation, refine law enforcement strategies and support public health initiatives. Additionally, the research will identify areas for improvement in legislation and enforcement, ultimately contributing to the development of comprehensive solutions to address drug in Zimbabwe.

Community Leaders

Community leaders are also stakeholders who can greatly influence community behaviour and attitudes toward drug abuse. This study will empower community leaders in Zengeza 4 to develop effective strategies to combat drug abuse. By understanding the strengths and limitations of the Dangerous Drugs Act, community leaders can advocate for policy changes, mobilize resources and implement targeted interventions. The findings will also enable community leaders to raise awareness, educate residents and support vulnerable groups. Ultimately, this research will contribute to creating safer and healthier communities

Civil Society Organizations

Civil Society Organizations focused on drug rehabilitation and public health are critical stakeholders in this study. This study will benefit civil society organizations by providing valuable insights to inform advocacy, policy engagement and program development. The findings will enable organizations to design targeted interventions, support evidence-based policy reforms and enhance community-based initiatives. Additionally, the research will help organizations secure funding, build partnerships and amplify the voices of affected communities.

Educational Institutions

Educational institutions play a vital role in preventing drug abuse by raising awareness and educating students about the dangers of drug use. This study will benefit educational institutions by providing valuable insights to inform drug abuse prevention programs, curriculum development and policy formulation. The findings will enable educators to design targeted interventions, support evidence-based teaching methods and create safer learning

environments. Additionally, the research will help educational institutions develop effective strategies to identify and support students struggling with drug abuse, ultimately promoting academic success and well-being.

1.8 Limitations of the study

One of the primary limitations which the researcher faced in carrying out the research on the effectiveness of the Dangerous Drugs Act in Zengeza was difficulty in obtaining reliable and accurate data. Drug abuse is often a hidden problem, with many users unwilling to disclose their habits due to fear of stigma or legal repercussions. Additionally, official records may underreport drug-related incidents due to inconsistent documentation by law enforcement agencies. To mitigate this limitation, the study can adopted a triangulation approach, collecting data from multiple sources such as healthcare providers, community organizations and law enforcement agencies. Additionally, anonymous surveys were used to encourage honesty among participants. By cross-referencing data from these diverse sources, the research achieved a more holistic and accurate picture of drug abuse in Zengeza 4.

Key informants, such as law enforcement officials and healthcare workers, were unwilling to participate in the study due to time constraints and reluctance to disclose potentially sensitive information. Their participation was essential to gaining insights into the implementation and enforcement of the Dangerous Drugs Act. To address this issue, the researcher ensured the anonymity of participants, emphasizing that the information provided was confidential and used solely for academic purposes. Building trust through consistent communication and offering flexible interview schedules also encouraged participation. Additionally, providing

participants with informed consent forms that outline their rights and the study's purpose helped make them more comfortable sharing insights.

1.9 Delimitations of the study

This study assesses the effectiveness of the Dangerous Drugs Act in curbing drug abuse in Zimbabwe, using Zengeza, Chitungwiza as a case study, with a focus on youth aged 15-35. However, the study is delimited to this specific age group and location and does not investigate other factors like socioeconomic conditions, family dynamics, or peer influence, nor does it examine the impact of other laws or policies or compare findings with other locations or age groups.

1.10 Definitions of key words

Drug abuse- Use of illicit drugs or misuse of prescription/over-the-counter drugs, a key issue addressed by the Dangerous Drugs Act (National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2022)

Youth- The age group (15-35) targeted by the study on the effectiveness of the Dangerous Drugs Act in Zimbabwe (UNDP, 2022)

Prevalence- The measure used to assess the extent of substance abuse and addiction in Zimbabwe, in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the Dangerous Drugs Act (Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, 2022)

Legal framework- The Dangerous Drugs Act (DDA) in Zimbabwe has shown limited effectiveness in curbing drug abuse in Zengeza due to inadequate enforcement, insufficient rehabilitation programs and harsh penalties focusing on punishment rather than rehabilitation (Zimbabwe Parliament, 2001; Chitiyo, 2012)

1.11 Dissertation Outline

Chapter 1: Introduction and background of the study

This chapter introduces the problem of drug abuse in Zengeza 4 and the role of the Dangerous Drugs Act in addressing it. It illustrates the significance of the issue by discussing the social, economic, and health-related consequences of rising drug abuse in the community. The chapter outlines the need for legislative intervention and the importance of assessing the effectiveness of the Dangerous Drugs Act. Additionally, it sets the research context and provides the research objectives and questions that guide the study, framing the significance of the Act in curbing drug abuse.

Chapter 2: Literature review

This chapter reviews existing academic literature on drug legislation and its ability to mitigate drug abuse, considering global and regional contexts. This chapter discovers significant research gaps in the literature, particularly the lack of localized studies on the effectiveness of the Dangerous Drugs Act in specific areas like Zengeza 4. The study also reveals limited research on the socio-economic and enforcement challenges that may affect the Acts success. This study aims to fill these gaps by offering a focused analysis of the Acts implementation and its real-world impact on drug abuse in Zengeza 4.

Chapter 3: Methodology

This chapter provides an overview of the qualitative research methods used in this study, focusing on interviews and focus groups with key stakeholders, including law enforcement officials, community leaders, and residents of Zengeza 4. The chapter explains why a

qualitative approach is appropriate for exploring the complexities of enforcing the Dangerous Drugs Act and understanding the community's perceptions of drug abuse and legislation. Furthermore, it offers a comprehensive overview of the data gathering process, sampling strategy, and ethical considerations, ensuring that the research is conducted in a reliable and ethical manner.

Chapter 4: Data presentation and analysis

In this chapter, the qualitative data gathered from interviews and focus groups is presented and analysed. The chapter integrates the data into thematic clusters exploring key issues such as the effectiveness of the Dangerous Drugs Act, challenges faced by law enforcement and the socio-economic factors influencing drug abuse in Zengeza 4. The analysis will examine patterns and insights that address the research questions, offering a deep understanding of the Acts implementation and its impact on the community. Key quotes and observations from participants will be used to support the findings.

Chapter 5: Summary, conclusion and recommendations

This chapter provides an overview of the main findings of the study and provides conclusions on the overall effectiveness of the Dangerous Drugs Act in curbing drug abuse in Zengeza 4. The chapter offers suggestions which can be used to improve the Acts enforcement and addressing the socio-economic factors that contribute to drug abuse. The suggestions may include policy changes, enhanced community engagement or increased support for law enforcement. The chapter also discusses the broader implications of the study for

policymakers, law enforcement and future research on drug legislation and its localized impacts.

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Introduction

This chapter offers an extensive examination of the current literature pertaining to the subject of "An Evaluation of the Dangerous Drugs Act in Curbing Drug Abuse." The literature review emphasizes the identification of significant studies, theories, and empirical evidence that substantiate and affirm the research topic. Additionally, it establishes the theoretical framework that will direct the study. The chapter seeks to link the research project to a wider corpus of knowledge, pinpoint gaps in the literature, and justify the necessity of the study. By integrating previous research, this chapter lays the groundwork for the research questions and methodology that will be explored in the following chapters.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

2.2.1 Labelling Theory

Labelling Theory, also known as Social Labelling Theory, is a sociological theory that explains how individuals and groups are labelled as deviant or criminal by society, leading to a self-fulfilling prophecy Becker, 1963. This theory is particularly relevant to the evaluation of the Dangerous Drugs Act, as it helps to understand how the stigma of drug use and possession can lead to social exclusion and further marginalization. The Act's punitive measures can amplify deviance by pushing individuals into further illicit activities, such as organized crime. Moreover, the designation of "drug addict" or "drug offender" can significantly influence a person's sense of self, resulting in a self-fulfilling prophecy.

The application of Labelling Theory to the evaluation of the Dangerous Drugs Act provides valuable insights into the unintended consequences of labelling and stigmatizing individuals who use or possess drugs. By understanding how labelling theory operates in this context, policymakers can develop more effective and humane strategies for addressing drug use and abuse, rather than relying solely on punitive measures. Ultimately, this theoretical framework offers a nuanced understanding of the complex social dynamics surrounding drug use and abuse, and can inform the development of more compassionate and effective policies.

2.3 An overview of The Dangerous Drugs Act

The Dangerous Drugs Act is a legislative framework designed to regulate the production, distribution, and consumption of drugs classified as dangerous drugs (Dorn & South, 1987). In Zimbabwe, the Act governs the importation, exportation, possession, sale, and use of dangerous drugs (Zimbabwe Government, 2007). According to the Act, dangerous drugs include cannabis, cocaine, heroin, and other narcotics that have the potential for abuse and addiction (Room et al., 2010). The Act outlines penalties for offenses related to these drugs, including imprisonment and fines.

The primary objective of the Act is to reduce the availability of dangerous drugs by criminalizing their production, distribution, and consumption (Bewley-Taylor, 2003). It also aims to deter individuals from engaging in drug-related activities through stringent penalties. However, the effectiveness of the Act in achieving these objectives has been a subject of debate among scholars, policymakers, and law enforcement agencies.

2.4 Drug Abuse in Africa

Drug abuse represents a major public health issue in Africa, leading to profound effects on individuals, families, and communities. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reports that approximately 34 million individuals in Africa engage in the use of illegal drugs, with cannabis being the most commonly consumed substance (UNODC, 2020). The rates of drug abuse differ across the continent, with certain nations exhibiting higher prevalence than others. For example, in West Africa, the incidence of drug abuse is notably elevated, with countries like Nigeria, Ghana, and Senegal documenting considerable levels of drug consumption (UNODC, 2020). Moreover, the ready accessibility of illegal drugs, combined with insufficient regulatory measures and enforcement, has exacerbated the pervasive issue of drug abuse in Africa. Furthermore, the continent's demographic profile, characterized by a youthful population where over 70% are under the age of 30, renders it especially susceptible to the temptations of illegal substances (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2024).

In West Africa, countries such as Nigeria, Ghana, and Senegal are experiencing significant levels of drug abuse. In Nigeria, a study found that 27.4% of secondary school students had used cannabis, while 15.6% had used cocaine Omokhodion et al., 2017. Similarly, in Ghana, a study revealed that 21.1% of the population aged 15-64 had used cannabis, while 4.2% had used cocaine Ghana Statistical Service, 2019. In Senegal, a study found that 18.5% of secondary school students had used cannabis, while 6.3% had used cocaine Senegal National Agency for Statistics and Demography, 2019. The causes of drug abuse in West Africa are complex and multifaceted, involving factors such as poverty, unemployment, and lack of education. Furthermore, cultural and social factors, such as peer pressure and family dynamics, also play a significant role in the development of drug abuse. Effective prevention and intervention programs are necessary to

address the root causes of drug abuse and provide support to individuals and families affected by this issue.

In East Africa, countries such as Kenya and Tanzania are also experiencing significant levels of drug abuse. In Kenya, a study found that 22.5% of secondary school students had used cannabis, while 10.3% had used cocaine Mbugua et al., 2018. Similarly, in Tanzania, a study revealed that 18.2% of the population aged 15-64 had used cannabis, while 3.5% had used cocaine (Tanzania National Bureau of Statistics, 2019). The easy availability of illicit substances, coupled with the lack of effective regulation and enforcement, has contributed to the widespread nature of drug abuse in East Africa. Furthermore, the region's porous borders and lack of effective border control measures have made it vulnerable to the trafficking of illicit substances. Effective prevention and intervention programs, including public awareness campaigns and community-based programs, are necessary to address the root causes of drug abuse and provide support to individuals and families affected by this issue.

The causes of drug abuse in Africa are complex and multifaceted. According to Adelekan et al. 2014, "drug abuse is often linked to poverty, unemployment, and lack of education." Furthermore, the authors note that "cultural and social factors, such as peer pressure and family dynamics, also play a significant role in the development of drug abuse." Effective prevention and intervention programs are necessary to address the root causes of drug abuse and provide support to individuals and families affected by this issue. This can involve public awareness campaigns, community-based programs, and school-based programs, among others. Additionally, providing access to education and employment opportunities, as well as promoting social and cultural norms that discourage drug use, can also help to prevent drug abuse. Furthermore, addressing the root

causes of drug abuse, such as poverty and unemployment, is essential to preventing the development of drug abuse.

2.5 Effects of Drug Abuse in Africa

The repercussions of drug abuse in Africa are extensive and catastrophic. Engaging in drug abuse can result in various physical health issues, including overdose, damage to organs, and a heightened susceptibility to infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and hepatitis (World Health Organization, 2018). Additionally, psychological issues like depression, anxiety, and psychosis frequently occur among individuals who abuse drugs (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2018). Moreover, drug abuse can precipitate social challenges, including the disintegration of families, social alienation, and stigma, alongside economic difficulties such as diminished productivity, escalated healthcare expenses, and pressure on the criminal justice system.

According to Omokhodion et al. (2017), "drug abuse represents a major public health issue in Africa, resulting in serious repercussions for individuals, families, and communities." This researcher emphasizes the necessity for a thorough strategy to tackle the underlying factors contributing to drug abuse and to offer effective treatment and rehabilitation services. A case study conducted in Uganda demonstrates the impact of drug abuse on young people. The research revealed that drug abuse was associated with deteriorating morals and behaviors among the youth, including heightened aggression, promiscuity, and theft (drug abuse and the morals of youth; a case study of Uganda). Furthermore, the study indicated that drug abuse was frequently connected to poverty, unemployment, and a lack of education, underscoring the importance of a comprehensive approach to address the fundamental causes of drug abuse.

In Kenya, a study found that drug abuse was a significant problem among secondary school students, with 27.4% of students reporting having used cannabis and 15.6% reporting having used cocaine Omokhodion et al., 2017. The study highlighted the need for effective prevention and intervention programs to address drug abuse among young people. Overall, the effects of drug abuse in Africa are severe and far-reaching, requiring a comprehensive approach to address the root causes of drug abuse and provide effective treatment and rehabilitation services.

2.6 Drug and Substances Abuse Policies in Africa

Africa has enacted a range of policies aimed at reducing drug abuse, underscoring the region's dedication to confronting this challenge. One notable initiative is the African Union's Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2013-2017), which seeks to diminish both the supply and demand for illegal drugs while fostering regional collaboration and coordination (African Union, 2013). This policy exemplifies the continent's determination to combat drug abuse through a thorough and cooperative strategy. Additionally, the policy emphasizes the importance of effective regulation, law enforcement, and prevention initiatives to tackle the intricate problem of drug abuse. As stated by UNODC (2020), "effective drug control policies necessitate a comprehensive approach that addresses the underlying causes of drug abuse." This perspective is supported by Adelekan et al. (2014), who assert that "a multifaceted approach involving governments, civil society, and the private sector is essential to address the complex issue of drug abuse in Africa."

At the national level, nations such as South Africa have implemented legislation like the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, which governs the manufacture, production,

supply, and possession of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (Government of South Africa, 1992). This law highlights the necessity of regulating the drug trade to avert abuse and trafficking. Moreover, the Act facilitates the creation of a National Drugs Authority, tasked with coordinating national initiatives aimed at combating drug abuse. The Authority is also responsible for developing treatment and rehabilitation programs for individuals dependent on drugs. As noted by Peltzer et al. (2010), "regulation of the drug trade is essential to preventing drug abuse and trafficking." Furthermore, effective regulation necessitates a holistic approach that engages governments, civil society, and the private sector.

In Zimbabwe, the Medicines and Allied Substances Control Act (MASCA) governs the regulation of medicines and allied substances, ensuring that only approved substances are accessible for medical purposes (Government of Zimbabwe, 2001). This legislation underscores the necessity for robust regulation to avert the diversion of controlled substances into illegal markets. Moreover, the Act facilitates the creation of a Medicines Control Authority, tasked with overseeing the manufacture, distribution, and sale of medicines and allied substances. As noted by Omokhodion et al. (2017), "effective regulation of medicines and allied substances is crucial for preventing drug abuse and trafficking." Additionally, these regulations necessitate a holistic approach that engages governments, civil society, and the private sector.

2.7 Challenges in Implementing Drug Policies in Africa

Implementing drug policies in Africa faces several challenges that hinder their effectiveness. These challenges are complex and interconnected, requiring a comprehensive approach to address them.

2.7.1 Lack of resources

Lack of resources is one of the major challenges which include, inadequate funding, infrastructure, and personnel. As noted by Adelekan et al. (2014), “the lack of resources, including funding, infrastructure, and personnel, is a major challenge to effective drug control in Africa. For example, in Nigeria, the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) possesses insufficient resources to adequately enforce drug legislation, leading to pervasive drug abuse and trafficking (NDLEA, 2020). The lack of resources also affects the availability of treatment and rehabilitation services, exacerbating the problem. Furthermore, the lack of resources hinders the ability of law enforcement agencies to effectively patrol borders and intercept illicit drug shipments. According to Omokhodion et al. (2017), “the lack of resources, including funding and personnel, is a major challenge to effective border control and drug interception in Africa.”

2.7.2 Corruption

Corruption is another challenge that undermines the effectiveness of drug policies and laws in Africa. As noted by Transparency International (2019), “corruption is a major obstacle to effective drug control in Africa.” In South Africa, corruption within the police force has been linked to the proliferation of drug trafficking and abuse (Corruption Watch, 2019). Corruption can also occur at the highest levels of government, with some officials implicated in drug trafficking and abuse. This corruption erodes trust in law enforcement and undermines efforts to combat drug abuse. According to Mbugua et al. (2018), “corruption is a major challenge to effective drug control in Africa, as it undermines trust in law enforcement and allows drug traffickers to operate with impunity.”

2.7.3 The lack of public cooperation and awareness

The lack of public cooperation and awareness about the dangers of drug abuse also hinders the effective implementation of drug policies in Africa. As noted by UNODC (2020), “public awareness and cooperation are essential to effective drug control.” In Kenya, for example, community-based programs have been shown to be effective in reducing drug abuse among young people, but these programs often lack public support and participation (Mbugua et al., 2018). Raising awareness about the risks associated with drug abuse is crucial to preventing and treating addiction. Furthermore, public cooperation is essential for reporting suspected drug-related activities and supporting law enforcement efforts. According to Peltzer et al. (2010), “public awareness and cooperation are critical to effective drug control, as they enable law enforcement agencies to respond effectively to drug-related crimes.”

2.7.4 Inadequate training for police officers

Inadequate training for police officers on drug-related issues is another challenge that hinders the effective implementation of drug policies in Africa. As noted by Ghana Police Service (2020), “inadequate training for police officers on drug-related issues is a major challenge to effective drug control.” In Ghana, for instance, police officers often lack the necessary training and resources to effectively enforce drug laws, resulting in inadequate responses to drug-related crimes. Providing police officers with specialized training on drug-related issues is essential to combating drug abuse. According to Adelekan et al. (2014), “providing police officers with specialized training on drug-related issues is critical to effective drug control.”

2.7.5 Political interference

Political interference in the implementation of drug policies in Africa also hinders their effectiveness. As noted by NDLEA (2020), “political interference is a major challenge to effective

drug control in Africa.” In Nigeria, for example, political interference has been linked to the failure of drug control efforts, as politicians often prioritize political interests over public health concerns. Ensuring that drug policies are evidence-based and free from political interference is crucial to addressing drug abuse. Furthermore, political will and commitment are essential for allocating sufficient resources and support for drug control efforts. According to UNODC (2020), “political will and commitment are essential to effective drug control.”

2.7.6 The lack of rehabilitation

The lack of rehabilitation programs for drug-dependent individuals is another challenge that hinders the effective implementation of drug policies in Africa. As noted by Department of Social Development (2020), “the lack of rehabilitation programs is a major challenge to effective drug control.” In South Africa, for instance, there is a shortage of rehabilitation centers and programs, resulting in inadequate treatment options for drug-dependent individuals. Providing accessible and effective rehabilitation programs is essential to addressing drug addiction. According to Mbugua et al. (2018), “providing accessible and effective rehabilitation programs is critical to effective drug control.”

2.8 Strategies to Mitigate the Negative Impact of Drug and Substance Abuse Policy in Africa

To alleviate the adverse effects of drug and substance abuse policies in Africa, various strategies may be implemented.

2.8.1 Decriminalize Personal Drug Use and Focus on Rehabilitation

Removing criminal penalties for personal drug use and emphasizing rehabilitation may effectively tackle the underlying factors of addiction while alleviating the strain on the criminal justice system. According to Belenko (2016), criminalizing drug use often fails to address the

underlying issues and can exacerbate social stigma and marginalization. In contrast, a rehabilitation-focused approach prioritizes treatment and support for individuals struggling with addiction. By amending drug policies to decriminalize personal drug use and investing in rehabilitation programs, African countries can reduce the social and economic costs of incarceration and improve health outcomes for individuals struggling with addiction.

2.8.2 Expand Access to Harm Reduction Services

Strengthening harm reduction programs is essential to mitigate the adverse effects of drug policies. Harm reduction strategies, including needle and syringe programs (NSP) and opioid agonist therapy (OAT), play a crucial role in minimizing health risks linked to drug use. According to Beyrer et al. (2010), expanding harm reduction services can save lives and reduce healthcare burden. Training healthcare workers to deliver these services would ensure their sustainability and effectiveness. By integrating harm reduction into public health strategies, African countries can address the health needs of drug users while reducing the societal impact of drug abuse.

2.8.3 Promote Community Reintegration and Anti-Stigma Campaigns

Community-based interventions are crucial for addressing the social challenges associated with drug abuse. Community reintegration programs can help individuals recovering from drug abuse reintegrate into their communities. Anti-stigma campaigns can change public perceptions and create a more supportive environment for recovery. According to Goffman (1963), stigma prevents individuals from seeking help and reintegrating into society, perpetuating cycles of addiction and marginalization. By promoting community reintegration and anti-stigma campaigns, African countries can foster a culture of prevention and support, reducing the need for punitive measures and promoting the rehabilitation and reintegration of drug-dependent persons.

2.8.4 Integrate Drug Education into School Curricula

School-based prevention programs are a proactive strategy to mitigate the impact of drug policies. Incorporating drug education into educational curricula can equip adolescents with the necessary knowledge and skills to withstand peer pressure and make informed, healthy decisions. According to Botvin et al. (1995), drug education programs teaching life skills and decision-making significantly reduce the initiation of drug use among adolescents. By investing in prevention, African countries can reduce the demand for drugs and minimize the need for punitive measures, ultimately achieving the vision of a drug-free nation.

2.8.5 Provide Vocational Training and Job Opportunities

Economic empowerment is a key strategy to address the socio-economic drivers of drug abuse. Providing vocational training and job opportunities can reduce vulnerability to drug use by addressing poverty and idleness. According to Kumpfer et al. (2002), skills development and job opportunities can reduce drug use among young people. By implementing vocational training and job opportunity programs, African countries can divert youth from drug abuse and promote economic development.

2.8.6 Launch Public Awareness Campaigns

Media and communication campaigns play a vital role in changing public perceptions and behaviours related to drug abuse. According to Wakefield et al. (2010), well-designed campaigns can effectively reduce drug use by promoting awareness and encouraging positive decision-making. By initiating multimedia campaigns aimed at adolescents and young adults, African nations can enhance awareness regarding the risks associated with drug abuse and the support services that are accessible.

2.8.7 Train Law Enforcement and Judicial Officers

Enhancing the capabilities of law enforcement and judicial personnel is crucial for alleviating the adverse effects of drug policies. Offering training focused on harm reduction and human rights can foster a more empathetic and efficient response to drug-related challenges. As noted by MacCoun and Reuter (2001), officers frequently do not possess the requisite knowledge and skills to manage drug-related cases effectively, especially within a harm reduction framework. By providing officers with the essential skills and knowledge, African nations can synchronize their drug control policies with international best practices and human rights standards.

2.9 Chapter Summary

Addressing drug and substance abuse in Africa requires a nuanced and multifaceted approach that balances law enforcement with public health and social welfare interventions. As discussed, the continent's drug and substance abuse problem is complex, with various factors contributing to its prevalence, including poverty, unemployment, and lack of education. Effective strategies to mitigate this issue include decriminalizing personal drug use, expanding access to harm reduction services, promoting community reintegration and anti-stigma campaigns, integrating drug education into school curricula, providing vocational training and job opportunities, launching public awareness campaigns, and training law enforcement and judicial officers. By adopting a comprehensive and evidence-based approach, African countries can reduce the negative impact of drug policies and promote the health, well-being, and socioeconomic development of individuals and communities.

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND DESIGN

3.1 Introduction

This chapter presented the qualitative research methodology utilized to investigate the effectiveness of the Dangerous Drugs Act in reducing drug abuse in Zengeza 4. The chapter elaborated on the research design, data collection techniques, and data analysis methods applied in the study, emphasizing the use of questionnaires and thematic analysis. Furthermore, it detailed the purposive sampling approach employed to select participants, which included stakeholders, community leaders, and individuals impacted by drug abuse. The chapter also underscored the ethical considerations that were taken into account throughout the research process, ensuring the safeguarding of participants' rights and confidentiality. By delineating the qualitative research methodology, this chapter established a framework for comprehending the findings that will be presented in the following chapters.

3.2 Research philosophy

Research philosophy encompasses the foundational beliefs, values, and assumptions that steer the research process (Creswell, 2014; Saunders et al., 2016). The interpretivism research philosophy that informed this study concentrated on comprehending the meanings and interpretations of social phenomena (Guba & Lincoln, 1994; Denzin & Lincoln, 2011). This philosophical approach was particularly appropriate for this study as it facilitated a thorough investigation of the experiences and perceptions of stakeholders concerning the efficacy of the

Dangerous Drugs Act in mitigating drug abuse in Zengeza 4. Interpretivism recognized that reality is shaped through social interactions and that meaning is both subjective and dependent on context (Crotty, 1998), which was especially pertinent in this study where the experiences and perceptions of stakeholders were likely influenced by their social and cultural backgrounds.

3.3 Research Approach

The methodology employed in this research was a qualitative research approach, specifically utilizing a case study design. Research methodology pertains to the systematic and organized framework applied in conducting research, which includes the research design, methods for data collection, and techniques for data analysis (Creswell, 2014; Saunders et al., 2016). As noted by Bryman (2016), research methodology encompasses the delineation of procedures and methods for gathering and analysing data, along with the theoretical and philosophical foundations that support the research. This particular approach was selected as it facilitated a comprehensive investigation of the research phenomenon, yielding rich and nuanced insights into the experiences and perceptions of stakeholders regarding the efficacy of the Dangerous Drugs Act in mitigating drug abuse in Zengeza 4. Data collection was carried out through an open-ended questionnaire and document analysis, with the data being analysed through thematic analysis.

3.4 Research Design

This research employed a case study design, which is a qualitative research methodology that entails a thorough investigation of a singular case (Yin, 2014). Research design pertains to the comprehensive framework and organization for executing a research study, detailing the methods and procedures for gathering and analyzing data (Creswell, 2014; Saunders et al., 2016). As noted by Bryman (2016), research design encompasses the specification of research strategy, sampling

strategy, data collection techniques, and data analysis methods. This particular design was selected for its capacity to provide a detailed and contextualized understanding of the research phenomenon. The case study design facilitated an extensive examination of intricate issues, permitted the collection of rich and detailed data, and demonstrated flexibility and adaptability. Furthermore, it yielded significant insights into the experiences and perceptions of stakeholders.

3.5 Targeted Population

The targeted population is a critical component of any research study, referring to the specific group of individuals or organizations that the study aims to investigate or understand (Creswell, 2014). In the context of this study, the targeted population included key stakeholders who play a vital role in addressing drug abuse in the community. The targeted stakeholders included police officers, healthcare professionals, community leaders and community members affected by drug abuse in Zengeza 4. By targeting these stakeholders, this study aimed to gather rich and nuanced data that could inform policy and practice in reducing drug abuse in Zengeza.

3.6 Sample Size

In this study, the researcher intended to conduct interviews with 20 participants, which included 4 police officers, 4 healthcare professionals, 4 community leaders, and 8 victims of drug abuse. Sample size denotes the number of participants or cases chosen for a research study, serving as a representation of the broader population (Creswell, 2014). As stated by Krejcie and Morgan (1970), the determination of sample size is influenced by the population size and the required level of precision. In qualitative research, the sample size is typically smaller and more concentrated, facilitating an in-depth analysis and the collection of rich data (Morse, 2000). This particular sample size enabled a wide array of perspectives and experiences, thus offering a thorough

understanding of the research subject. By opting for a focused sample, the researcher was able to collect detailed and nuanced data, which allowed for the formulation of significant conclusions regarding the efficacy of the Dangerous Drugs Act in mitigating drug abuse in Zengeza 4.

3.7 Sampling Techniques

Sampling techniques denote the approaches employed to choose participants or cases for a research study, guaranteeing that the sample accurately reflects the broader population (Kumar, 2019). According to Bryman and Bell (2015), sampling techniques involve the selection of a subset of cases from the population, with the aim of making inferences about the population. In qualitative research, sampling techniques are often non-probability based, allowing for a focused and purposeful selection of participants (Denzin & Lincoln, 2011). For this study the researcher employed purposive sampling, selecting participants who are information-rich and knowledgeable about the research topic (Patton, 2002). 20 participants are selected comprising police officers, healthcare professionals, community leaders and victims who have experienced drug abuse.

3.8 Data collection

Data collection is defined as the process of acquiring information from participants or sources to address the research question (Kumar, 2019). As noted by Bryman and Bell (2015), this process entails the systematic accumulation of data through various techniques, aimed at providing insights into the research question. In qualitative research, the methods of data collection are typically flexible and adaptable, facilitating a comprehensive exploration of the research topic (Denzin & Lincoln, 2011). For this study, the researcher employed two data collection methods: a questionnaire and document analysis. The integration of these two methods not only assisted in triangulating the data but also enhanced the validity and reliability of the research findings.

3.8.1 Questionnaire

A questionnaire consists of a series of questions formulated to collect data from participants regarding their attitudes, beliefs, behaviors, and traits (Dillman, 2000). The researcher chose to use a questionnaire as the primary data collection method for this study due to the need for confidentiality, particularly for police officers and healthcare professionals who require anonymity when sharing sensitive information. This method also offered flexibility, standardization and reduced social desirability bias. By using a questionnaire, the researcher could collect quantitative data from a large sample size while ensuring respondent confidentiality. This approach was particularly important when studying sensitive topics, as it allowed respondents to provide honest answers without fear of retribution or judgment. Overall, a questionnaire was an effective tool for gathering reliable and valid data for this study.

3.8.2 Document analysis

Document analysis is a qualitative data collection method that entails the systematic examination and interpretation of documents, such as policy reports, legislation and statistical data (Bowen, 2009). This method is particularly useful for gathering information on the policy and legislative framework surrounding the Dangerous Drugs Act, as well as trends and patterns in drug abuse in Zengeza (Scott, 1990). Document analysis provided a wealth of information on the research topic, enabling researchers to discern essential themes and patterns while also situating the results within the context of other data collection techniques.

3.9 Validity and reliability

Validity and reliability are critical elements of any research study, guaranteeing that the results are precise, credible, and applicable to the broader population (Creswell, 2014). As noted

by Kumar (2019), validity pertains to the degree to which a research tool measures what it is intended to measure, whereas reliability relates to the consistency or dependability of that research tool. In this study's context, ensuring both validity and reliability was vital to the study's outcomes. To establish validity, the researcher utilized triangulation, incorporating various data sources, such as the distribution of questionnaires and document analysis, to corroborate the findings (Denzin & Lincoln, 2011). Furthermore, member checking was implemented, allowing participants to review and confirm the transcripts of their interviews, thereby ensuring that the data accurately represented their experiences and viewpoints (Lincoln & Guba, 1985). To ensure reliability, a comprehensive data collection protocol was established to maintain consistency and systematic approaches in data collection methods (Bryman & Bell, 2015). By affirming both validity and reliability, the study confidently concluded that the findings accurately depicted the experiences and perspectives of stakeholders involved in tackling drug abuse in Zengeza 4.

3.10 Ethical considerations

Ethical considerations represent an essential aspect of any research study, safeguarding the rights and dignity of participants (Resnik, 2015). As noted by Bryman and Bell (2015), these considerations encompass the moral principles and values that steer the research process. It was vital to uphold participants' confidentiality and anonymity, especially due to the sensitive nature of the research topic (Denzin & Lincoln, 2011). To mitigate these issues, the researcher secured informed consent from all participants, ensuring they comprehended the study's purpose and risks, and that they had the option to withdraw at any moment (Kumar, 2019). Furthermore, the researcher took measures to guarantee that all collected data were stored securely and anonymously, thereby protecting participants' identities. By emphasizing ethical considerations,

the researcher conducted the study in a responsible and respectful manner, ensuring that the findings contributed positively to addressing drug abuse in Zengeza 4.

3.11 Confidentiality

Confidentiality is a core principle in research, safeguarding the personal and sensitive information of participants from unauthorized access (Kumar, 2019). As noted by Bryman and Bell (2015), confidentiality entails the responsibility to protect any information acquired from or regarding participants. In this study, the preservation of confidentiality was vital to ensure that participants felt safe in disclosing sensitive details about their experiences with drug abuse (Denzin & Lincoln, 2011). To maintain confidentiality, the researcher implemented various strategies, such as assigning pseudonyms to participants, eliminating identifying details from transcripts, and securing data in a protected location. By prioritizing confidentiality, the researcher fostered trust with participants, promoted honest and open communication, and upheld the integrity of the research process.

3.12 Informed consent

Informed consent represents a core tenet of research ethics, guaranteeing that participants are thoroughly informed about the research process, including its risks and benefits, prior to giving their consent (Resnik, 2015). As noted by Kumar (2019), informed consent constitutes a voluntary agreement from a participant to engage in a research study, following comprehensive information regarding the study's objectives, methodologies, risks, and advantages. Within the framework of this study, acquiring informed consent from participants was essential to ensure their comprehension of the sensitive nature of the research topic and the associated risks (Denzin & Lincoln, 2011). To secure informed consent, the researcher supplied participants with a

comprehensive information sheet detailing the research's purpose, procedures, risks, and benefits, along with a consent form that they signed prior to their involvement in the study (Bryman & Bell, 2015). By obtaining informed consent, the researcher guaranteed that the autonomy and dignity of participants were upheld, allowing them to make an informed choice regarding their participation in the study.

3.13 Anonymity

Anonymity is a crucial ethical consideration in research, ensuring that participants' identities are protected and their confidentiality is maintained (Kumar, 2019). According to Bryman and Bell (2015), anonymity refers to the protection of participant's identities, so that they cannot be identified in any way. In the context this study maintaining anonymity was essential to ensure that participants felt secure sharing sensitive information about their experiences with drug abuse (Denzin & Lincoln, 2011). To maintain anonymity, the researcher assigned pseudonyms to participants, remove identifying information from transcripts and stored data in a secure and protected location. By maintaining anonymity, the researcher established trust with participants, encouraged honest and open disclosure and ensured that participants rights and dignity were respected.

3.14 Chapter summary

Chapter 3 has elaborated on the research methodology utilized in this study, which includes the research philosophy, approach, design, and data collection techniques. Furthermore, the chapter has examined the population under investigation, the sample size, and the participant selection methods, as well as the ethical guidelines that oversee the research. By employing a

qualitative approach, this study sought to provide an in-depth understanding of the efficacy of the Dangerous Drugs Act in mitigating drug abuse in Zengeza 4.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter detailed the results of the research, which sought to assess the efficacy of the Dangerous Drugs Act in reducing drug abuse in Zengeza 4. The information gathered through questionnaires and document analysis was presented, analysed, and discussed in connection with the research objectives. The chapter was organized to offer a comprehensive understanding of the stakeholders' viewpoints, the difficulties encountered in the enforcement of the Dangerous Drugs Act, and the overall influence of the Act on drug abuse within the community. The findings were organized thematically, consistent with the qualitative research methodology employed in this study.

4.2 Participant Demographic Data

Table 1 presentation of demographic information

Categories of participants	Targeted number	Male	Female
Police officers	4	3	1
Healthcare professionals	4	2	2
Community leaders	4	2	2
Victims of drug abuse	8	5	3
Total	20	12	8

Table 2: Age groups for participants

Age groups in years	Frequency	Percentage
18 – 25	4	20%
26 – 35	6	30%
36 – 45	5	25%
46+	5	25%
Total	20	100%

Most of the participants fell within 26-35 age group which was deliberately targeted for this study as they are most vulnerable to drug abuse.

4.3 Enforcement Mechanism of the Act on Drug Abuse in Zengeza 4.

Most participants, particularly police officers and healthcare professionals, acknowledged that the Dangerous Drugs Act provides a legal framework for addressing drug abuse. They noted that the Act is a critical tool for law enforcement agencies to prosecute drug-related offenses and deter individuals from engaging in drug abuse. One police officer stated:

“The DDA is effective in curbing drug abuse in Zengeza. I support its punitive measures as they serve as a deterrent to would-be offenders. Stiff penalties help keep our community safe and promote a drug-free society.”

This perspective aligns with the literature, as Zhou (2020) noted that the DDA’s main focus is on punitive measures, which helps in reducing the number of offenders. However, some community leaders and victims of drug abuse expressed concerns about the Act's effectiveness in practice. They noted that while the Act exists on paper, its enforcement is often weak, leading to limited impact on the ground. A community leader remarked:

“The Act is good, but it’s not being implemented properly. Drug dealers are still operating openly in our community. So there is a need to increase collaboration between law enforcement and community groups to make sure that the Act is effective in keeping our community free from drugs.”

These mixed perceptions highlight the gap between the theoretical framework provided by the Act and its practical implementation. Adelekan et al. 2014 emphasized the need for a multifaceted approach that involves governments, civil societies and the private sector in trying to address drug abuse. While the Act is seen as a necessary tool, its effectiveness is undermined by challenges such as weak enforcement and a lack of cooperation between enforcement and community groups. Reuter and Kleiman 1986 emphasize that community involvement is critical for effective drug enforcement, as law enforcement agencies cannot combat drug abuse in isolation. This finding is consistent with studies that have criticized the over-reliance on punitive measures in drug control policies, arguing that such approaches often fail to address the root causes of drug abuse.

4.4 Impact of the Act on Drug Abuse in Zengeza 4

The findings revealed mixed opinions on the impact of the Dangerous Drugs Act. While some participants, especially police officers, reported a reduction in drug-related crimes due to the Act, others, particularly healthcare professionals and victims, argued that drug abuse remains prevalent in the community.

Police officer noted:

"The Act has enabled us to arrest and prosecute drug dealers, leading to a decrease in drug-related crimes in Zengeza 4. Since the Act was implemented, we have seen a reduction in drug-related crimes in certain neighborhoods. However, the problem is far from over."

On the other hand, healthcare professionals and victims of drug abuse argued that the Act has not significantly reduced the availability of drugs or the number of individuals engaging in drug abuse.

A healthcare worker noted:

"There is need to effectively implement the DDA as we are still seeing a high number of patients with drug-related health issues. The Act has not made a significant difference in reducing drug abuse."

These contrasting perspectives suggest that while the Act has had some positive impact, its overall effectiveness in curbing drug abuse remains limited. This finding is consistent with the literature, which highlights the limitations of punitive measures in addressing drug abuse. Studies have shown that drug control policies that focus solely on enforcement often fail to tackle the fundamental social and economic elements that lead to substance abuse. Scholars like Belenko

(2016) suggested that drug policies should tackle the fundamental factors contributing to drug addiction, namely poverty, unemployment, and peer pressure, which can intensify social stigma and marginalization.

4.4.1 Community Involvement and Awareness

Community leaders emphasized the importance of involving the community in efforts to combat drug abuse. They suggested that increased awareness campaigns and community-based initiatives could complement the Dangerous Drugs Act. However, many participants noted that current efforts to engage the community are insufficient, leading to limited participation and support from residents.

A community leader stated:

"It is essential to inform our community regarding the risks associated with drug abuse and the stipulations outlined in the Act. Without community involvement, the Act will not be effective."

Mbugua et al (2018) supports the idea of educating community members through well designed campaigns which help promote awareness and encourages positive decision making. Participants also highlighted the need for community-based rehabilitation programs to support individuals recovering from drug addiction. A victim of drug abuse shared

"I want to quit using drugs, but there are no support systems in place to help me. The community needs to come together to help people like me."

These findings underscore the importance of community involvement in addressing drug abuse. Without the active participation of the community, the impact of the Dangerous Drugs Act will remain limited. This finding aligns with the literature, which emphasizes the role of community-based approaches in addressing drug abuse. Mbugua et al (2018) argue that rehabilitation is a critical component of drug enforcement, as it helps reduce demand and prevents recidivism. Studies have shown that community involvement can enhance the effectiveness of drug control policies by fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility among community members.

4.5 Challenges in implementing the Act

Several challenges were identified in the implementation of the Dangerous Drugs Act. These include:

4.5.1 Lack of Resources

Police officers highlighted the lack of adequate resources, such as vehicles and personnel, to effectively enforce the Act. One officer noted:

"We don't have enough vehicles to patrol the community and we are understaffed. This makes it difficult to respond to drug-related incidents in a timely manner."

This resource constraint has led to a situation where drug dealers operate with impunity, knowing that law enforcement agencies are ill-equipped to stop them. Omokhodion et al. (2017), noted that lack of resources, including funding and personnel, is a major challenge in implementing the Act. This challenge of limited resource is also supported by UNDCP (1995) who highlights that resource limitations are a common issue in developing countries where drug enforcement is often underfunded compared to other national priorities.

4.5.2 Corruption

Some participants, particularly community leaders, mentioned that corruption within law enforcement agencies undermines the Act's effectiveness. A community leader stated:

"Some police officers are working with drug dealers. They take bribes and allow them to continue their operations"

This corruption erodes public trust in law enforcement and allows drug networks to thrive, particularly in regions where drug trafficking is lucrative and law enforcement salaries are low. This is supported by Transparency International (2019), who noted that corruption affects public trust in law enforcers and promotes drug trafficking, especially in regions where drug trafficking is more profitable and law enforcers are getting low salaries, which make them prone to corrupt activities through bribes from drug organizations.

4.5.3 Limited Awareness

Many community members, including victims of drug abuse, reported limited awareness of the provisions of the Act, which reduces its impact. A victim of drug abuse noted:

"I was arrested and jailed for possessing a small amount of marijuana. I didn't know it was illegal. The law is too harsh and unfair. It's destroying lives instead of helping people. They should focus on rehabilitation, not punishment"

These challenges highlight the systemic issues that hinder the effective implementation of the Dangerous Drugs Act. Addressing these issues is critical to enhancing the Act's impact on drug abuse in Zengeza 4 as it is supposed to focus on helping drug addicts rather than punishing them. Hughes & Stevens (2010) supports that drug policies should put more emphasis on helping drug

addicts rather than punishing them as seen through Portugal which has adopted a decriminalization approach to drug policy, focusing on providing support and treatment for individuals struggling with drug addiction. Stimson (2019) endorses this method, demonstrating its greater efficacy in decreasing drug abuse rates and enhancing public health results.

4.6 Recommendations for Improvement

Participants provided several recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the Dangerous Drugs Act, including increased funding for law enforcement, anti-corruption measures, community education, and rehabilitation programs.

4.6.1 Increased Funding

Allocating more resources to law enforcement agencies to enhance their capacity to enforce the Act was a common suggestion. One police officer stated:

"We need more vehicles, personnel, and training to effectively combat drug-related crimes."

In light of the findings from the study, the researcher suggests that increased funding be allocated to the ZRP to acquire vehicles, recruits and train more personnel and provide specialized training to tackle complex drug related cases. This would greatly improve their response rate to drug related incidents, effectiveness and also public trust. MacCoun and Reuter (2001) supports the need for officers to be well trained as they often lack the knowledge and skills to handle drug-related cases effectively, particularly in a harm reduction context.

4.6.2 Anti-Corruption Measures

Implementing strict measures to address corruption within law enforcement agencies was also highlighted as a critical step. A community leader noted:

"We need independent oversight bodies to monitor the conduct of police officers and ensure accountability."

Based on the findings the researcher strongly advocates for the establishment of independent oversight bodies to monitor the conduct of police officers and ensure accountability. This is crucial in the context of drug law enforcement "ZRP" where there is potential abuse of power and corruption.

4.6.3 Community Education

Conducting awareness campaigns to educate the community about the provisions of the Act and the dangers of drug abuse was another key recommendation. A healthcare worker noted:

"It is essential to increase awareness regarding the risks associated with drug abuse and to inform individuals about the support services that are accessible to those facing addiction."

Community education is a crucial component of drug enforcement as it empowers individuals and communities with knowledge and skills to prevent drug abuse. Through public awareness initiatives regarding the risks associated with drug abuse and active participation from the community, the demands of drugs can be reduced. Wakefield et al. (2010) noted that a well-designed campaign can effectively reduce drug use by promoting awareness and encouraging positive decision-making.

4.6.4 Rehabilitation Programs

Establishing more rehabilitation centers to support individuals recovering from drug addiction was also emphasized. A victim of drug abuse shared:

"We need more rehabilitation centers that provide comprehensive care, including counseling, skills training and reintegration programs."

These recommendations highlight the need for a multi-faceted approach to addressing drug abuse, combining legislative measures with community-based interventions and rehabilitation programs.

The findings of this study align with existing literature on the challenges of implementing drug control policies. The DDA, while providing a legal framework for addressing drug abuse, faces significant challenges in its implementation, particularly in resource-constrained settings like Zengeza 4. The lack of resources and corruption within law enforcement agencies are consistent with findings from other studies on drug policy enforcement in developing countries.

The mixed perceptions of the Act's impact highlight the complexity of addressing drug abuse through legislation alone. While the Act may deter some individuals from engaging in drug-related activities, its effectiveness is limited by factors such as weak enforcement and limited community awareness. This finding underscores the importance of adopting a multi-faceted approach to drug abuse, combining legislative measures with community-based interventions and rehabilitation programs.

The recommendations provided by participants offer valuable insights into potential strategies for improving the effectiveness of the Dangerous Drugs Act. Increased funding, anti-corruption measures, and community education are critical components of a comprehensive approach to addressing drug abuse. These recommendations are consistent with best practices in drug policy, which emphasize the need for a balanced approach that includes prevention, treatment, and enforcement.

4.7 Chapter Summary

This chapter has presented and discussed the findings of the study, highlighting the perceptions, challenges and impact of the Dangerous Drugs Act in Zengeza 4. The findings reveal that while the Act provides a legal framework for addressing drug abuse, its effectiveness is limited by challenges such as lack of resources, corruption and limited community awareness. The recommendations provided by participants offer valuable insights into potential strategies for improving the Act's effectiveness.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS AND AREAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

5.1 Introduction

This chapter summarized the study, drawing conclusions based on the findings detailed in Chapter Four. It also presented recommendations aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the Dangerous Drugs Act in mitigating drug abuse in Zengeza 4, along with suggestions for future research endeavors. The structure of the chapter was designed to correspond with the research objectives and questions, thereby ensuring a coherent and logical progression from the analysis of findings to the ultimate conclusions and recommendations. The study sought to assess the effectiveness of the Dangerous Drugs Act in combating drug abuse, concentrating on enforcement mechanisms, challenges in implementation, and the Act's influence on drug abuse in Zengeza 4. The findings illustrated a complex scenario regarding the Act's effectiveness, with participants reporting both positive and negative outcomes. This chapter synthesized these findings, emphasized their implications for policy and practice, and offered actionable recommendations for stakeholders.

5.2 Summary of the Study

Chapter 1 introduced the research topic, provided an overview of the background, problem statement, research objectives and significance of the study. The background of the study highlighted the prevalence of drug abuse in Zimbabwe, particularly in urban areas like Zengeza 4. The problem statement outlined the challenges posed by drug abuse, including its impact on individuals, families and communities. The research objectives were clearly stated, focusing on

evaluating the effectiveness of the Dangerous Drugs Act in curbing drug abuse in Zengeza 4. The significance of the study was also discussed, emphasizing the need for evidence-based research to inform policy and practice.

Chapter 2 examined the complexities of drug and substance abuse policies in Africa, highlighting the need for a balanced approach that combines punitive measures with prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. The chapter discussed various strategies to mitigate the negative impact of drug policies, including decriminalization, harm reduction and community-based initiatives. It also emphasized the importance of addressing underlying social and economic factors contributing to drug abuse. Furthermore, the chapter provided insights into the limitations of existing policies and the need for reform. The discussion underscored the need for a comprehensive and evidence-based approach to address the continent's drug and substance abuse problem. Overall, the chapter highlighted the importance of adopting a multifaceted approach to address drug and substance abuse in Africa.

Chapter 3 outlined the research methodology used in the study, including the research philosophy, approach, design and data collection techniques. The chapter explained the rationale for using a qualitative approach, emphasizing its suitability for exploring complex social phenomena like drug abuse. The research design was described, highlighting the use of case study methodology to examine the effectiveness of the Dangerous Drugs Act in Zengeza 4. The chapter also discussed the data collection techniques used, including questionnaires and focus group discussions. Additionally, the chapter addressed the ethical principles guiding the research, ensuring the protection of participants rights and confidentiality.

Chapter 4 presented and discussed the findings of the study, highlighting the perceptions, challenges, and impact of the Dangerous Drugs Act in Zengeza 4. The findings revealed that while

the Act provides a legal framework for addressing drug abuse, its effectiveness is limited by challenges such as lack of resources, corruption and limited community awareness. The chapter also examined the perceptions of stakeholders, including law enforcement officials, healthcare professionals and community leaders. The data analysis highlighted the need for a more comprehensive approach to addressing drug abuse, one that combines legislative measures with community-based interventions and rehabilitation programs. Furthermore, the chapter discussed the implications of the findings for policy and practice, emphasizing the need for evidence-based interventions to address drug abuse in Zimbabwe.

This This concluding chapter presented a comprehensive overview of the study, drawing conclusions from the findings and offering recommendations to tackle the identified issues. It underscored the significant findings related to the efficacy of the Dangerous Drugs Act in reducing drug abuse in Zengeza 4. Furthermore, this chapter provided actionable recommendations for a range of stakeholders, including law enforcement officials, healthcare providers, community leaders, and individuals affected by drug abuse. Moreover, it proposed areas for future research to further investigate unanswered questions and explore new research directions.

5.3 Summary of finds

This research examined the perceptions, challenges and impact of the Dangerous Drugs Act (DDA) in Zengeza 4. The findings revealed that while the DDA provides a legal framework for addressing drug abuse, its effectiveness is limited by several challenges. Participants had mixed perceptions of the DDA's effectiveness, with some acknowledging its importance in addressing drug abuse, while others expressed concerns about its implementation.

The research revealed multiple obstacles that impede the successful execution of the DDA, such as insufficient resources, corruption, and a lack of community awareness. In spite of its presence, the DDA has shown minimal effectiveness in curbing drug abuse in Zengeza 4, emphasizing the necessity for a more holistic strategy. The results highlighted the significance of implementing a multi-dimensional approach to tackle drug abuse, integrating legislative actions with community-oriented initiatives and rehabilitation services.

The study recommended increased funding for law enforcement agencies and anti-corruption measures to enhance the effectiveness of the DDA. Community education and awareness campaigns are also crucial in reducing drug abuse and promoting the DDA's objectives. Overall, this study contributed to the understanding of the challenges and limitations of implementing drug control policies in resource-constrained settings, providing valuable insights for policymakers, law enforcement agencies, in collaboration with community leaders, should formulate more effective strategies to tackle drug abuse in Zengeza 4 and comparable environments.

5.4 Conclusions

In light of the findings, the subsequent conclusions were reached. First, the Dangerous Drugs Act provides a legal framework for addressing drug abuse, but its enforcement is hindered by a lack of resources, corruption and weak implementation. Police officers and healthcare professionals acknowledged the Act's importance, but community leaders and victims of drug abuse expressed concerns about its practical effectiveness.

Secondly, the Act has had some success in reducing drug-related crimes in certain neighbourhoods, but its overall impact on curbing drug abuse remains limited. Healthcare professionals and victims

noted that drug abuse is still prevalent, suggesting that the Act has not significantly reduced the availability of drugs or the number of individuals engaging in drug abuse.

Third, the implementation of the Dangerous Drugs Act faces significant challenges, including inadequate resources, corruption within law enforcement agencies and limited community awareness. These challenges undermine the Act's effectiveness and highlight the need for a multi-faceted approach to addressing drug abuse.

5.5 Recommendations

In light of the findings and conclusions, the subsequent recommendations are put forth. on the findings and conclusions, the following recommendations are proposed.

- The Republic Police should be allocating more resources to enhance their capacity to enforce the Dangerous Drugs Act. This includes providing adequate vehicles, personnel and training to effectively combat drug-related crimes.
- Police Internal Affairs Department should implement strict anti-corruption measures to address corruption within law enforcement agencies. This could include establishing independent oversight bodies to monitor the conduct of police officers and ensure accountability.
- Ministry of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services should conduct awareness campaigns to educate the community about the provisions of the DDA and the dangers of drug abuse. This will help increase community participation and support for the Act's implementation.
- Department of Social Welfare and Department of Rehabilitation Services should, establish more rehabilitation centres to support individuals recovering from drug addiction. These

centres should provide comprehensive care, including counselling, skills training and reintegration programs, to help individuals rebuild their lives.

- The Office of the National Drug Control Master Plan ought to promote cooperation among law enforcement agencies, healthcare practitioners, community leaders, and civil society organizations to tackle drug abuse in a comprehensive manner. This approach will guarantee that all parties involved strive towards a unified objective.

5.6 Areas for Further Research

- The researcher suggests implementing a longitudinal study to evaluate the enduring effects of the Dangerous Drugs Act on drug abuse in Zengeza 4. This approach will yield valuable insights regarding the Act's efficacy over time and highlight potential areas for enhancement.
- The researcher recommends exploring the effectiveness of community-based approaches to preventing drug abuse, such as peer education programs and community policing initiatives.
- The researcher recommends investigating the role of civil society organizations in supporting the implementation of the Dangerous Drugs Act and addressing drug abuse in Zengeza 4.
- The researcher recommends conducting a comparative analysis of drug control policies in different regions or countries to identify best practices that could be adapted to the context of Zengeza 4. These areas of research will contribute to a deeper understanding of the

challenges and opportunities in addressing drug abuse and inform the development of more effective drug control policies.

REFERENCE

- Adelekan, M. L., & Fadipe, B. (2014). Drug Abuse among Secondary School Students in Nigeria. *Journal of Substance Use*, 19(1-2), 147-155.
- African Union. (2013). Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2013-2017). Retrieved from (link unavailable)
- Belenko, S. (2016). Assessing the impact of drug policies on populations: A review of the evidence. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 31, 133-142.
- Bewley-Taylor, D. R. (2003). Challenging the UN drug conventions: Problems and possibilities. *Journal of Drug Issues*, 33(3), 629-656.
- Beyrer, C., Malinowska-Sempruch, K., Kamarulzaman, A., Kazatchkine, M., Sidibe, M., & Wirtz, A. L. (2010). Time to act: A call for comprehensive responses to HIV in people who inject drugs. *The Lancet*, 376(9737), 551-563.
- Botswana Police Service. (2020). Crime Statistics Report.
- Bowen, G. A. (2009). Document analysis as a qualitative research method. *Qualitative Research Journal*, 9(2), 27-40.
- Brazilian Ministry of Health. (2019). Levantamento Nacional sobre o Uso de Drogas pelas Populações Prisionais.
- Bryman, A., & Bell, E. (2015). *Business research methods* (4th ed.). Oxford University Press.
- Caulkins, J. P., & Reuter, P. (2010). How drug enforcement affects drug prices. *Crime and Justice*, 39(1), 213–271.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2021). Drug overdose deaths.
- Chitiyo, T. (2012). The impact of the Dangerous Drugs Act on drug abuse in Zimbabwe. *Journal of Social Sciences*, 30(2), 147-156.
- National Institute on Drug Abuse. (2022). Definitions.

- Clawson, P., & Lee, R. (1996). Consequences of the illegal drug trade: The negative economic, political, and social effects of cocaine on Latin America. Study for the Bureau of International Narcotics Matters of the United States Department of State.
- Creswell, J. W. (2014). Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches. Sage Publications.
- Denzin, N. K., & Lincoln, Y. S. (2011). The SAGE handbook of qualitative research (4th ed.). Sage Publications.
- Department of Social Development. (2020). National Drug Master Plan (2019-2024). Retrieved from (link unavailable)
- Dorn, N., & South, N. (1987). Land of opportunity: The British drug market. *Journal of Drug Issues*, 17(3), 289-304.
- DRUG ABUSE AND MORALS OF YOUTHS; A CASE STUDY OF UGANDA. (n.d)
- Dube, S. (2020). Political interference in drug enforcement: A case study from Zimbabwe. *African Political Review*, 8(2), 112–125.
- European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction. (2021). European drug report 2021.
- Gastrow, P. (2021). The heroin trade in Mozambique. *Journal of Modern African Studies*, 59(1), 1-20.
- Ghana Ministry of Interior. (2020). National Anti-Drug Strategy. Retrieved from (link unavailable)
- Ghana Statistical Service. (2019). Ghana Demographic and Health Survey.
- Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime. (2020). The heroin trade in Southern Africa.
- Government of South Africa. (1992). Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.
- Government of Zimbabwe. (2001). Medicines and Allied Substances Control Act. Retrieved from
- Government of Zimbabwe. (2019). Dangerous Drugs Act.
- Guba, E. G., & Lincoln, Y. S. (1994). Competing paradigms in qualitative research. In N. K. Denzin & Y. S. Lincoln (Eds.), *Handbook of qualitative research* (pp. 105-117). Sage Publications.

- Hughes, C. E., & Stevens, A. (2010). What can we learn from the Portuguese decriminalization of illicit drugs? *British Journal of Criminology*, 50(6), 999-1022.
- Human Rights Watch. (2020). Brazil: Favela Residents Face Forced Evictions.
- Instituto Brasileiro de Economia. (2020). O Impacto Econômico do Consumo de Drogas no Brasil.
- Kerr, T., Small, W., & Wood, E. (2010). The public health and social impacts of drug market enforcement: A review of the evidence. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 21(4), 257-266.
- Krejcie, R. V., & Morgan, D. W. (1970). Determining sample size for research activities. *Educational and Psychological Measurement*, 30(3), 607-610.
- Kumar, R. (2019). *Research methodology: A step-by-step guide for beginners* (4th ed.). Sage Publications.
- Kvale, S. (2007). *Doing interviews*. Sage Publications.
- Lincoln, Y. S., & Guba, E. G. (1985). *Naturalistic inquiry*. Sage Publications.
- MacCoun, R. J., & Reuter, P. (2001). *Drug war heresies: Learning from other vices, times, and places*. Cambridge University Press.
- Mangwiro, P. (2022). The need for rehabilitation programs in Zimbabwe. *Zimbabwe Health Review*, 15(1), 33–47.
- Mavhunga, C. (2021). Cannabis cultivation and use in Zimbabwe: An exploratory study. *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*, 20(3), 1-9.
- Mbugua, M. N., & others. (2018). Prevalence and Correlates of Substance Use among Secondary School Students in Kenya. *Journal of Substance Use*, 23(3), 257-264.
- Morse, J. M. (2000). Determining sample size. *Qualitative Health Research*, 10(1), 3-5.
- Moyo, S. (2020). An evaluation of the Dangerous Drugs Act in Zimbabwe. *Journal of Social Sciences*, 60(1), 1-12.
- Moyo, T. (2020). Resource constraints in drug enforcement: A case study from Harare. *Zimbabwe Law Review*, 9(3), 67–80.

- Mushayavanhu, D. (2020). The impact of the Dangerous Drugs Act on drug abuse in Harare. *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*, 20(3), 1-9.
- National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse. (2020). Kenya National Drug Use Survey
- National Drug Law Enforcement Agency. (2021). Annual Report.
- Ncube, B. (2019). Drug-related deaths in Harare: A review of the evidence. *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, 64(4), 1030-1038.
- Ndlovu, S. (2023). Training gaps in drug enforcement: A case study from Bulawayo. *African Journal of Criminology*, 14(1), 55–70.
- Omokhodion, F. O., & Fadipe, B. (2017). Drug Abuse among Secondary School Students in Nigeria. *Journal of Substance Use*, 22(3), 257-264.
- Patton, M. Q. (2002). *Qualitative research and evaluation methods* (3rd ed.). Sage Publications.
- Peltzer, K., & others. (2010). Substance Use and Associated Factors among Young People in South Africa. *Journal of Substance Use*, 15(4), 257-265.
- Resnik, D. B. (2015). What is ethics in research & why is it important? National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.
- Reuter, P., & Kleiman, M. A. R. (1986). Risks and prices: An economic analysis of drug enforcement. *Crime and Justice*, 7, 289–340.
- Room, R., Fischer, B., Hall, W., Lenton, S., & Reuter, P. (2010). *Cannabis policy: Moving beyond stalemate*. Oxford University Press.
- SACENDU. (2021). South African Community Epidemiology Network on Drug Use.
- SADC. (2021). SADC Regional Drug Strategy (2016-2026).
- Saunders, M. N. K., Lewis, P., & Thornhill, A. (2015). *Research methods for business students*. Pearson Education Limited.
- Scott, J. (1990). *A matter of record: Documentary sources in social research*. Polity Press.
- Senegal National Agency for Statistics and Demography. (2019). Senegal Demographic and Health Survey

- Stimson, G. V. (2019). The impact of decriminalization on drug use and drug-related harm. *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*, 96, 102-112.
- Tanzania National Bureau of Statistics. (2019). Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey.
- Thoumi, F. E. (2003). *Illegal drugs, economy and society in the Andes*. Woodrow Wilson Center Press.
- Transparency International. (2019). Corruption Perceptions Index.
- UNAIDS. (2020). UNAIDS Data 2020.
- United Nations Development Programme. (2022). Youth and drug abuse.
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. (2020). Africa Drug Report.
- United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP). (1995). The social impact of drug abuse. United Nations.
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2019). World Drug Report.
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2021). World drug report 2021.
- UNODC. (2020). World Drug Report.
- World Health Organization. (2018). International standards for the treatment of drug use disorders.
- World Health Organization. (2018). Substance Abuse.
- World Health Organization. (2021). Drug use and health.
- Yin, R. K. (2018). *Case study research and applications: Design and methods* (6th ed.). Sage Publications.
- Zhou, L. (2020). An analysis of the Dangerous Drugs Act in Zimbabwe. *Journal of Law and Policy*, 20(2)
- Zimbabwe Civil Liberties and Drug Network. (2022). Drug abuse in Zimbabwe: A report on the current situation.
- Zimbabwe Government. (2007). Dangerous Drugs Act [Chapter 15:02]. Government Printer.
- Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency. (2019). Zimbabwe Demographic and Health Survey.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022). Drug overdose deaths.

Zimbabwe Parliament. (2001). Dangerous Drugs Act

Appendix 1: Permission letter

100% (100%) (100%) (100%)

Appendix 2: Questionnaire

QUESTIONARE FOR PARTICIPANTS

An Evaluation of the Dangerous Drugs Act in Curbing Drug Abuse in Zengeza 4, Chitungwiza

My name is B211054B. I am a final-year student conducting research at Bindura University of Science Education (BUSE) on the effectiveness of the Dangerous Drugs Act in reducing drug abuse in Zengeza 4, Chitungwiza. I kindly request your participation in this study by answering the following questions. Your responses will be used strictly for academic and research purposes. Confidentiality and anonymity are guaranteed, and you are free to withdraw from the study at any time.

Your participation and cooperation are greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

B211054B

Undergraduate Research Candidate

Email:

Instructions

Kindly use an “X” for your response in the appropriate box and write answers on the spaces provided as well.

Section A

1. Gender

MALE	FEMALE
------	--------

2. Age

18 - 25	26 – 35	36 - 45	46+
---------	---------	---------	-----

3. Marital status

Single	Married	Divorced	Widowed	Cohabiting
--------	---------	----------	---------	------------

4. Occupation

Police officer	Healthcare professional	Community leader	Victim of drug abuse

5. Years of experience in current role

0 – 5	6 – 10	11 - 15	16+

6. Residential Place

Zengeza 4	Other (please specify)

SECTION B: Awareness and Enforcement of the Dangerous Drug Act

1. Are you aware of the Dangerous Drugs Act in Zimbabwe?

Yes	No
-----	----

2. If Yes, how did you become aware of the Dangerous Drugs Act? (Select all that apply)

- Media (TV, Radio, Newspapers)
- Workshops/ Seminars
- Law enforcement agencies
- Community programs
- Others (please specify)

3. On a scale of 1 to 5, how effective do you think the Dangerous Drugs Act is in reducing drug abuse in Zengeza

1 (Not effective at all	2	3	4	5 (Very effective)

4. What are the main enforcement mechanisms used under the Dangerous Drugs Act in Zengeza 4? (select all that apply)

Arrests and prosecutions	Public awareness campaigns	Rehabilitation programs	Community policing	Other (Please specify)

SECTION C: Effectiveness of the Dangerous Drugs Act

5. In your opinion, has the Dangerous Drugs Act reduced drug abuse in Zengeza 4?

Yes	No	Undecided

6. If Yes, what evidence supports this reduction? (Select all that apply)

- Decrease in drug-related arrests
- Fewer reports of drug abuse in the community
- Increased public awareness
- Other (Please specify)

7. If No, what factors contribute to the ineffectiveness of the Act? (Select all that apply)

- Weak enforcement
- High demand for drugs
- Lack of rehabilitation programs
- Corruption
- Other (Please specify)

8. What are the most common types of drugs abused in Zengeza?

- Marijuana
- Alcohol
- Cocaine
- Heroin
- Prescription drugs
- Other (Please specify)

9. What are the primary reasons for drug abuse in Zengeza 4? (Select all that apply)

- Poverty
- Peer pressure
- Unemployment
- Mental health issues
- Other (Please specify)

SECTION D: Challenges and Recommendations

10. What are the main challenges faced by law enforcement agencies in implementing the Dangerous Drugs Act in Zengeza?

- Lack of resources
- Corruption
- Lack of community support
- Inadequate training
- Other (Please specify)

11. What measures do you think could improve the effectiveness of the Dangerous Drugs Act in Zengeza? (Select all that apply)

- Increased funding for law enforcement
- Public awareness campaigns
- Rehabilitation programs for drug users
- Stricter penalties for drug offenders
- Other (Please specify)

12. Do you think community involvement is important in combating drug abuse?

Yes	No	Undecided

14. What role can community leaders play in reducing drug abuse in Zengeza?

- Organizing awareness campaigns
- Collaborating with law enforcement

- Other (Please specify)

SECTION E: Additional Comments

15. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions regarding the Dangerous Drugs Act and its implementation in Zengeza?

Thank you for your cooperation!

Your responses are invaluable to this study.

