BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

AN INVESTIGATION OF THE EFFECTS OF THE CEMENT INDUSTRY ON THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN HEALTH: A CASE STUDY OF THE KHAYAH CEMENT PLANT IN MABVUKU, HARARE

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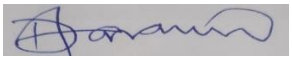
A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE HONOURS DEGREE IN SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Date: 06/2025

Declaration

I, the undersigned, declare that this dissertation is my own independent work. It has not been submitted for any other degree or diploma. All sources of information, data, and quotations have been properly acknowledged.

Signed: 

Date: June2025

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Supervisor's Declaration

I have read and evaluated the dissertation titled:

"An Investigation of the Effects of the Cement Industry on the Natural Environment and Human Health: A Case Study of the Khayah Cement Plant in Mabvuku, Harare." I certify that it is suitable for submission in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the degree.

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Chairman of Department

I certify that this dissertation meets the academic standards of the Department and is approved for submission to the Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Science.

Signature: 

Name: Mr T. Nyamugure

Date: June 2025

Dedication

This research project is dedicated to the resilient and enduring community of Mabvuku, particularly the residents living in close proximity to the Khayah Cement Plant. Your lived experiences, unwavering patience, and courage in the face of persistent environmental and health challenges have provided the foundation for this investigation. It is your stories often unheard, yet deeply powerful that gave this research its true purpose and direction.

To the families who have endured years of dust, noise, and deteriorating air and soil quality, often with limited support or recognition this work stands as a testament to your reality. The increase in respiratory ailments, skin conditions, and other health complications faced by many in the area should not be dismissed or overlooked. This study seeks to honour your voices and elevate your concerns in the hope of contributing to meaningful change.

To the environmental and health professionals, activists, and scholars who continue to raise awareness and fight for better policies and practices your commitment to environmental justice and public health safeguards the rights of current and future generations. Your tireless work, often behind the scenes, has shaped the direction and rigor of this research.

To my family, whose unwavering belief in the value of education and social responsibility has inspired me throughout this journey your emotional and moral support has made this work possible. Thank you for your patience during long nights, your encouragement during difficult moments, and your constant reminder of the importance of community.

Lastly, this project is dedicated to all students, researchers, and policy advocates working to confront environmental injustice and industrial pollution across Zimbabwe and beyond. May this study serve as a stepping stone for further academic inquiry, policy reform, and advocacy efforts aimed at protecting both the natural environment and human well-being.

Acknowledgement

First and foremost, I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to my supervisor, Mr. P. Nhokovedzo, for his invaluable guidance, constructive feedback, and unwavering support throughout the course of this research.

I am especially grateful to the residents of Mabvuku, particularly those residing near the Khayah Cement Plant, for their active participation in interviews and surveys. Their firsthand experiences and insights were instrumental in shaping the findings of this study.

Special appreciation also goes to the wider Mabvuku community for their cooperation and openness during the research process. To my friends and fellow students, thank you for your encouragement, assistance, and the many enriching discussions that broadened my understanding.

Finally, to my family your unconditional love, patience, and belief in me have been the cornerstone of this accomplishment.

Abstract

This study investigates the environmental and health impacts of cement manufacturing, using the Khayah Cement Plant in Mabvuku, Harare, as a case study. The research aims to assess the extent to which cement production contributes to environmental degradation and adverse health outcomes in surrounding communities. Cement production, while vital for infrastructure development, is associated with the release of pollutants such as particulate matter, silica, and calcium oxide, which pose serious risks to both the natural environment and human health.

A descriptive cross-sectional design was employed, using a mixed-methods approach to collect both quantitative and qualitative data. The study population comprised 178 individuals, including employees from various departments at Khayah Cement, residents living within a 3-kilometre perimeter of the plant, and healthcare personnel from nearby clinics. From this population, a targeted sample of 150 respondents was selected, with 123 completing the questionnaires, yielding a response rate of 82%, which strengthens the validity and reliability of the data. Additionally, expert interviews were conducted with environmental and health professionals to provide further insights.

Findings revealed elevated levels of dust and airborne pollutants in the vicinity of the plant, along with noticeable deterioration in local air and soil quality. Residents reported increased incidences of respiratory illnesses, eye irritation, and skin conditions particularly among those living closest to the plant. The study also identified regulatory enforcement gaps and insufficient environmental mitigation by plant operators.

These results underscore the need for stronger environmental monitoring, community health interventions, and stricter regulatory oversight. The study contributes to the broader discourse on industrial pollution and its implications for environmental justice in urban Zimbabwe.

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

CO_2	Carbon Dioxide
PM	Particulate Matter
PM2.5	Particulate Matter with Diameter ≤ 2.5 Microns
NO_x	Nitrogen Oxides
SO_2	Sulfur Dioxide
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
EMA	Environmental Management Agency
EMS	Environmental Management System
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
H&S	Health and Safety
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
WBCSD	World Business Council for Sustainable Development
WHO	World Health Organization
ZINWA	Zimbabwe National Water Authority

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Chapter 1

1.1 Background of the Study

The cement industry plays a crucial role in global infrastructure development, supplying essential materials for construction projects of all scales (Dyer and Cormier, 2016). However, cement manufacturing is linked to considerable environmental and health concerns due to the emission of pollutants such as carbon dioxide (CO_2), particulate matter (PM), and toxic chemicals during high-temperature processing of raw materials like limestone, clay, and gypsum (Kumar and Kumar, 2017).

Khayah Cement Plant, situated in Mabvuku a densely populated suburb of Harare is a major supplier of cement. As industrial activity expands to accommodate increasing urban demands, concerns have arisen about the plant's environmental and public health impacts, including air pollution, water contamination, soil deterioration, and associated health hazards for both workers and local residents (Chakauya *et al*., 2016).

Despite rising concerns, there is limited localized research evaluating the specific environmental and health effects of cement production in Harare. This study aims to bridge that gap by examining the influence of Khayah Cement Plant operations on air quality, water resources, soil health, and the well-being of neighbouring communities. The research also intends to assess the efficacy of existing mitigation measures and offer recommendations for more sustainable and health-conscious industrial practices.

Cement manufacturing is fundamental to modern construction but remains among the most environmentally damaging industrial processes The process releases large quantities of CO_2, sulfur dioxide (SO_2), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), and particulate matter, contributing to climate change and local pollution (Worrell *et al*., 2001; Anderson, 2020; WBCSD, 2002). Furthermore, improper waste disposal and emissions can compromise water and soil quality (Sathaye *et al*., 2011).

Cement production underpins infrastructure growth, especially in rapidly urbanizing zones like Harare (Zhou and Chiromo, 2019). The Khayah Cement Plant in Mabvuku is among the country's leading cement producers. Nonetheless, its proximity to residential areas has raised environmental and health concerns. The release of cement dust and industrial waste into nearby air, water, and

soil ecosystems poses potential adverse effects on agriculture, local biodiversity, and public health (Mutasa and Chikozho, 2020; Moyo and Nhengu, 2017).

Workers at the facility are often exposed to dust and chemical pollutants, increasing their risk of respiratory illnesses, cardiovascular problems, and skin conditions (Ngwenya and Mavhungu, 2018). Nearby inhabitants may face chronic respiratory issues, eye irritation, and other long-term health effects due to ongoing exposure (Chikozho *et al*., 2018). Compounding the issue, many residents in Mabvuku lack adequate access to healthcare and environmental safeguards.

Despite an expanding body of global literature on cement industry impacts, few studies have concentrated specifically on the Khayah Cement Plant or the Mabvuku community. This research seeks to deliver a localized assessment of these impacts and examine whether current mitigation strategies are adequate.

1.2 **Statement of the Problem**

While the cement industry supports infrastructural development in Zimbabwe, its operations particularly at the Khayah Cement Plant pose serious environmental and health risks. The plant releases substantial amounts of particulate matter, toxic gases, and industrial waste, which threaten air quality, contaminate water sources, and degrade soil in Mabvuku. These pollutants jeopardize the health of workers and nearby residents, potentially leading to respiratory diseases, skin disorders, and other chronic conditions (Moyo and Nhengu, 2017; Ngwenya and Mavhungu, 2018).

Despite these risks, limited empirical research has examined the specific environmental and public health impacts of the Khayah Cement Plant. Moreover, there is insufficient assessment of the socioeconomic challenges faced by the local community or the effectiveness of existing mitigation measures.

This study aims to address these gaps by evaluating the environmental and health repercussions of cement manufacturing in Mabvuku, analysing community vulnerability, and proposing practical strategies to mitigate the negative impacts of industrial activities in urban settings.

1.3 Aim of the Study

To investigate the environmental and health impacts of cement production activities at the Khayah Cement Plant in Mabvuku, Harare, with a focus on identifying associated hazards and evaluating existing control measures.

1.4 Specific Objectives:

- To identify and assess the types and levels of environmental pollution caused by the cement plant.
- To evaluate the prevalence of health conditions among residents and workers potentially linked to cement production.
- To examine the relationship between proximity to the plant and severity of health effects.
- To assess the effectiveness of environmental and health management practices at the plant.

1.5 Research Questions:

- What are the main environmental pollutants associated with the Khayah Cement Plant?
- What health symptoms are commonly reported by residents and workers?
- Is there a correlation between distance from the plant and health complaints?
- What environmental and health mitigation measures are in place at the plant?

1.6 Significance of the Study

This research is crucial for its potential to improve environmental management, public health, and sustainable industrial practices in Zimbabwe, particularly concerning the Khayah Cement Plant in Mabvuku, Harare. By analysing the environmental and health impacts of cement manufacturing, the study aims to generate insights that will inform policymaking, enhance public health, and foster more sustainable industrial operations. It will evaluate the effects of cement production on air quality, water resources, and soil health, while also exploring health risks faced by workers and the surrounding communities. Additionally, it will address socioeconomic challenges faced by locals, offering practical recommendations to improve their welfare. This study will contribute to the limited knowledge on cement industry impacts in Zimbabwe and add to the global understanding of its environmental and health consequences. Ultimately, it aspires to promote

positive changes in industrial practices and policy frameworks, ensuring that the cement sector supports economic development without compromising community health and environmental integrity.

1.7. **Limitations**

This study, while offering valuable insights, has several limitations:

Scope of Data Collection: Due to resource and time constraints, the research will focus on a specific geographic zone around the Khayah Cement Plant. It will not encompass other regions or plants, which may limit the generalizability of results. Data sourced locally may not fully capture long-term or indirect impacts of cement manufacturing.

Data Accessibility and Accuracy: Challenges may arise in obtaining comprehensive and up-to-date data, especially regarding pollution levels, health records, and mitigation strategies. Existing environmental monitoring data might be outdated or incomplete, and health data may be scarce or underreported.

Limited Duration for Health Impact Assessment: Long-term health effects from cement dust and pollutants may require extended observation periods. The study's limited timeframe might hinder the evaluation of chronic health outcomes.

Stakeholder Access: Gaining insights from plant management, workers, or authorities could be constrained by confidentiality or accessibility issues, affecting the depth of data collected.

Bias in Self-Reported Data: Responses from surveys or interviews may be influenced by subjective biases or fear of repercussions, possibly skewing perceptions of impacts.

External Pollution Sources: Other pollution sources, like vehicular emissions or nearby industries, could confound results, making it difficult to attribute effects solely to cement production.

Assessment of Mitigation Measures: Evaluating the effectiveness of current mitigation strategies might be limited by the availability of internal reports or transparency from the plant.

1.8 Delimitations

This investigation is specifically focused on the Khayah Cement Plant in Mabvuku, Harare, examining its direct effects on the local environment and the health of nearby residents and employees. The scope is limited geographically to areas surrounding the plant, concentrating on air quality, water resources, soil conditions, and public health within a designated radius. The study will not extend to other cement facilities in Zimbabwe or across different regions, nor will it analyse the broader impacts of the cement industry at the national level.

Additionally, the research will primarily analyse impacts associated with the plant's current operations, without considering historical environmental conditions prior to its establishment. The scope is confined to assessing present environmental degradation and health issues directly linked to the plant's activities, excluding future developments unless relevant.

The focus will be on environmental and health factors, with secondary attention to socioeconomic challenges in the community. While socioeconomic aspects are important, the study will not explore broader economic trends or other industries affecting Mabvuku.

Finally, the research will rely on quantitative and qualitative data from primary sources such as surveys, interviews, and environmental measurements. Secondary data from existing literature will support contextual understanding, but the study will not involve experimental research or large-scale environmental modelling. The findings will provide a snapshot of the current situation, acknowledging that conclusions may evolve with ongoing research.

1.9 Summary

The present chapter, Chapter 1, provided an overview of the study by examining the background to the research, highlighting the environmental and health concerns associated with cement production, particularly at the Khayah Cement Plant in Mabvuku, Harare. The chapter also presented the statement of the problem and outlined the aim of the study. Additionally, it detailed the research objectives and questions that will guide the investigation. The significance of the study was discussed, emphasizing its potential to inform policy and improve environmental and public health outcomes. Lastly, the chapter addressed the study's limitations and delimitations, which define the scope and constraints of the research.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

2.0 Introduction

The environmental footprint of cement manufacturing is a growing concern worldwide, particularly in emerging countries like Zimbabwe, where speedy urbanization and infrastructure development fuel demand for cement (Meyer, 2015). The operations of cement plants, including the Khayah Cement Plant in Mabvuku, Harare, are linked to considerable impacts on air quality, water sources, soil conditions, and public health. Understanding these effects within the local context is crucial for developing effective mitigation strategies and guiding policy actions.

2.1 Impacts on Air Quality and Human Health

Cement production is among the largest contributors of particulate matter (PM) emissions globally, significantly contributing to ambient air pollution (Hassan and Lee, 2018). Dust produced during raw material handling, kiln operations, and packaging contains fine particle such as silica and calcium oxide, which pose health risks to both workers and local residents (Moyo and Nhengu, 2017). Health risks for workers include respiratory diseases like silicosis, chronic bronchitis, and occupational asthma (Ali and Jamil, 2019). Specifically, silica dust is a known cause of silicosis a potentially deadly lung disease highlighting occupational hazards that are often worsened in settings with limited protective gear and safety protocols (Zhang et al., 2017).

For communities near the plant, ongoing exposure to cement dust and gaseous emissions such as sulfur dioxide (SO_2), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), and carbon dioxide (CO_2) can result in respiratory issues, cardiovascular complaints, and decreased lung function (Chikozho et al., 2018). These pollutants also contribute to acid rain formation, adversely affecting vegetation and water bodies (Chen et al., 2019). In Zimbabwe, the absence of strict enforcement of air quality standards often leads to elevated pollutant levels (Environmental Management Agency, 2020). In Mabvuku, residents report frequent dust storms and respiratory problems, highlighting the need for localized air quality evaluations.

2.2 Water Resources and Contamination Risks

Water management issue is critical, especially with cement plants releasing wastewater containing chemicals such as calcium oxide and heavy metals (Kanyoka and Chivandikwa, 2017). In areas

where access to clean water remains limited in many urban regions, improper wastewater treatment poses serious health hazards (National Water Authority, 2019). Local impacts include contamination of groundwater and surface water sources used by communities for drinking, farming, and hygiene (Chikozho *et al*., 2018). Research in Zimbabwe has documented higher levels of heavy metals in water sources near industrial zones, raising concerns about long-term health effects such as neurological disorders and cancer (Mudzonga and Chiwara, 2018). Furthermore, contaminated water used for irrigation can cause soil degradation and crop contamination, reducing agricultural output and threatening food security in Mabvuku (Ngwenya and Mavhungu, 2018).

2.3 Soil Degradation and Land Use Changes

Cement dust deposition modifies soil chemistry, often increasing acidity and disturbing nutrient balance (Meyer, 2015). In some regions, the expansion of cement plants has been associated with deforestation and land degradation, affecting local ecosystems and agricultural livelihoods (Akinbami *et al*., 2017). Soil contamination in Mabvuku may diminish soil fertility, impede crop growth, and elevate erosion risks (Ngwenya and Mavhungu, 2018). The lack of effective land rehabilitation after mining and raw material extraction further worsens environmental degradation, highlighting the need for sustainable land management practices.

2.4 Human Health Risks for Workers and Communities

The health risks associated with cement dust and gaseous emissions goes beyond occupational hazards to broader community-level health concerns. Long-term exposure to airborne pollutants can lead to respiratory illnesses, cardiovascular diseases, and skin and eye irritations among residents (Zhang *et al.,* 2017). Vulnerable groups, including children and the elderly, are particularly at risk. Studies in the region and neighbouring countries report elevated incidences of asthma, developmental delays, and diminished lung capacity in children residing near industrial zones (Ali and Jamil, 2019). Inadequate access to healthcare and limited health surveillance in Mabvuku amplify these risks, emphasizing the importance of integrating health monitoring with environmental management (Environmental Management Agency, 2020).

2.5 Socioeconomic and Environmental Challenges

While cement plants contribute to economic development through job creation and the provision of infrastructure, they also pose significant social and environmental burdens. These include air and water pollution, which adversely affect health and diminish property values (Hassan and Lee, 2018), displacement of communities due to mining activities, leading to loss of livelihoods (Akinbami *et al*., 2017), and a decline in agricultural productivity due to soil and water contamination, jeopardizing food security (Ngwenya and Mavhungu, 2018). In some regions, these challenges are intensified by weak regulatory enforcement, limited resources, and poor community engagement (Environmental Management Agency, 2020).

2.6 Mitigation Measures and Policy Gaps

Globally, cement plants have adopted various mitigation strategies, including dust suppression systems (e.g., electrostatic precipitators and bag filters), gas emission controls (e.g., SCR and SNCR), and water reuse technologies (Choudhury *et al*., 2015; Pan *et al*., 2019). In some contexts, however, the adoption of these measures is inconsistent due to weak regulatory enforcement and limited technological capacity (Environmental Management Agency, 2020). The Environmental Management Act (EMA) (2002) provides a legal framework, but gaps remain in monitoring, enforcement, and community engagement. For the Khayah Cement Plant and similar facilities, embracing cleaner production technologies, enhancing environmental oversight, and promoting community involvement are crucial steps toward sustainable operations (González *et al*., 2018).

2.7 Conclusion

Existing literature shows that cement industry operations, including those of Khayah Cement in Mabvuku, have significant impacts on environmental quality and human health. Addressing these challenges requires a combination of technological advancements, effective policy implementation, and active community engagement. Future research should focus on localized environmental monitoring and assessing the effectiveness of mitigation strategies within Zimbabwe's socio-economic context.

Chapter 3: Research Methodology

3.1 Description of Study Area

The study was carried out in Mabvuku, a residential suburb situated to the east of Harare, Zimbabwe's capital city. Mabvuku is characterized by a mix of residential housing and industrial activities, with the Khayah Cement Plant located within this community. The plant is a significant industrial operation, and its closeness to residential areas raises concerns about environmental pollution and public health effects.

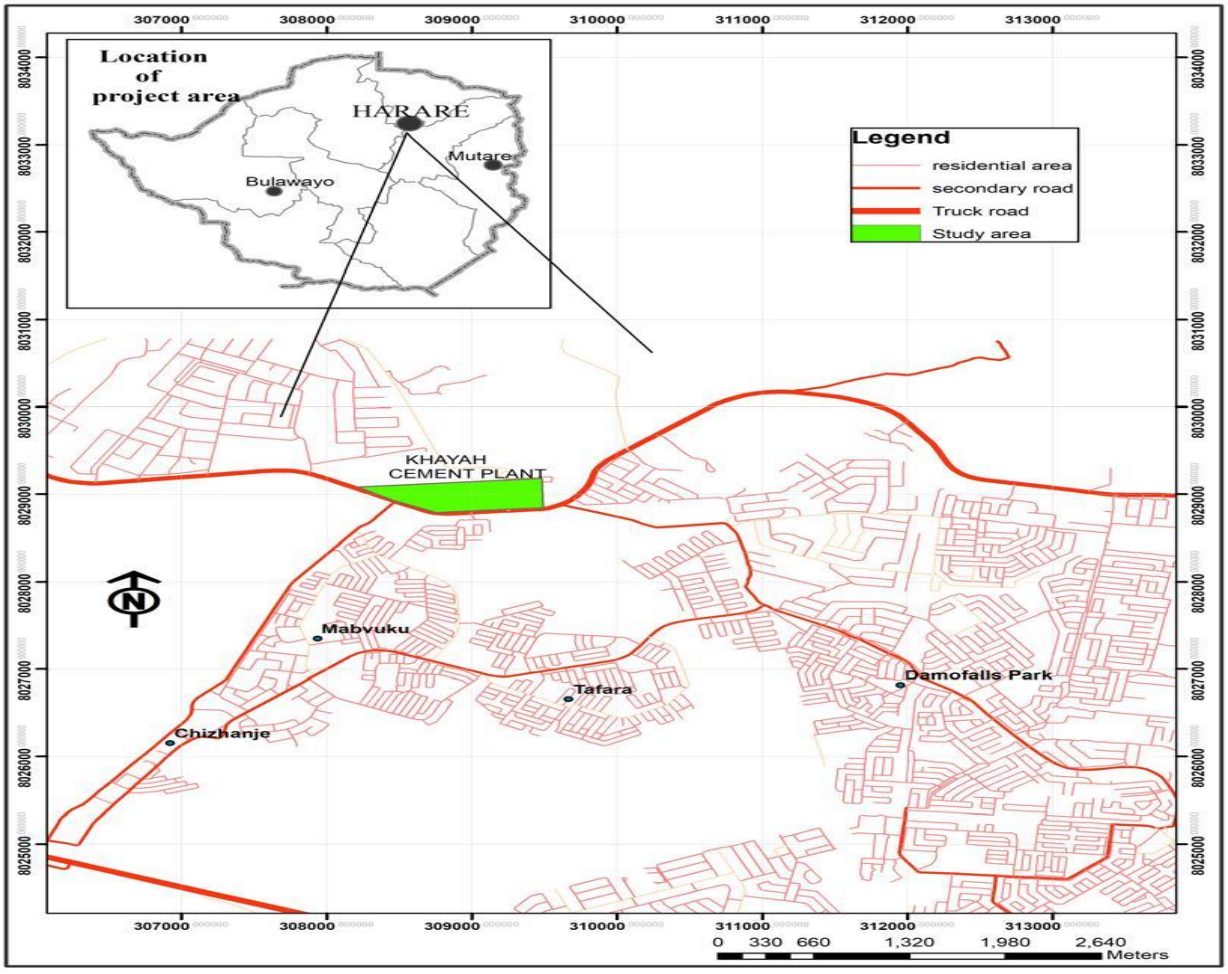

Figure 3.1: Geographical Location of Khayah Cement Plant and Its Proximity to the Mabvuku Suburb, Harare

Mabvuku is densely populated, with many residents living within a 3-kilometre distance of the cement plant. The area's topography and prevailing wind patterns influence the dispersion of

pollutants from the plant, which is an important consideration for assessing environmental and health impacts.

The map above illustrates the location of the Khayah Cement Plant relative to the residential zones in Mabvuku and the broader Harare area. This spatial context is crucial for understanding the distribution of the study population and the potential exposure to environmental hazards resulting from cement production.

3.2 Research Design

The study adopted a descriptive cross-sectional design using a mixed-methods approach to investigate the environmental and public health impacts of the Khayah Cement Plant. The design facilitated the collection of both quantitative and qualitative data at a single point in time. The focus areas covered air and water pollution, noise and dust levels, waste disposal practices, and health issues reported by residents and workers. The study used structured questionnaires, direct observation, and informal interviews to obtain comprehensive data from the plant's employees and nearby residents.

3.3 Population and Sampling Method

The study population comprised 178 individuals associated with Khayah Cement and the surrounding community in Mabvuku, Harare. This included:

1. Employees from the Production, Administration, and Health and Safety departments of Khayah Cement.

2. Residents living within a 3-kilometre radius of the plant, who may be affected by emissions and environmental exposures.

3. Healthcare personnel from nearby clinics, who contributed expert knowledge on health issues potentially related to industrial activity in the area.

A total of 150 individuals were selected for participation. From this group, 123 completed the semi-structured questionnaires, resulting in an 82% response rate. This strong response rate adds reliability and validity to the study’s findings.

The final sample size of 123 respondents was guided by Roscoe's (1975) rule of thumb, which suggests that for most research studies, a sample size between 30 and 500 is both adequate and acceptable for statistical analysis and generalization.

The composition of the sample was as follows:

- 60 employees from Khayah Cement
- 63 community residents, selected from three proximity-based zones relative to the cement plant:
  - Zone 1: Less than 1 kilometre
  - Zone 2: 1–2 kilometres
  - Zone 3: 2–3 kilometres

This classification allowed for comparative analysis of environmental and health effects based on varying distances from the emission source.

3.3.1 **Sample Size and Sampling Design**

The final sample size of 123 respondents was guided by Roscoe's rule of thumb, which recommends a sample size between 30 and 500 for most studies. The sample included 60 Khayah Cement employees and 63 community residents. The community sample was stratified by residential distance from the plant: less than 1 kilometer, 1–2 kilometers, and 2–3 kilometers. This stratification allowed for the assessment of health and environmental impacts relative to proximity.

3.3.2 **Sampling Techniques**

3.3.2.1 **Purposive Sampling**

Applied to select key informants within Khayah Cement whose expertise provided valuable contextual data.

3.3.2.2 **Stratified Sampling**

Used to ensure proportional representation of residents and employees across varying distances and departments.

The following table outlines the sampling strata and sample size:

Table 3.1 **Strata and Sample Size (n=123)**

Group	**Subgroup**	**Sample Size**
Khayah Cement Staff	Production Department	25
	Administration Department	20
	Health & Safety Department	15
Community Residents	Less than 1 kilometer	20
	1–2 kilometers	22
	2–3 kilometers	21
Key Informants	Environmental, Health and Safety Personnel	Included in staff count

The stratified sampling approach ensured that all relevant subgroups were adequately represented, facilitating a comprehensive analysis of exposure risks. Data collection was conducted using structured questionnaires distributed both electronically and in print, depending on the participants' accessibility and preferences. This flexible approach allowed for the efficient collection of relevant data across diverse respondent categories.

3.4 Data Collection

3.4.1 Primary Data

Primary data were collected through structured questionnaires administered to employees and residents, complemented by direct observation of environmental conditions at and around the plant.

3.4.2 Secondary Data

Secondary data were obtained from previous research, environmental audit reports, public health records from local clinics, WHO reports, and documents from Zimbabwe's Environmental Management Agency (EMA). These sources aided the interpretation of primary data.

3.5 Data Collection Techniques

3.5.1 Questionnaires

Structured questionnaires with both closed and open-ended questions were utilized. For employees, the questions focused on occupational exposure and health complaints. For residents, the questions covered perceived pollution levels, health symptoms, and knowledge of environmental risks.

3.5.2 Observations

Non-participant observation was carried out to assess environmental management practices, air and water quality indicators (e.g., visible dust, open waste dumping), and the use of personal protective equipment by workers.

3.5.3 Informal Interviews

Informal interviews were conducted with local healthcare workers to investigate frequently reported health issues potentially linked to environmental pollution (e.g., respiratory illnesses, eye irritation, skin conditions).

3.6 Measurement of Variables

Table 3:2 **Measurement of.Study Variables and Associated Indicators**

Variable	**Indicators**
Air Pollution	Visibility of dust, resident complaints, use of dust suppressants, PPE usage
Water Pollution	Resident perceptions of water quality, observed waste near water sources
Noise Pollution	Perceived noise levels, disturbance to daily life
Human Health Effects	Reported symptoms (e.g., coughs, asthma, skin rashes), frequency of clinic visits
Environmental Practices	Waste management systems, environmental compliance, community outreach programs
Proximity to Source	Distance of residence from plant: <1km, 1–2km, 2–3km

Proximity to source: Distance of residence from the plant: <1 km, 1 – 2 km, 2 – 3 km

3.7 Validity and Reliability of Instruments

3.7.1 Validity Test

Content validity wa**s** established through expert review by two public health researchers. The Content Validity Index (CVI) was computed and found to be above 0.7 for all key items, demonstrating that the questionnaire was relevant to the study objectives.

3.7.2 Reliability Test

Table 3:3 **Reliability Analysis (Cronbach's Alpha)**

Variable	**Alpha Coefficient**
Air Pollution Indicators	0.891
Water Pollution Indicators	0.804
Health Effects Indicators	0.867
Environmental Practices	0.782

Cronbach's Alpha was used to assess the reliability of the scales in the questionnaire:
All values exceeded 0.7, indicating good internal consistency.

3.8 Data Analysis

Data were coded and entered into SPSS for analysis. The following analytical methods were used:

- Descriptive statistics (frequency tables, means) to summarize demographic and environmental data.
- Cross-tabulations to examine relationships between proximity and health effects.
- Pearson's Chi-square tests to assess the significance of associations between environmental exposure and health symptoms.
- Spearman's correlation to evaluate the relationship between reported pollution levels and frequency of health issues.
- Thematic analysis was conducted to open-ended responses and interview transcripts.

3.9 Ethical Considerations

The following ethical considerations were taken into account in carrying out the study:

3.9.1 Clearance to conduct the study

Permission to carry out the study at Khayah Cement Plant and in the surrounding residential areas was obtained from relevant stakeholders. These included the management of the cement plant and

local administrative authorities. The researcher formally requested written permission and secured approval letters from the authorities before beginning data collection activities.

3.9.2 **Informed consent**

Participants, including residents, employees, and healthcare workers, were informed about the purpose, scope, and objectives of the study. They were made aware that participation was voluntary and that they could withdraw at any point without any negative consequences. Written consent forms were distributed, and verbal explanations were provided where necessary to ensure that participants clearly understood the study before consenting to take part.

3.9.3 **Potential risks to participants**

Every effort was made to ensure that participation in the study did not pose any harm or discomfort to respondents. Questions were carefully framed to avoid causing emotional distress or unease. Participants were not compelled to respond to any questions that made them feel uncomfortable. Where discomfort was expressed, support and clarification were provided.

3.9.4 **Anonymity and confidentiality of the participants**

The privacy of participants was protected throughout the study. Personal information such as names, addresses, and contact details was not recorded. Responses were anonymised and treated as confidential. Data was securely stored and only accessible to the principal researcher. The final report did not include any identifying details of participants.

3.10 **Summary**

The present chapter has outlined the research methods and practical procedures undertaken in this study, which investigated the environmental and human health impacts of the Khayah Cement Plant. It began by describing the descriptive cross-sectional design and mixed-methods approach used to collect and analyze both qualitative and quantitative data. The chapter then delineated the study area of Mabvuku, identified the target population, and detailed the sampling methods, sample size, and techniques employed to ensure representativeness and reliability. Data sources and collection tools, including questionnaires, observations, and informal interviews, were elaborated, alongside variable measurements and analytical techniques. Validity and reliability measures were discussed, as well as ethical considerations including informed consent,

confidentiality, and permissions. The chapter concluded with anticipated challenges and mitigation strategies implemented during the research process.

Chapter 4: Data Presentation and Analysis

4.0 Introduction

This chapter details the analysis and interpretation of the study findings. It deals with the presentation and analysis of data collected from Khayah Cement employees, community residents, and local healthcare personnel, focusing on the environmental and health impacts related to cement production activities.

The study population comprised of 178 individuals, including employees from various departments (production, administration, health and safety), residents living within a 3-kilometre radius of the plant in Mabvuku, Harare, and healthcare personnel from nearby clinics who provided additional insights into community health trends. From this population, a targeted sample of 150 respondents was selected. Of these, 123 completed the questionnaires, resulting in a response rate of 82%, which enhances the validity and reliability of the data collected.

Data is primarily presented using frequency tables and percentages to depict the general characteristics of the respondents, patterns of environmental exposure, reported health symptoms, and levels of awareness and compliance with environmental and health management practices. To further explore relationships between variables, Spearman's correlation and Pearson's Chi-square **tests** were utilized where appropriate.

The findings are organized and presented in alignment with the following study objectives:

i. To identify and evaluate the types and levels of environmental pollution caused by the cement plant.

ii. To evaluate the prevalence of health conditions among residents and workers potentially linked to cement production.

iii. To examine the relationship between proximity to the plant and the extent of reported health effects.

iv. To assess the effectiveness of environmental and health management practices at the plant.

4.1 Characteristics of the Sample

This section presents the demographic and professional background of the respondents who took part in the study. The sample was carefully selected to include individuals with direct or indirect exposure to the operations of the Khayah Cement Plant in Mabvuku, Harare. The characteristics covered include age, gender, educational qualification, work experience with the company, and operational roles within or around the cement plant. These factors help frame the perspectives provided in relation to the environmental and health impacts examined in this study.

Table 4.1: Respondents' Age Distribution

Age Group	**Frequency**	**Percentage (%)**
Below 25 years	19	15.4%
25–35 years	38	30.9%
36–45 years	42	34.1%
Above 45 years	24	19.5%
Total	**123**	**100%**

Table 4.1 presents the age distribution of the respondents involved in the study on the effects of the Khayah Cement Plant in Mabvuku, Harare. The largest percentage of respondents (34.1%) fall within the 36–45 year age group, followed by those aged 25–35 years (30.9%). Respondents below 25 years accounted 15.4%, while those above 45 years constituted 19.5% of the sample. This diverse age representation provides a broad range of perspectives on the environmental and health impacts linked to cement production in the area.

Table 4.2: Gender Distribution (Including Non-Response)

Gender	Respondents	Non-Respondents	Total	% of Total Sample (150)
Male	71	–	71	47.3%
Female	52	–	52	34.7%
Gender Not Stated (Non-Respondents)	–	27	27	18.0%
Total	**123**	**27**	**150**	**100%**

Table 4.2 illustrates the gender distribution of respondents. Males made up the majority of the sample at 57.7%, while females represented 42.3%. This gender distribution mirrors the workforce composition and community engagement around the Khayah Cement Plant in Mabvuku, Harare. Including both male and female perspectives contributes to a more comprehensive understanding of the environmental and health impacts of cement industry operations.

Table 4.3: Respondents' Educational Qualifications

Qualification Level	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Formal Education	15	12.2%
Primary Education	40	32.5%
Secondary Education	55	44.7%
Diploma/University	13	10.6%
Total	**123**	**100%**

Table 4.3 highlights the educational qualifications of the respondents. The largest share (44.7%) had attained secondary education, while 32.5% had received primary education. A smaller segment had no formal education (12.2%) or held diploma/university qualifications (10.6%). These findings suggest that the majority of respondents possess basic to intermediate educational backgrounds, which may influence their awareness and perception of environmental and health risks linked to the Khayah Cement Plant operations in Mabvuku.

Table 4.4: Employee Work Experience at Khayah Cement

Years of Experience	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Less than 1 year	10	16.7%
1–5 years	20	33.3%
6–10 years	17	28.3%
Over 10 years	13	21.7%
Total	**60**	**100%**

Table 4.4 shows the work experience of the 60 employees from the Khayah Cement Plant who participated in the study. Most employees (33.3%) have worked at the plant for 1–5 years, followed by 28.3% with 6–10 years of experience. Those with over 10 years represents for 21.7%, and 16.7% are relatively recent hires, having worked less than a year. This distribution captures insights from both seasoned and newer workers, offering a balanced perspective on the long-term and short-term effects of cement production on human health and the environment.

Table 4.5: Operational Roles of Employees

Operational Area/Role	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Production Staff	30	50.0%
Environmental Management	8	13.3%
Health and Safety Personnel	6	10.0%
Administrative/Clerical	16	26.7%
Total	**60**	**100%**

Table 4.5 displays the operational roles of the 60 employees at Khayah Cement Plant. Half of the respondents (50.0%) work in production, the primary area of cement manufacturing. Administrative and clerical roles account for 26.7%, followed by 13.3% in environmental management and 10.0% in health and safety. This role-based segmentation ensures that each

employee's perspective aligns with their specific operational exposure, without overlap with the community respondent group.

Table 4.6: Profile of Community Residents

Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Immediate neighbours (within 1 km)	28	44.4%
Residents within 2–5 km	20	31.7%
Local business owners	8	12.7%
Community health workers	7	11.2%
Total	**63**	**100%**

Table 4.6 profiles the 63 community residents who participated in the study but are not employees of the Khayah Cement Plant. Nearly half (44.4%) are immediate neighbours living within 1 kilometer of the plant, indicating high exposure potential to environmental impacts. Those residing within 2 to 5 kilometers represents 31.7%, while local business owners and community health workers constitute smaller proportions of 12.7% and 11.2% respectively. This diverse community sample offers important insights into the broader health and environmental impacts of cement production beyond the plant workforce.

4.2 Environmental Exposure and Health Symptoms Reported by Respondents

This section presents the findings on environmental exposures and health symptoms reported by both employees of the Khayah Cement Plant and community residents living near the plant. Understanding the extent of exposure and associated health effects is crucial in assessing the impact of cement production activities on human health and the ecosystem.

Table 4.7: Reported Environmental Exposure

Type of Exposure	Employees (60)	Community Residents (63)
Dust Exposure	45 (75.0%)	50 (79.4%)
Noise Pollution	40 (66.7%)	38 (60.3%)
Air Pollution (smoke, gases)	35 (58.3%)	42 (66.7%)
Water Contamination	10 (16.7%)	30 (47.6%)

The majority of respondents indicated exposure to dust, with 75.0% of employees and 79.4% of community residents affected. Noise pollution was reported by 66.7% of employees and 60.3% of residents, reflecting a significant impact on both groups. Air pollution, including smoke and gases emitted from the plant, affected 58.3% of employees and a higher percentage (66.7%) of community members. Water contamination was less commonly reported among employees (16.7%) but was a notable concern for nearly half (47.6%) of the community residents, suggesting potential environmental degradation in the surrounding areas.

Table 4.8: Reported Health Symptoms

Health Symptom	Employees (60)	Community Residents (63)
Respiratory Problems	30 (50.0%)	40 (63.5%)
Skin Irritations	15 (25.0%)	20 (31.7%)
Eye Irritation	18 (30.0%)	25 (39.7%)
Headaches / Dizziness	20 (33.3%)	22 (34.9%)

Respiratory problems were the most frequently reported health symptoms, affecting half of the employees (50.0%) and nearly two-thirds of the community residents (63.5%). This corresponds with the high levels of dust and air pollution identified earlier. Skin and eye irritations were also commonly noted, with higher occurrences among community residents than employees. Headaches and dizziness were cited by roughly one-third of both groups, which may be linked to exposure to airborne pollutants or persistent noise pollution.

4.3 Perceptions of Environmental Impact

This section summarizes the views of both Khayah Cement Plant employees and local community residents regarding the facility's impact on major environmental components: air quality, water sources, and vegetation. These perceptions are crucial in understanding public awareness and concern about the ecological consequences of cement manufacturing.

Table 4.9: Perceptions of Cement Plant's Impact on Air Quality

Perception	Employees (60)	Community Residents (63)
No Impact	5 (8.3%)	3 (4.8%)
Minor Impact	10 (16.7%)	12 (19.0%)
Moderate Impact	25 (41.7%)	20 (31.7%)
Severe Impact	20 (33.3%)	28 (44.4%)

Table 4.10: Perceptions of Cement Plant's Impact on Water Sources

Perception	Employees (60)	Community Residents (63)
No Impact	15 (25.0%)	6 (9.5%)
Minor Impact	20 (33.3%)	15 (23.8%)
Moderate Impact	15 (25.0%)	18 (28.6%)
Severe Impact	10 (16.7%)	24 (38.1%)

Table 4.11: Perceptions of Cement Plant's Impact on Vegetation

Perception	Employees (60)	Community Residents (63)
No Impact	8 (13.3%)	5 (7.9%)
Minor Impact	22 (36.7%)	20 (31.7%)
Moderate Impact	18 (30.0%)	22 (34.9%)
Severe Impact	12 (20.0%)	16 (25.4%)

Table 4.12: Perceptions of Cement Plant's Impact on Wildlife

Perception	Employees (60)	Community Residents (63)
No Impact	20 (33.3%)	15 (23.8%)
Minor Impact	18 (30.0%)	18 (28.6%)
Moderate Impact	12 (20.0%)	18 (28.6%)
Severe Impact	10 (16.7%)	12 (19.0%)

The data indicate that a majority of both employees and community members perceive the Khayah Cement Plant as having substantial effects on air quality. Specifically, 33.3% of employees and 44.4% of residents rated the impact as severe, reflecting growing concern about the visible emissions and airborne dust associated with cement production.

In relation to water sources, community members expressed more serious concern than employees, with 38.1% noting severe impacts. This perception is consistent with earlier reports of water contamination in adjacent areas.

Vegetation near the plant also appears to be affected, with roughly half of both employee and resident respondents reporting moderate to severe damage signalling degradation of plant life.

Perceptions of the plant's impact on local wildlife were generally lower but still meaningful, with 36.7% of employees and 47.6% of community residents recognizing moderate to severe effects. This suggests a growing awareness of how industrial activities may disrupt natural habitats and ecosystems.

Overall, these perceptions highlight both community and worker awareness of the environmental challenges caused by the cement plant, reinforcing the urgency for effective mitigation and sustainable management practices.

4.4 Preventive Measures and Awareness

This section evaluates the level of understanding among employees and local residents regarding safety procedures and environmental safeguards associated with the operations of the Khayah

Cement Plant. It also explores how consistently these groups adhere to or observe such measures aimed at reducing environmental and health-related risks.

Table 4.13: Awareness of Safety and Environmental Measures

Awareness Level	Employees (60)	Community Residents (63)
Not aware	8 (13.3%)	22 (34.9%)
Somewhat aware	15 (25.0%)	18 (28.6%)
Fully aware	37 (61.7%)	23 (36.5%)

Table 4.14: Compliance with Safety and Environmental Measures

Compliance Level	Employees (60)	Community Residents (63)
Do not comply	10 (16.7%)	35 (55.6%)
Sometimes comply	20 (33.3%)	15 (23.8%)
Always comply	30 (50.0%)	13 (20.6%)

Table 4.13 indicates that a majority of employees (61.7%) are well-informed about the safety protocols and environmental measures in place at the Khayah Cement Plant. In contrast, a significant proportion of community residents (34.9%) reported being unaware, highlighting a potential gap in outreach or communication efforts.

As shown in Table 4.14, half of the employees reported consistently following safety and environmental regulations, while 33.3% occasionally comply, and 16.7% admitted to not following the measures at all. Among community residents, adherence is considerably lower—over half (55.6%) reported non-compliance, which may be due to insufficient knowledge or lack of access to necessary resources.

These results underscore the importance of expanded awareness campaigns and more rigorous enforcement of environmental and safety standards. Such actions are critical to minimizing health hazards and mitigating environmental degradation linked to cement manufacturing activities.

4.5 Correlation and Inferential Statistics

To assess the relationship between residents' proximity to the plant and the frequency of reported health symptoms, a Spearman's rank-order correlation was conducted. This non-parametric test was chosen because the data involved ranked, ordinal categories (i.e., distance bands and symptom frequency) and did not necessarily meet the assumptions of normality required for Pearson's correlation.

The results of the analysis indicated a Spearman's rho (ρ) of -0.68, with a p-value less than 0.01. This indicates a strong, statistically significant negative correlation between distance from the plant and the prevalence of health symptoms among residents.

Interpretation:

The negative value of Spearman's rho suggests that as the distance from the plant increases, the number of health complaints decreases. In other words, residents who live closer to the plant (<1 km) are significantly more likely to report health issues compared to those living further away (2–3 km). This inverse relationship supports the hypothesis that proximity to the industrial site is associated with greater exposure to environmental pollutants or disturbances, potentially contributing to adverse health outcomes.

The statistical significance ($p < 0.01$) further reinforces this finding, implying that the observed relationship is not due to chance and reflects a real, meaningful trend in the data. The strength of the correlation ($\rho = -0.68$) falls within the range considered strong by conventional social science standards, indicating a relatively consistent pattern across respondents.

Implications:

This finding underscores the importance of spatial factors in environmental health risk assessments. It suggests that those residing in closer proximity to industrial activities may face disproportionately higher health risks, and therefore, there may be a need for targeted interventions, health monitoring, or even resettlement policies for affected populations.

4.6. **Summary of Key Findings**

1 Widespread Perception of Negative Impacts on Health and Environment: The study revealed that a majority of respondents, including both plant employees and nearby residents, view the plant's operations as having harmful effects on human health and the surrounding environment. These concerns were consistently reported across all stakeholder groups, indicating a common perception of environmental degradation and potential health threats. The fact that both internal and external stakeholders recognize these impacts underscores the severity and visibility of the issue.

1. Air and Noise Pollution as Primary Complaints: Among the various environmental concerns, air and noise pollution stood out as the most frequently mentioned problems. Respondents described dust emissions, poor visibility, and breathing discomfort as recurring experiences, especially those living or working in close proximity to the plant. Noise disturbances particularly during late evening operations were also frequently reported, with a substantial number of individuals experiencing daily interruptions. These findings highlight a pattern of continuous and disruptive environmental stressors in the community.

2. Higher Incidence of Respiratory Issues Among Residents within 1 km: The data indicates that residents living within a 1 km radius of the plant experience the highest rates of respiratory health complaints, including coughing, wheezing, and general breathing difficulties. This group reported a 76% prevalence of symptoms, which decreased significantly with increasing distance from the plant. These findings align with the strong negative correlation observed in the Spearman's analysis, suggesting that closer proximity to the pollution source substantially increases health risks.

3. Perceived Inadequacy of Environmental Management Systems: Both residents and plant employees reported a lack of confidence in the plant's environmental safety and management practices. A majority of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement that the plant has sufficient environmental safety measures in place. This perception of deficient or ineffective environmental management systems raises concerns about compliance with regulatory standards and the plant's commitment to reducing its environmental footprint.

4. Distance as a Key Factor in Environmental Exposure and Risk Perception: The analysis consistently shows that distance from the plant is a significant determinant of both actual exposure to pollutants and the perceived risk of environmental health impacts. Residents located further away (2–3 km) reported lower symptom prevalence and fewer environmental complaints, whereas those closer to the facility experienced more frequent and intense issues. This spatial trend is statistically supported by a significant Spearman's correlation, emphasizing the geographic disparities in environmental burden and the need for location-based risk mitigation strategies.

Chapter 5: Discussion of Findings

5.0 Introduction

This chapter provides an in-depth discussion of the study's findings, interpreting the results in the context of existing knowledge and environmental health frameworks. The analysis focuses on how industrial activities from the plant influence air and water quality, noise levels, health outcomes, and the perceived effectiveness of environmental safety practices. A central theme across all findings is the spatial gradient of risk, where residents living closer to the plant experience more acute environmental exposure and adverse health effects.

5.1 Health and Environmental Perceptions

The study highlights a widespread **belief** in environmental degradation and health risks among both plant workers and nearby residents. The alignment of perspectives from internal (employees) and external (residents) stakeholders suggests that environmental effects are not isolated but represent systemic challenges impacting the broader population. This perception of risk is significant, as public trust in industrial entities and regulators is often shaped more by perceived safety and openness than by technical compliance alone.

Research in environmental psychology shows that perceived environmental threats can substantially affect mental well-being, stress, and social cohesion, even in the absence of direct exposure. Thus, these findings reflect both physical and psychosocial dimensions of environmental injustice.

5.2 Air Pollution and Respiratory Symptoms

Air quality concerns were among the most pressing in this study, with 74.6% of respondents rating air quality as "poor" or "very poor." Dust levels, breathing difficulty, and poor visibility were frequently mentioned. This correlates strongly with reports of respiratory symptoms such as coughing, wheezing, and shortness of breath, particularly among residents within 1 km of the plant, 76% of whom reported such symptoms.

The negative Spearman's correlation ($\rho = -0.68$, $p < 0.01$) between proximity and symptom frequency confirms a statistically significant relationship. These findings are consistent with global

research linking particulate matter (PM2.5), sulphur oxides (SO_x), and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) with elevated rates of asthma, bronchitis, and other respiratory illnesses. The results indicate a critical need for emission control and air quality management.

5.3 Noise Pollution

Noise generated by factory processes, particularly during nighttime hours, was cited as a major environmental stress factor. With 65.1% of respondents reporting daily disturbances from noise, the extent of disruption is considerable. Long-term exposure to industrial noise has been linked to disrupted sleep, elevated blood pressure, impaired cognitive function, and increased psychological stress.

These findings illustrate that noise pollution should not be dismissed as a mere annoyance; it constitutes a legitimate public health issue. The absence of noise barriers, night-time operations, and poor enforcement of sound regulations likely contribute to the levels of disturbance reported.

5.4 Water Safety Concerns

Respondents voiced serious concerns about water safety near the plant, with 66.6% expressing disagreement or strong disagreement that the water is safe for everyday use. Although the study did not include water sample testing, such perceptions may reflect actual or suspected contamination from industrial discharge, improper waste handling, or the seepage of hazardous substances into local water sources.

Water pollution is often less visible but more pervasive, resulting in long-term health effects such as gastrointestinal problems, heavy metal exposure, and reproductive health issues. These apprehensions warrant urgent investigation and verification through comprehensive water quality assessments.

5.5 Environmental Management and Public Trust

Trust in the plant's environmental management appears to be limited, with 67% of participants expressing doubt about the adequacy of its safety protocols. This suggests a perceived breakdown in environmental oversight, possibly driven by insufficient communication, lack of community participation, or the visible contrast between pollution impacts and official assurances.

Public confidence in environmental governance is essential. Without it, even robust safety systems may be dismissed as ineffective. Restoring trust requires openness, accountability, and frequent, transparent engagement with the local community.

5.6 Distance as a Determinant of Risk

One of the most significant discoveries is that distance from the plant plays a pivotal role in both actual exposure and perceived health risks. Residents located within 1 km reported the highest levels of environmental concern and health problems, while those living 2–3 km away noted substantially fewer issues. This spatial trend supports established environmental health models, which posit that pollutant concentration and exposure diminish with increasing distance from the source.

This insight highlights the need for risk-informed zoning, where land-use policies are designed to mitigate environmental hazards by maintaining buffer zones between industrial operations and residential communities.

5.7 Summary

The results of this study reveal significant environmental and public health concerns associated with the operations of the Khayah Cement Plant, particularly among populations residing within close proximity to the facility. Findings show a strong perception of environmental degradation and health risk shared by both employees and nearby residents, underscoring the widespread impact of industrial activity. Air pollution emerged as a primary concern, with a statistically significant correlation between proximity to the plant and the frequency of respiratory symptoms. Noise pollution was also identified as a major stressor, affecting the daily lives and well-being of a majority of respondents. Concerns about water safety were prominent, suggesting possible contamination and underscoring the need for formal water quality assessments. Public trust in the plant's environmental management was notably low, with many participants expressing skepticism about the adequacy of current safety practices. A consistent spatial pattern was observed, with environmental and health impacts more severe closer to the plant. These findings emphasize the need for enhanced pollution control, improved stakeholder communication, and the integration of distance-based risk assessments into land-use planning and policy.

Chapter 6: Conclusion and Recommendations

6.1 Conclusion

This study offers compelling evidence that proximity to the industrial plant is linked to heightened environmental exposure and adverse health outcomes. The primary concerns raised by both residents and employees include air and noise pollution, unsafe water, and inadequate environmental oversight. These issues are especially severe for individuals living within 1 km of the plant, pointing to an unequal allocation of environmental risks.

The statistically significant correlation between distance and symptom frequency underscores the urgency for geographically targeted policy responses. The widespread perception of weak environmental safeguards also suggests that current corporate practices and regulatory systems are insufficient to safeguard public health and ecological well-being.

In conclusion, the plant's activities appear to exert a tangible and consequential impact on environmental quality and community health, warranting a coordinated and multidimensional strategy for reform and mitigation.

6.2 Recommendations

Based on the study's outcomes and their relevance to environmental health and community welfare, a series of targeted recommendations is outlined to inform practical and effective interventions. These actions are directed at industry leaders, government bodies, and local organizations:

6.2.1 Strengthen Environmental Monitoring and Compliance

- Deploy real-time air and noise monitoring equipment within and near the plant premises.
- Facilitate routine, third-party evaluations of environmental practices and ensure public access to the results.
- Apply more stringent consequences for breaches of environmental laws and regulations.

6.2.2 **Improve Environmental Management Systems**

- Upgrade pollution control technologies, including dust suppressors, air scrubbers, and noise silencers.
- Adopt industry-leading methods for waste treatment to avoid water source contamination.
- Shift toward greener production models and integrate energy-efficient technologies.

6.2.3 **Enhance Community Engagement and Transparency**

- Set up a dedicated Community Liaison Office to manage concerns and disseminate updates.
- Organize regular community hall sessions to engage residents on environmental initiatives.
- Invite community participation in environmental planning, monitoring, and evaluation efforts.

6.2.4 **Implement Public Health Surveillance and Medical Support**

- Launch a localized health monitoring network targeting respiratory and noise-induced ailments.
- Provide complimentary or subsidized health screenings for residents in areas of elevated risk.
- Collaborate with regional health providers to deploy mobile clinics and deliver environmental health awareness programs.

6.2.5 **Develop Risk Zoning and Relocation Policies**

- Design and enforce buffer zones separating industrial operations from residential spaces.
- Reassess urban planning and zoning policies to restrict future development in vulnerable areas.
- Explore voluntary relocation schemes and compensation plans for the most impacted households.

6.2.6 **Promote Environmental Education and Awareness**

- Host workshops in schools and communities focusing on pollution impacts, environmental rights, and reporting procedures.
- Disseminate accessible educational materials in local languages to enhance environmental understanding.
- Mobilize youth groups and civil society actors to participate in environmental protection and advocacy.

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Appendix 1

Informed Consent

My name is Dakarai Javani, a student pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Safety, Health and Environmental Management at Bindura University of Science Education (BUSE). I am currently conducting a research study titled:

"An Investigation of the Effects of the Cement Industry on the Natural Environment and Human Health: A Case Study of the Khayah Cement Plant in Mabvuku, Harare."

This study is being conducted as part of the requirements for the completion of my undergraduate degree.

I kindly invite you to voluntarily participate in this study by completing the attached questionnaire. You will be asked to indicate your responses by marking the appropriate options with a [√] and providing written responses where applicable.

Please take note of the following:

- Your participation is entirely voluntary.
- You may withdraw from the study at any time without any negative consequences.
- All responses will remain anonymous and will be treated with strict confidentiality.
- The data collected will be used solely for academic purposes and will not be disclosed to any third parties.

By proceeding to complete this questionnaire, you confirm that you understand the purpose of the study and consent to participate willingly.

Thank you for your time and cooperation.

Appendix 2

Questionnaire For Community Residents

Section A: Demographic Information

1. Gender:

☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Prefer not to say

2. Age:

☐ Under 18 ☐ 18–30 ☐ 31–45 ☐ 46–60 ☐ Over 60

3. Level of Education:

☐ No formal education

☐ Primary education

☐ Secondaryeducation

☐ Vocational/Technical training

☐ Diploma

☐ Undergraduate degree

☐ Postgraduate degree (Master's/PhD)

☐ Other (please specify): _____

4. How long have you lived in this area?

☐ Less than 1 year ☐ 1–3 years ☐ 4–7 years ☐ Over 7 years

5. Distance of your home from the plant:

☐ Less than 1 km ☐ 1–2 km ☐ 2–3 km ☐ More than 3 km

Section B: Environmental Conditions

6. How would you rate the air quality in your area?

☐ Very Poor ☐ Poor ☐ Moderate ☐ Good ☐ Very Good

7. Have you noticed dust or emissions coming from the plant?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

8. How often do you experience noise from the plant?

☐ Daily ☐ Occasionally ☐ Rarely ☐ Never

9. Does the noise affect your sleep or daily routine?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Sometimes

10. In your opinion, is the water in your area safe for use?

☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree

Section C: Health and Safety Impacts

11. Have you experienced any of the following symptoms? *(Tick all that apply)*
☐ Coughing ☐ Breathing difficulty ☐ Headaches ☐ Eye irritation ☐ Fatigue
☐ None

12. When did these symptoms start?
☐ Before the plant opened ☐ After the plant opened ☐ Not sure

13. Have you sought medical attention for these symptoms?
☐ Yes ☐ No

Section D: Perceptions and Suggestions

14. Do you think the plant has adequate environmental safety measures?
☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree

15. What is your main environmental concern regarding the plant?
☐ Air pollution ☐ Noise pollution ☐ Water contamination ☐ Other: _____

16. What actions would you like to see taken to improve the situation? (Open-ended)

_____

_____

_____

Appendix 3

Questionnaire For Plant Employees

Section A: Demographic Information

1. Gender:
☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Prefer not to say

2. Age:
☐ Under 18 ☐ 18–30 ☐ 31–45 ☐ 46–60 ☐ Over 60

3. Level of Education:
☐ No formal education
☐ Primary education
☐ Secondary education
☐ Vocational/Technical training
☐ Diploma
☐ Undergraduate degree
☐ Postgraduate degree (Master's/PhD)
☐ Other (please specify): _____

4. Duration of employment at the plant:
☐ Less than 1 year ☐ 1–3 years ☐ 4–7 years ☐ Over 7 years

5. Department/Role (optional): _____

Section B: Workplace Environmental Conditions

6. How would you describe the air quality within the plant?
☐ Very Poor ☐ Poor ☐ Moderate ☐ Good ☐ Excellent

7. Do you receive protective equipment for dust, gases, or fumes?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Occasionally

8. How often do you experience loud noise during working hours?
☐ Always ☐ Often ☐ Sometimes ☐ Rarely ☐ Never

9. Is there any training provided on environmental safety or hazards?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure

Section C: Health and Safety Concerns

10. Have you experienced any of the following since working at the plant**?** *(Tick all that apply)*

☐ Breathing difficulties ☐ Skin irritation ☐ Headaches ☐ Hearing issues ☐ None

11. Do you believe your health concerns are related to workplace conditions?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

12. Have you reported any environmental or health concerns to management?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Prefer not to say

Section D: Perceptions of Environmental Management

13. The plant has adequate systems to protect the environment and workers' health.
☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree

14. In your opinion, how committed is the company to environmental sustainability?
☐ Very committed ☐ Somewhat committed ☐ Not committed ☐ Don’t know

15. Suggestions for improving environmental and health practices at the plant: (Open-ended)

Appendix 4

Questionnaire For Top Management

Section A: Demographic and Professional Information

1. Gender:
☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Prefer not to say

2. Age Group:
☐ Under 30 ☐ 30–45 ☐ 46–60 ☐ Over 60

3. Highest Academic Qualification:
☐ Diploma
☐ Undergraduate degree
☐ Postgraduate degree (Master's/PhD)
☐ Other (please specify): _____

4. Position/Role in the Company:
☐ Senior Management (e.g., CEO, Director)
☐ Middle Management
☐ Environmental / Safety Officer
☐ Other (please specify): _____

5. Years in Current Position:
☐ Less than 1 year
☐ 1–3 years
☐ 4–7 years
☐ More than 7 years

Section B: Environmental Policies and Practices

6. Does the company have a formal environmental management system (EMS) in place?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ In development

7. How often are environmental compliance audits conducted?
☐ Quarterly ☐ Bi-annually ☐ Annually ☐ Less frequently ☐ Never

8. Does the company regularly monitor air, water, and noise pollution levels?
☐ Yes, regularly and transparently
☐ Yes, but irregularly
☐ No monitoring conducted

9. How adequate do you consider the current pollution control measures?
☐ Very adequate

☐ Adequate
☐ Inadequate
☐ Very inadequate

10. What are the major challenges the company faces in implementing environmental safety measures? (Open-ended)

Section C: Health and Safety

11. Does the company provide sufficient training and protective equipment for employees regarding environmental hazards?
☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Sometimes

12. Are employee health and safety concerns regarding environmental issues regularly addressed?
☐ Always
☐ Often
☐ Rarely
☐ Never

13. Has the company initiated any health surveillance or monitoring programs for employees?
☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Planning to

Section D: Communication and Community Engagement

14. How frequently does management communicate environmental performance and risks to employees and the local community?
☐ Regularly (monthly/quarterly)
☐ Occasionally (annually)
☐ Rarely
☐ Never

15. Is there a community liaison or environmental committee involving residents and other stakeholders?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Planning to establish

16. What measures does the company take to address community concerns regarding pollution and health impacts? (Open-ended)

Section E: Future Plans and Improvements

17. Are there plans to invest in cleaner technologies or upgrade pollution controls in the next 1–3 years?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Undecided

18. What additional support or resources does management need to improve environmental and health outcomes? (Open-ended)

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19. Please provide any other comments or suggestions related to environmental and health management:

Appendix 5

Questionnaire For Local Health Professionals/Environmental Experts

Section A: Demographic and Professional Information

1. Gender:
☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Prefer not to say

2. Age Group**:**
☐ Under 30 ☐ 31–45 ☐ 46–60 ☐ Over 60

3. Profession:
☐ Medical Doctor
☐ Nurse
☐ Environmental Scientist
☐ Public Health Officer
☐ Other (please specify): _____

4. Place of Work:

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5. Years of Experience in Your Field:
☐ Less than 2 years
☐ 2–5 years
☐ 6–10 years
☐ More than 10 years

6. Have you previously worked on or studied health/environmental issues related to industrial pollution?
☐ Yes
☐ No

Section B: Observed Health Impacts

7. Based on your observations, what are the most common health problems linked to pollution from the cement industry? (Tick all that apply)
☐ Respiratory illnesses (e.g., asthma, bronchitis)
☐ Cardiovascular diseases
☐ Eye irritation and allergies
☐ Skin conditions
☐ Other (please specify): _____

8. Have you observed an increase in pollution-related health conditions in the Mabvuku area over recent years?

☐ Yes, significant increase

☐ Some increase

☐ No change

☐ Not sure

9. Are there adequate healthcare services and resources available to address pollution-related health issues in the community?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Partially

Section C: Environmental Impact

10. How would you assess the environmental impact of the Khayah Cement Plant on the local natural environment?

☐ Severe

☐ Moderate

☐ Minimal

☐ No impact

☐ Not sure

11. Which environmental factors related to the cement plant are of greatest concern? (Tick all that apply)

☐ Air pollution (dust, emissions)

☐ Water contamination

☐ Noise pollution

☐ Soil contamination

☐ Other (please specify): _____

12. Is there sufficient environmental monitoring data available for assessing the plant's impact?

☐ Yes, comprehensive and regularly updated

☐ Some data but insufficient

☐ No reliable data available

Section D: Mitigation and Policy

13. In your opinion, how effective are current environmental regulations and enforcement related to the cement industry in Zimbabwe?

☐ Very effective

☐ Somewhat effective

☐ Ineffective

☐ Don’t know

14. What key actions or policies would you recommend to reduce health and environmental risks associated with the cement plant? (Open-ended)

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15. How can healthcare and environmental sectors better collaborate to address pollution-related challenges? (Open-ended)

Section E: Additional Comments

16. Please provide any other observations, concerns, or suggestions related to the environmental and health effects of the Khayah Cement Plant:
