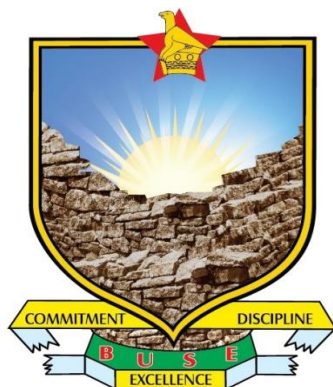**BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION**

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF PEACE AND GOVERNANCE

THE IMPACT OF THE EXCLUSION OF WOMEN AND PEOPLE WITH

DISABILITIES IN PEACE PROCESSES IN BINDURA DISTRICT.

BINDURA, ZIMBABWE

By NYASHA M CHIMUNHU

B211345B

A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PEACE AND

GOVERNANCE IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT FOR THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN PEACE AND GOVERNANCE

DR CHIPAIKE

BINDURA, ZIMBABWE

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the study was to understand the impacts of the exclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace processes. The study is crucial because it raises awareness about the importance of inclusivity in peace efforts. The research study was done in Bindura District and used Feminist and the disability theory. Face to face interviews and questionnaires were employed as research instruments. The data was presented using a mixed methodology in form of descriptions and content analysis. The research reviewed that a larger population of women in Bindura District do not attend peace processes due to cultural norms, gender-based discrimination and lack of representation in decision making. While a large number of people with disabilities in Bindura District are excluded from peace processes because people with disability are seen as unproductive beings who should be hidden from the public and have limited access to the basics that are needed for effective participation in local activities. The research found that the impacts of the exclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace processes in Bindura District are emotional toil and that the agreements at these peace processes always tend to be incomplete as they fail to address issues affecting all members of the society like abuse of the disabled and gender inequality. The researcher recommends that the The government should be on the forefront in terms of both advocating and implementation of inclusivity policies and there should be strong structural reform to acknowledge the rights of both the groups.

DECLARATION FORM

I Nyasha Mildred Chimunhu hereby declare that this dissertation titled, "The impacts of the exclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace processes in Bindura District" is the result of my own original research work. I declare that all sources used have been appropriately acknowledged and cited.

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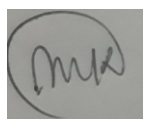
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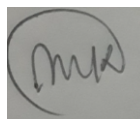
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DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to women and individuals who have often been excluded from

peace processes. May your voices be heard, your contributions recognized and your rights

championed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to my parents for their unwavering support which

have been a foundation of my journey. I would also like to thank my supervisor who guided me

with wisdom and insights, helping me to nurture my passion for research.

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

IRB   Institutional Review Board

NGO   Non-Governmental Organization

OPD   Organization of People with Disabilities

UNSC   United Nations Security Council

UNW   United Nations Women

WHO   World Health Organization

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CHAPTER 1:

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

The exclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace processes has far reaching consequences for global security and social justice and this has led to peace agreements that fail to address patterns of inequality (Jamar, 2021), since women would still be left out and their thoughts remain ignored. On the other hand, Close (2021) asserts that the exclusion of people with disabilities in peace processes affects the quality and sustainability of peace processes. Bell and Mcncholl (2019) found that that peace agreements that include women are more likely to last at least 15 years matched to those that exclude them. This phenomenon brings out the crucial role women and people with disabilities play in nurturing prolonged stability and addressing the key drivers of conflict.

The exclusion of women and people with disabilities from peace processes in Africa has profound socio-economic consequences. Women and people with disabilities often face higher levels of poverty and unemployment, exacerbated by their exclusion from decision-making processes (Molloy, 2019). Bindura District, located in the Mashonaland Central Province of Zimbabwe, has experienced significant political and social turmoil, especially during periods of elections and after elections. Historically, peace processes in this region, as in many others, have been dominated by male perspectives, often sidelining women and people with disabilities. Women play a critical role in peace building through their unique perspectives and approaches to conflict resolution (Sharoni, 2010). Their exclusion, however, has been a persistent issue. Machakanga (2016:1) highlights that "women's participation in peace and security remains more symbolic than substantive, and their capacity to influence and engage in peace negotiations is

often resisted by local cultural norms and patriarchal hierarchies." while Chimonya et al (2014:04) brings forward that "disability carries multiple stigma that are the basis for exclusion from society and its actives."The exclusion of people with disabilities comes as a result of stigma from members of the society. Their exclusion also often stems from a lack of accessibility and societal stigma.

Efforts to address these exclusions have included policy reforms and advocacy initiatives. The Zimbabwean government, with support from international organizations, has implemented policies aimed at increasing the participation of women and people with disabilities in peace processes (UN Women, 2020). However, the effectiveness of these policies is often hampered by inadequate implementation and persistent cultural barriers.

1.2 Purpose of the study

The purpose of this study is to understand the impacts of the exclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace processes in Bindura District, Zimbabwe.

1. 3 Statement of the problem

The exclusion of women and people with disabilities has led to peace agreements that fail to address all issues affecting the society, has led to peace agreements that are not sustainable as studies have shown 35% of peace peace agreements that include women are more likely to last at least 15 years compared to those that exclude them. M'Bayo(2011) assets that exclusion perpetuates systemic inequalities and social injustices as women and people with disabilities face unique challenges that are overlooked when they are not represented in negotiations. This study builds upon literature that emphasis the importance of inclusivity of these two groups and will link its hypothesis to feminist and disability theories, and by examining these theoretical

implications, the study will assess the political, economic and social impacts of the exclusion of the two groups and is likely to draw attention on the need for policy changes.

1.4 Objectives of the study

1. To understand the extent and nature of the exclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace processes in Bindura District from 2015-2024

2. To identify the underlying factors and dynamics that contribute to the exclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace processes in Bindura District

3. To assess the social, economic and political impacts of the exclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace processes in Bindura District.

1.5 Research questions

1. What is the extent and nature of the exclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace processes in Bindura District?

2. What are the underlying factors and dynamics that contribute to the exclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace processes in Bindura District

3. What are the social, economic and political impacts of the exclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace processes in Bindura District?

1.6 Assumptions of the study

1. It is assumed that the exclusion of women and people with disabilities in the peace processes perpetuates existing gender and disability inequalities within the society.

2. It is also assumed that the inclusion of women and people with disabilities brings diverse perspectives, experience and priorities, leading to more comprehensive and sustainable peace outcomes.

3. It is assumed that exclusion can lead to feelings of disenfranchisement among marginalized groups, weakening trust in peace processes and governmental institutions.

1.7 Significance of the study

The study on the impacts of of the exclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace processes in Bindura District highlights the importance of inclusivity when peacebuilding negotiations are being done, the study provides critical insights into the terrible impacts of the exclusion of these groups. The study is important for policymakers, advocacy groups, community leaders and the excluded individuals themselves. For policy makers, the research points out at the unique perspectives and needs of women and people with disabilities in relation to their participation in peace processes. The study then informs, the development of inclusive policies thereby promoting sustainable peace and social justice.

The study can empower community leaders to champion the voices of women and people with disabilities and creates an environment where all community members attend peace processes and where they can freely participate and put in their contributions thereby fostering community ties, harmony and an equitable landscape. The study is also important for advocacy groups who advocate for women right and the rights of people with disabilities, it can raise awareness and influence institutions to offer training and capacity-building to empower women and people with disabilities to participate in peace processes.

1.8 Delimitations of the study

The research is exclusively focused on the Bindura district, deliberately omitting other areas that could exhibit different socioeconomic patterns. This concentrated approach enables a comprehensive and detailed grasp of the local situation, though it may limit the direct

applicability of the results to regions with dissimilar features and issues. The investigation's scope is restricted to specific forms of marginalization: economic, educational, and social exclusion. By concentrating on these particular categories, the study aims to provide in-depth insights and targeted solutions for these aspects of exclusion.

The timeframe of the research spans from 2015 to 2024, offering a current viewpoint while enabling the analysis of patterns and changes over a nine-year period. However, this temporal limitation means that events or shifts outside this range are not considered, potentially affecting the overall completeness of the study's conclusions.

Furthermore, the investigation specifically addresses the exclusion of women and individuals with disabilities in peace processes. This focus sheds light on the distinct obstacles these groups encounter, underscoring the significance of inclusive approaches in peacebuilding initiatives. However, this delimitation also indicates that other marginalized groups are not central to this study, which could constrain the broader relevance of the findings.

1.9 Limitations of the study

The research was carried out at the time where there was a cholera outbreak in Bindura District, distribution of questionnaires was being prohibited by the Ministry of Health as they assumed, the questionnaires might transmit the disease when touched by infected hands, however, the researcher made use of hand sanitizers before and after respondents touch the questionnaires. The researcher faced challenges in accessing information from the targeted respondents, especially women and people with disabilities due to reluctance, stemming from fear of stigma and discrimination to deal with this challenge, the researcher won trust of these two groups by collaborating with advocate groups who had already established relationships with these groups.

The sensitive nature of the research topic made it difficult for respondence to share their experiences however, the researcher made it clear while carrying out interviews and distributing questionnaires that the respondents were supposed to answer only questions that they were comfortable with.

1.10 Definitions of key terms

Positive peace is the absence of violence, but not necessarily the presence of justice (Gultung, 1964).

Peace processes are structured efforts aimed at resolving conflict and establishing lasting peace through negotiations and agreements. (Darby & Mac Ginny, 2008).

Peacebuilding is a process aimed at creating lasting peace and preventing the resurgence of violence by tackling the underlying causes and consequences of conflict. This involves reconciliation, the development of institutions, and transformations in political and economic structures. It encompasses a range of physical, social, and structural initiatives that are often essential components of post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts (Gultung, 2013).

People with disabilities are individuals who have long-term physical, mental intellectual, or sensory impairment which, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. (United Nations, 2006)

Social inclusion refers to ensuring that all individuals have the opportunity to achieve their full potential and participate in the life of their community (Tunia Burchadt, 2004)

1.11 Dissertation outline

The study will consist of five main chapter which are as follow;

Chapter 1

This includes the study's background, problem statement, goal, objectives, research questions, importance, delimitations, and limitations, as well as a recommended chapter outline and definitions of key terms.

Chapter 2

This chapter offers a critical analysis of the problem topic by presenting data from many authors whose works are pertinent to the primary research goals. For the purpose of painting a comprehensive picture of the effects of women and persons with disabilities being excluded from peace processes in Zimbabwe's Bindura district, the ideas guiding the study will also be thoroughly highlighted.

Chapter 3

The third chapter on research design and methods. It addresses the targeted population, sampling strategy, research design, and data analysis techniques. Additionally, varied research equipment and methods of data gathering will be used in the study. Therefore, this chapter's main goal is to describe how the research will be carried out and how the researcher will enter the research setting. The debate in this article also touches on the ethical aspects of the research.

Chapter 4

The data presentation, debate, and interpretation of the findings about the effects of the exclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace processes in Zimbabwe specifically in Bindura District. women's and persons with disabilities' exclusion from peace processes in Zimbabwe's Bindura District. This chapter provides a clear interpretation and critical analysis of

the data or information gathered in order to highlight important discoveries. Charts and graphs are utilized to support those conclusions and provide illustration.

Chapter 5

This includes the conclusions, suggestions, and ramifications. The researcher offers suggestions for resolving issues found in this chapter. Therefore, the researcher also discusses the potential and constraints of putting the recommendations into practice in this chapter.

CHAPTER 2

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Introduction

This chapter seeks to examine the theoretical framework and literature regarding the exclusion of women and individuals with disabilities from peace processes, particularly in Bindura District. It will jump into the historical background, theoretical foundations, relevant literature, and analyze significant themes such as the scope and characteristics of the marginalization of women and individuals with disabilities, underlying factors and dynamics of marginalization, the challenges encountered by the two marginalized groups that leads to their exclusion in peace processes and the impacts of excluding these two groups in peace processes and a brief assessment of social, economic and political consequences of the exclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace processes . The study is going to use feminist and disability studies, both bring out the importance of inclusivity and representation in peace processes.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

The study is grounded in feminist theory and disability studies, both of which underscore the importance of inclusivity and representation in peace processes. Feminist theory critiques conventional peacebuilding models that often emphasize militarized solutions while neglecting the vital contributions of women (Cockburn, 2007). In a similar vein, disability studies reveal how societal structures and attitudes marginalize individuals with disabilities, hindering their ability to participate in decision-making (Oliver, 1990). These frameworks highlight the necessity of incorporating diverse perspectives to attain sustainable peace. Feminist theory and disability studies offer vital perspectives for analysing the exclusion of women and individuals

with disabilities in peace processes. These frameworks highlight the importance of inclusive practices that recognize diverse experiences, ultimately enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of peace outcomes. Feminist theory examines how gender influences social structures, power dynamics, and personal experiences, emphasizing the crucial role of women's voices in conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

In numerous societies, traditional power structures are predominantly male-centric, sidelining women's involvement in decision-making processes (Mackay, 2014). This exclusion perpetuates cycles of violence and instability, as women's insights are essential for comprehensive conflict resolution. Women experience conflict differently from men, facing unique challenges such as sexual violence, displacement, and caregiving responsibilities (Cockburn, 2007). Comprehending these distinct experiences is vital for developing effective peace solutions. Research indicates that peace agreements are more durable when women participate in negotiations, leading to more inclusive outcomes that address the needs of the entire population (UN Women, 2015). Feminist theory also challenges conventional security paradigms, advocating for a broader understanding of security that encompasses social, economic, and political dimension.

Applying feminist theory to peace processes involves several key strategies. These include advocating for women's inclusion at all levels of peace negotiations, promoting gender-sensitive policies in post-conflict reconstruction, and raising awareness about gender equality in peacebuilding (Thompson , 2008).

Similarly, disability studies examine societal constructions of disability and their implications. The social model of disability posits that societal barriers, rather than individual impairments, are the primary source of disadvantage (Oliver, 1996). This perspective shifts focus

from viewing disability as a personal tragedy to understanding it as a product of various barriers that exclude people with disabilities from full societal participation (Shakespeare, 2006). Disability studies also recognize the compounded marginalization faced by individuals with disabilities based on other identities

Barriers to participation examined in disability studies include physical, informational, and attitudinal obstacles that prevent people with disabilities from engaging in peace processes (Morris, 2011). Addressing these issues involves implementing inclusive policies, ensuring accessible venues and materials, and educating stakeholders about the rights and contributions of people with disabilities

Both feminist theory and disability studies provide critical insights into the exclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace processes. By integrating these theories into peacebuilding efforts, stakeholders can address systemic inequalities and foster a more just and equitable society, ultimately leading to more effective and sustainable peace outcomes. This approach not only enhances the quality of peace processes but also reflects a commitment to human rights and social justice for all members of society.

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2.3 Scope and character of the marginalization of women and individuals with disabilities

The systemic exclusion of women and persons with disabilities from peace-related activities is a widespread issue observed globally, with particularly pronounced effects in certain

areas like Bindura District. Studies reveal that these groups encounter substantial obstacles to engaging in peacebuilding initiatives.

2.4 Challenges encountered by women

Research indicates that in Zimbabwe, including Bindura District, women often face marginalization due to deeply ingrained patriarchal systems and gender-based discrimination (Naraghi&Victoria, 2004). These impediments restrict their capacity to participate in formal peace processes, frequently confining them to informal roles that are underappreciated and unacknowledged. For example, women may be involved in community dialogues but typically lack representation in official negotiations or decision-making entities. Elisabeth Porter (2003), illuminates several critical challenges women encounter due to their exclusion from peace processes. A key issue is the insufficient representation of women in formal peace negotiations, which often leads to the side lining of their perspectives and concerns. This absence can result in peace agreements that fail to adequately address vital issues such as gender-based violence or the specific needs of women in post-conflict rebuilding efforts. Without women's input, peace accords may become one-sided, neglecting to establish frameworks that support women's reintegration into society and tackle the unique obstacles they face during and after conflicts.

Another significant hurdle, According to Elizabeth Porter (2003), is the persistence of patriarchal norms and structures that restrict women's involvement in political decision-making . These societal expectations frequently undervalue women's contributions and expertise, making it challenging for them to secure the necessary backing and resources to effectively influence peace-building initiatives. Potter explains that In numerous contexts, women's roles are confined to the domestic sphere, diminishing their visibility and impact in public decision-making arenas.

This systemic exclusion not only impacts women's engagement in peace negotiations but also perpetuates a cycle of inequality that impedes broader societal progress .

2.5 Challenges encountered by persons with disabilities

Likewise, individuals with disabilities face physical, societal, and structural barriers that impede their involvement. Close(2021) highlights several challenges faced by individuals with disabilities in the peacebuilding process. He emphasizes the systemic exclusion of these individuals due to societal biases, lack of accessibility, and insufficient representation in decision-making roles. argues that peace processes often overlook the unique perspectives and contributions that persons with disabilities can offer.

2.6 Underlying factors and dynamics of marginalisation's

Several root causes contribute to the exclusion of women and persons with disabilities in peace processes. These factors are often interconnected and deeply embedded in societal, cultural, and institutional frameworks. Barbra Mapuranga, Oswald Dumba and Happy Chikumbu (2015) highlights several underlying factors that contribute to this exclusion, such as social stigma and discrimination, which marginalize people with disabilities and limit their participation. The authors also mention a lack of access to peace-building forums and decision-making processes, which also hinders their participation. In addition, the needs of people with disabilities are often not considered and prioritized in peace initiatives. Addressing these obstacles is essential to fostering inclusive and effective peacebuilding practices. Close 2021 argues that the forms of barriers for people with disabilities in peace processes include physical barriers, these are tangible barriers to participation such as transport (Inaccessible vehicles) and infrastructure (stairs, bad roads, Inaccessible venues). There is also communication barriers that occur when written and/or spoken in is not available in format. There is also institutional

barriers, these include laws, policies and practices that discriminate against persons with disabilities in peace processes. Lastly, there is attitudinal barriers, and these are behaviours such as perceptions and assumptions held by individuals and communities that discriminate against persons with disabilities.

According to the UN Women (2012) the underlying factors that lead to the exclusion of women in peace processes are gender stereotypes and cultural norms which emerge as primary obstacles. The article brings out that perception that peace and security are predominantly male domains leads to the marginalization of women's potential contributions. This mindset reinforces stereotypes that undervalue women's capabilities in critical negotiations, effectively side lining their perspectives and experiences. A notable impediment is the lack of political will among decision-makers to include women. This stems from entrenched patriarchal structures where male leaders often prioritize their interests over gender inclusivity. Such attitudes create a systemic barrier to women's participation, limiting their influence in shaping peace agreements. It also points out the insufficient support mechanisms available to women. Limited access to essential resources and networks hinders their ability to engage effectively in peace negotiations. This lack of support further exacerbates the existing gender disparities in conflict resolution processes. Bell (2013) identifies several key factors, including the gendered view that frames peace negotiations as predominantly male arenas, resulting in the underappreciation of women's contributions. Furthermore, structural obstacles like restricted access to decision-making platforms and prevailing societal norms significantly hinder women's involvement. She also emphasizes that political and security considerations often focus on urgent issues rather than fostering inclusive discussions, which leads to the marginalization of women's perspectives in the development of peace agreements.

2.7 Social, economic and political consequences of marginalisation

The exclusion of women and persons with disabilities from peace processes has significant social, economic, and political implications.

2.7.1 Social consequences

Socially, their exclusion perpetuates existing inequities and undermines social cohesion. According to Paffenholz(2016),the exclusion of women and individuals with disabilities from peace negotiations often results in their specific needs and viewpoints being inadequately represented, as highlighted by UN Women (2020). This lack of representation can further entrench social inequalities and perpetuate negative stereotypes, as the contributions of these groups tend to be ignored. For example, if peace agreements neglect to tackle issues such as gender-based violence or accessibility (M'Bayo, 2011) it may increase the vulnerability and marginalization of these communities. Additionally, the absence of diverse voices in peace processes can undermine social cohesion, as marginalized groups may feel alienated and disconnected from the larger community, which could lead to social unrest and conflict.

2.7.2 Economic consequences

Economically, the marginalization of these groups can hinder development. Research indicates that inclusive peace processes can lead to more sustainable economic recovery and growth (UN Women, 2015). The marginalization of women and individuals with disabilities can significantly restrict their ability to contribute to economic development. When these groups are excluded from decision-making processes, their potential to shape economic policies and initiatives is reduced. This exclusion can lead to missed opportunities for innovation and growth, as women and people with disabilities often offer unique perspectives and solutions to economic challenges (UN Women, 2020). Furthermore, the lack of access to resources, training, and

employment opportunities can perpetuate poverty cycles among these marginalized groups, further impeding overall economic stability and prosperity for society as a whole.

2.7.3 Political consequences

Politically, the exclusion of women and persons with disabilities undermines the legitimacy of peace agreements. Peace processes that do not represent all segments of society are less likely to be perceived as legitimate and equitable (International Disability Alliance, 2019). This can lead to a lack of trust in political institutions and a higher likelihood of conflict recurrence.. This disenfranchisement can lead to decreased civic engagement and disillusionment with political processes, ultimately increasing the risk of conflict recurrence. Moreover, the absence of diverse perspectives in decision-making can lead to less effective and sustainable governance, as policies may not adequately reflect the needs and aspirations of the entire population.

2.8 Assessment of social, economic and political impacts of the exclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace processes

2.8.1 Social impacts

The exclusion of women and individuals with disabilities from peace processes significantly contributes to ongoing social inequality and heightens the risk of violence, especially against women who often lack adequate protection in conflict situations (Fox, 2024). This lack of representation in decision-making leads to policies that fail to address their needs, further entrenching their marginalization (Krause, 2016; McKay, 2014). Additionally, inclusive peace efforts are essential for fostering trust and cooperation within communities; without such inclusivity, resentment and division can arise, undermining efforts toward lasting peace

(Paffenholz, 2015; Bouvier, 2018). Thus, it is crucial to address these exclusions to create effective peace processes that promote stability and equality.

2.8.2 Economic impact

The economic ramifications of exclusion can impede local development. Research demonstrates that when women and persons with disabilities are actively included in peace processes, it can lead to more effective resource allocation and economic policies that promote inclusivity (UN Women, 2015). Conversely, exclusion can result in economic strategies that fail to address the unique challenges faced by these groups, further entrenching poverty and inequality.

2.8.3 Political impact

The political implications of marginalization are substantial. The absence of women and persons with disabilities from peace negotiations can result in governance structures that lack legitimacy and do not reflect the interests of the wider community (International Disability Alliance, 2019). This disenfranchisement can lead to decreased civic engagement and disillusionment with political processes, ultimately increasing the risk of conflict recurrence.

2.9 Previous research related to the topic

Research concerning the exclusion of marginalized groups from peace processes has gained momentum globally, highlighting the critical importance of inclusive practices in fostering sustainable peace. Numerous studies have demonstrated that diverse participation particularly that of women and individuals with disabilities results in more effective and enduring peace agreements. For instance, the United Nations' Women, Peace, and Security agenda emphasizes the necessity of integrating women's voices into peace processes for a comprehensive approach to conflict resolution.

At the African level, literature has similarly illuminated the barriers that women and disabled individuals encounter in peace building efforts. Vincent (2018) examines the crucial yet frequently underappreciated roles that African women play in peace-building, questioning prevailing narratives and promoting a more inclusive strategy for achieving peace. The UN Women article underscores the critical importance of including women in peace processes. Their exclusion not only diminishes the quality of peace agreements but also has broader implications for societal stability and the protection of women's rights in post-conflict settings.

In Zimbabwe, the challenges faced by these groups are particularly pronounced. Barbra Mapuranga, Oswald Dumba, and Happy Chikumbu (2015) addresses the involvement of people living with disabilities in peacebuilding initiatives in Zimbabwe. Highlighting the significant barriers these individuals face and emphasizes the need for their inclusion in processes that are vital for fostering peace and stability in the region.

Focusing further on Bindura District, the situation reflects both national trends and unique local challenges. Miston Mapuranga and Gilliet Chigunwe both address the critical issue of exclusion in peace processes in Zimbabwe, focusing on the marginalization of women and people with disabilities, respectively. Mapuranga (2021) highlights systemic obstacles such as structural inequalities and cultural norms that hinder women's participation in decision-making roles, emphasizing the need for inclusive frameworks to amplify their voices in peacebuilding, particularly in traditional areas like Bindura. Similarly, Chigunwe (2022), discusses how societal attitudes and barriers prevent individuals with disabilities from engaging fully in peace efforts, advocating for practices that recognize their rights and contributions. Together, their research underscores the urgent necessity for systemic changes to foster the inclusion of both women and people with disabilities in peace initiatives, ensuring that all marginalized voices are prioritized

in the pursuit of lasting peace. These studies collectively illustrate the pressing need for further exploration of the intersectionality of gender and disability in peace processes, particularly in the context of Bindura District.

Research on the exclusion of women and individuals with disabilities from peace processes reveals several significant shortcomings. A critical limitation in many studies is the insufficient consideration of the local context. Researchers often do not account for the unique socio-political and cultural factors in Zimbabwe, which can lead to misunderstandings about how exclusion manifests and the particular obstacles that marginalized groups encounter in local peace processes. This lack of contextual awareness may hinder the development of effective inclusive strategies.

Moreover, many studies predominantly use quantitative methods, which may overlook valuable qualitative insights. This focus on numerical data can mask the lived experiences and perspectives of marginalized individuals, which are essential for understanding their roles and contributions to peace building efforts. While there is a recognition of the need for inclusive practices, there is often a lack of detailed analysis regarding the barriers to effective implementation, thus continuing the cycle of exclusion.

To build upon the strengths of previous research while addressing its limitations, this study will utilize established frameworks that promote inclusivity in peace processes. A mixed-methods strategy will be employed, combining quantitative analyses with qualitative interviews and focus groups to provide a deeper understanding of the experiences of marginalized groups.

Additionally, this research will focus on ensuring that the study is rooted in the specific socio-political context of Bindura District. By incorporating local narratives and experiences, the analysis will gain relevance and accuracy regarding the realities faced by those affected by

exclusion in peace processes. This comprehensive approach aims to contribute meaningful insights that enhance discussions on fostering inclusivity in peace building initiatives.

2.10 Chapter summary

This chapter has reviewed the existing literature on the exclusion of women and individuals with disabilities in peace processes. It has Identified limitations of past/ current research, and explained this research's point of entry into the debate suggested ways of overcoming limitations, Identified potential outcomes of the research and the importance of each. It has addressed key theoretical frameworks, challenges faced by marginalized groups, and potential solutions to enhance inclusivity. The next chapter will outline the methodology for this study, detailing the research design, data collection methods, and analytical approaches used to explore these issues in Bindura District.

CHAPTER 3

3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND DESIGN

3.1 Introduction

This chapter introduces the research methodology designed to investigate the effects of excluding women and individuals with disabilities from peace processes in Bindura District. It details the approach that was taken for conducting the research and the strategies that the researcher implemented to navigate the intricate research landscape. Additionally, the chapter offers a thorough overview of the methods that was used for data collection, including specifics on research design, sampling methods, target population, analytical techniques, and the foundational research paradigm. To ensure a comprehensive analysis of the topic, both primary and secondary data collection instruments was employed. Moreover, this chapter addresses the ethical considerations associated with the study, acknowledging the sensitive nature of gender and disability issues within the context of peacebuilding. Ultimately, the aim of this research was to highlight the critical gaps resulting from the exclusion of marginalized groups in peace processes, with the aim of fostering more inclusive and effective peacebuilding efforts in Bindura District.

3.1 Research methodology

There are three main research methodologies: quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods (Creswell, 2014). The quantitative method emphasizes statistical analysis, and the qualitative approach is theory-based and aligns with a naturalistic perspective (Mohajan, 2017). The mixed methods approach integrates both qualitative and quantitative strategies. This study

employed a mixed methods framework to examine the effects of excluding women and individuals with disabilities from peace processes.

The researcher engaged with participants to gather their insights and experiences concerning the exclusion of these marginalized groups in peacebuilding initiatives. By collecting both statistical and descriptive data, the research intends to offer a thorough understanding of the topic, ensuring that the results are quantifiable and contribute to theoretical discussions. This methodology will highlight the critical gaps resulting from such exclusions and aid in formulating more inclusive approaches within peace processes.

3.2 Research design

A research design serves as a framework for data collection and analysis, as noted by Pandey (2015). This study adopts a case study approach, which involves a thorough investigation of a specific instance that can provide insights relevant to other similar cases (Cresswell, 2014). The focus of this case study is on the effects of excluding women and people with disabilities from peace processes in Bindura District. The objective is to examine how this exclusion impacts peacebuilding initiatives and the overall stability of the community.

To ensure a comprehensive exploration of this topic, a mixed methods approach was implemented. This design combines both qualitative and quantitative methodologies, contrasting with earlier studies that have primarily utilized qualitative methods. The integration of these approaches aims to deliver a more detailed understanding g of the consequences of exclusion in peace processes. The qualitative aspect included in-depth interviews and focus group discussions with women, individuals with disabilities, and key stakeholders involved in peace efforts. This facilitates an exploration of personal experiences, perceptions, and the socio-political dynamics influencing these processes.

On the quantitative side, surveys were administered to a wider audience within Bindura District to collect statistical data regarding perceptions of the inclusion of marginalized groups in peace initiatives. This quantitative element complemented the qualitative findings by providing broader context and enabling the identification of patterns and correlations within the data.

The mixed methods design is particularly advantageous in this context as it addresses the limitations associated with relying on a single methodological approach. By utilizing both qualitative and quantitative techniques, this study aims to capture the complexity of the issue while also providing statistically significant data that can either support or challenge the qualitative insights. This dual approach yielded a more comprehensive understanding of the impacts of exclusion on peace processes, thereby contributing to a deeper comprehension of the factors that either promote or obstruct inclusive peacebuilding efforts.

Furthermore, this research design seeks to fill the gaps identified in previous studies, which have often neglected the quantitative dimensions of exclusion in peace processes. By doing so, this case study not only aims to generalize the issues related to the exclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace initiatives in Bindura District but also aspires to enhance the existing body of knowledge on inclusive peacebuilding practices. Ultimately, this research provides valuable insights that can inform policy recommendations and strategies to improve the participation of marginalized groups in future peace processes, fostering a more inclusive and sustainable approach to conflict resolution.

3.4 Targeted population

In this study, the population comprised individuals residing in Bindura District, with a focus on women and people with disabilities. The 2012 census estimates the total population of Bindura District at approximately 199,105 people, characterized by diverse socio-economic backgrounds. Population refers to any group of individuals sharing one or more characteristics of interest (Graham, 2000). The study's population includes Women and people with disabilities The study targets communities within Bindura, Chiweshe, and Mvurwi to ensure a diverse sample of participants. The study's inclusion criteria focus on women and individuals with disabilities aged 18 and older residing in Bindura District, as this demographic faces unique challenges in peace processes. In contrast, individuals who do not identify as women or have a disability are excluded from participation. This targeted approach ensures that the research captured the experiences of those most affected by exclusion in peace initiatives.The estimated sample size was around 37 participants, sufficient for meaningful analysis of experiences and perspectives.

3.5 Sample size

In research, a sample is defined as a subset of a population that is intended to accurately represent the larger target population. Sampling involves selecting a specific number of subjects to ensure that they reflect the characteristics of that defined population (Pandey, 2015). The practice of sampling is essential in research, as it is often impractical and unfeasible to study the entire population.

This dissertation, titled "The Impacts of the Exclusion of Women and People with Disabilities in Peace Processes in Bindura District," employed a mixed-methods approach to gather comprehensive data. The study utilized both purposive sampling and systematic random

sampling techniques. The participants were selected as follows 13 women, 12 people living with disabilities from Bindura District , 2 representatives from Department of Urban and Local Authorities , 2 representatives from the Humanitarian representatives, 2 politicians, 2 local leaders, 2 academics from Bindura University ,2 representatives from Ministry of women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises. This selection results in a total of 39 participants, whose diverse perspectives will contribute valuable insights into the experiences of marginalized groups in peace processes within Bindura District.

3.6 Sample frame

3.6.1. Table 1 Sample size and structure

Participant group	Number of participants	Data collection	Purpose
Women	13	Questionnares	To gather personal experiences and perspectives on exclusion in peace processes
People living with disabilities	12	Questionnares	To understand the challenges and impacts of exclusion from peace processes

Department of Urban and Local Authorities	2	Interviews	To gain insights into policy and administrative perspectives on inclusion
Humanitarian representatives	2	Interviews	To explore humanitarian perspectives on the exclusion of marginalized groups
Politicians	2	Interviews	To understand political viewpoints decision-making processes
Local leaders	2	Interviews	To assess community leadership roles in peace processes and

			inclusion.
Academics from Bindura University	2	Interviews	To gain theoretical and research based perspectives on the issue of the exclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace processes
Ministry of women Affairs and Community, small and medium enterprises.	2	Interviews	To explore advocacy perspectives and strategies for inclusion
Total	37		

3.7 Sampling methods

This study used the following sampling techniques: purposive sampling and random sampling.

3.8 Purposive sampling.

Purposive sampling is a sampling selected for research based on relevance to the research problem being examined and privileged knowledge or experience on the subject. In this case, the researcher selected the participants who are officials from the mentioned population as key informants for the interview. In order for the researcher to get relevant information for the study, the research was done with experts in the studied field. Therefore, purposive sampling is a non-probabilistic technique with a selection of objects according to the research problem (Pandey, 2015). Purposive sampling is often criticized for being subject to the subjectivity of researchers, but in this research study it helps to eliminate the analysis of unnecessary information to understand the impacts of the exclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace processes in Bindura District.

3.9 Systematic random sampling

Systematic random sampling is a method that gives each object in the sampling frame an equal and independent chance of being selected Mohajan (2017). The aim of using systematic random sampling is to obtain a representative sample that includes different perspectives relevant to the research topic. The study included a total of 37 participants, systematically selected from different groups in Bindura district. The participants include 13 women to represent their experiences in peace processes, 12 disabled people to highlight their specific challenges and 2 representatives each from the Department of Urban Authority and Local, humanitarian organizations, local leaders. , politicians, Bindura University academics, and Ministry of Women

Affairs and Community, small and medium enterprises. This diverse selection ensures that key voices and perspectives are included in the research. Systematic random sampling is justified by its structured approach, which minimizes bias by ensuring representation of all relevant groups. This method strengthens the validity of the results and allows a complete understanding of the obstacles faced by women and people with disabilities in peace processes.

3.10 Research instruments

This study will make use of interviews and questionnaires as tools for data collection.

3.11 Interviews

An interview is a qualitative research method that involves a conversation between an interviewer and a participant, where the interviewer seeks to understand the participant's perspectives, experiences, and meanings related to a specific topic. (Cohen and Crabtree, 2006). By focusing on the lived experiences of participants, in-depth interviews provide a more nuanced understanding of the implications of exclusion. They highlight the emotional and psychological impacts of being marginalized in peace processes, shedding light on the broader societal context that shapes gender equality and disability rights. This method captures the human side of the issue, allowing participants to articulate their perspectives on the challenges they face, the significance of their inclusion, and the ways in which patriarchal structures perpetuate their marginalization. Overall, in-depth interviews are essential for illuminating the complexities surrounding the exclusion of these groups and contributing to a more holistic understanding of the dynamics at play in peace processes.

3.12 Questionnaires

Questionnaires are an essential data collection tool used in this research to gather information. This method uses a structured set of questions that elicit quantitative and qualitative data, allowing for an in-depth analysis of the participants and their perspectives. The questionnaires consisted of a printed document with clear instructions and a mixture of structured (closed) and unstructured (open) questions. This balance facilitates the collection of quantifiable data that allows respondents to share their thoughts and experiences, thereby enriching the overall quality of the data. Anonymity was a key feature of the questionnaires, encouraging honest and open responses, especially on sensitive topics such as exclusion and marginalization. This creates a safe environment for participants to express their opinions without fear of being judged. In addition, the use of questionnaires allows the researcher to use sampling techniques effectively, ensuring a diverse representation of the community. This methodological approach favors quantitative analysis of trends by providing qualitative information from open-ended responses. In general, questionnaires are an essential tool for exploring the impacts of exclusion on peace processes.

3.13 Validity and readability

This section describes the planned approach to ensure the validity and reliability of research instruments that examine the exclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace processes in Bindura district. The determination of these aspects is essential for the reliability of the results. Validity refers to the extent to which a research instrument accurately measures the intended constructs. To improve the validity of the questionnaires, the researcher designed them based on a thorough review of existing literature on gender equality, disability inclusion and peace processes, including input from experts in the field. A pilot test was conducted with a

small sample similar to the target population to identify misunderstandings and refine the questions, ensuring clarity. In addition, the researcher compared the results of the questionnaire with the existing data to confirm its accuracy. Reliability is about the consistency of the measuring instrument over time. To ensure high reliability, the researcher assessed internal consistency using methods Cronbach's alpha, aiming for a score of 0.70 or higher. A subgroup of participants completed the questionnaire twice to assess stability. Clear instructions minimized confusion in the response.

3.14 Ethical considerations

Informed consent was obtained in writing, as described by Njihawan et al. (2013), to ensure that participants clearly understand the nature of the research, their rights, potential risks and implications of their participation. This process allows participants to be aware of their ability to withdraw from the study at any time without consequences. To maintain confidentiality, as described by Wiles et al. (2006), the research implemented measures to protect the information shared by the participants, ensuring that all discussions remain private, unless explicit permission is given to disclose. The use of pseudonyms and the option for participants to remain anonymous was provided to create a safe environment where individuals feel comfortable sharing their experiences without fear of stigma or exposure. In addition, the research received approval from the university's Institutional Review Board (IRB), which will assess the ethical aspects of the research design. This approval was essential to ensure compliance with ethical guidelines and best practices throughout the study.

3.15 Data collection

Considering the nature of the study, as previously mentioned, the two appropriate methods of data collection are questionnaires, interviews and qualitative data analysis. According to Dirwai and Gwimbi (2003), the choice of tools used depends on the type of data collected by the researcher. The advantage of using interviews is that it gives respondents the opportunity to ask for clarification if they need it and allows the use of open-ended questions. In addition, the questionnaire is a data collection tool with a series of written questions and space for answers (Debois, 2019). This method of data collection is more popular in quantitative research, but it is also useful in qualitative research when asking open-ended questions. The advantage for which this tool was considered by the researcher is due to the fact that it is cheap, fast in terms of data collection for a large sample, even with the geographical space.

3.16 Chapter Summary

This chapter presents the proposed framework for the research, highlighting some essential elements. It begins with a discussion of research methods, which provides an overview of the data collection techniques that were used. The research plan is also described, detailing the planned structure and approach that guides the study. In addition, the chapter describes the study area, providing an overview of the geographical and contextual background associated with the research setting. It also discusses sampling methods, outlining the strategies were used to select participants, ensuring that the sample is representative. In addition, the chapter explains the research tools that were used for data collection, including interviews, questionnaires and qualitative content analysis. The section on data analysis explains how the collected information should be processed and interpreted. Considerations regarding the validity and reliability of the intended research findings are also presented, emphasizing the importance of accuracy and

consistency of findings. The researcher justifies the use of interviews, questionnaires and qualitative content analysis as essential elements of the study, intended to facilitate data collection and comprehensive analysis.

The next chapter focuses on the presentation and analysis of the data collected.

CHAPTER 4

4.0 DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter examines the impacts of the exclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace process in Bindura district. By analyzing data from surveys and semi-structured interviews, the chapter presents findings on how the impacts of exclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace process. The analysis begins with demographic information gathered from questionnaire responses, followed by detailed research findings. This data is presented in various formats, including text, tables, and graphs, and analyzed using descriptive statistical methods. Both quantitative and qualitative data were considered together to provide a comprehensive understanding**.**

4.1 Response rate

Table 4.1 below illustrates the response rate of the study. A total of 37 respondents were targeted and they were all reached and participated in the study so the response rate was 100%. This was achieved because the interviews were scheduled to fit the time and availability of the respondents while questionnaires were also home delivered for the convenience of all research participants. The response rate is key in determining if the population is the true representative of the target population.

4.1. Table 2 Response rate percentage

Research participants target	Number of actual participants	Response Rate (%)
37	37	100

4.1 Demographic Information

This section presents the demographic characteristics of the respondents, including gender, age and level of education. Understanding these factors also assist in interpreting the impact of the exclusion of women and people with disability in peace building processes.

4.1.1 Gender respondents
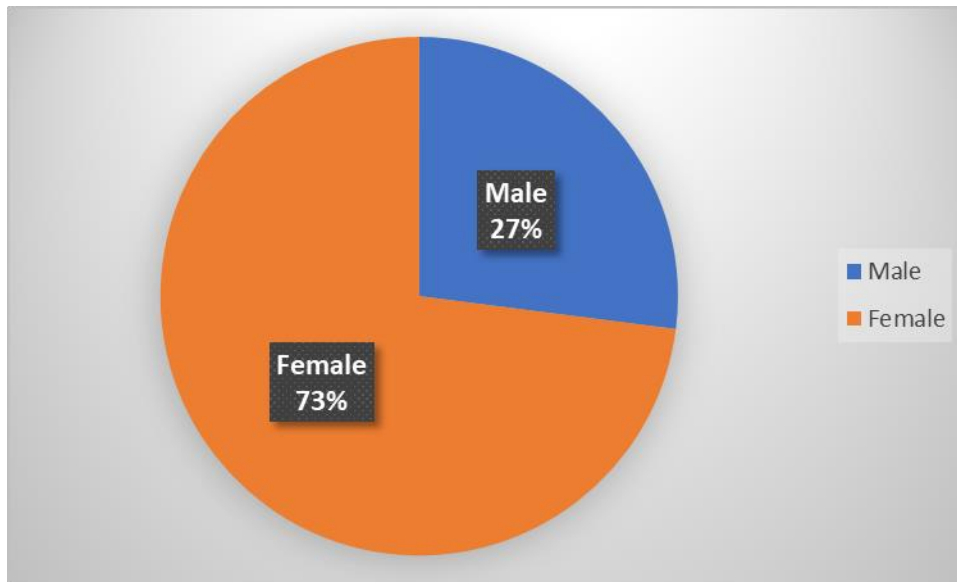
Figure 1. Gender of Respondents

The pie chart above showed that the research had more women (73%) than men (27%). This was caused by a mere fact that the research is interested in finding the effects of exclusion in peace building process.

4.1.1   Age of Respondents
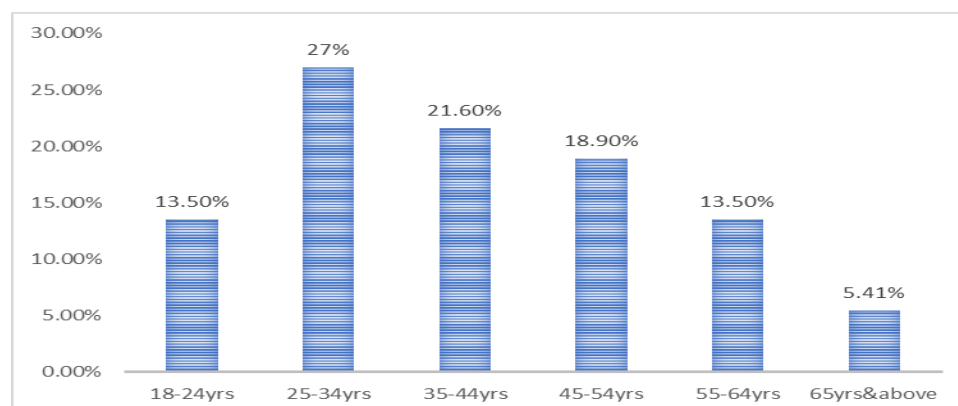
Figure 2. Age of Respondents

The figure above shows the age distribution of respondents in the study. Most (27%) of the respondents were aged between 24 and 34 years. 21.6% were aged 35-44 years, 18.9% were aged 45-54 years, those aged 18- 24 years and 55 and above contributed 13.5% each category and lastly those 65 years and above constituted 5.41%. There was a balance of research participants across all age groups.

4.1.2 Level of education of respondancy

Table 3. Level of Education of the research participants

Level of education of respondents	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No Formal Education	2	5.4	5.4	5.4
Primary	8	21.6	21.6	27.0
Secondary	14	37.8	37.8	64.8
Tertiary	13	35.2	35.2	100.0
Total	37	100.0	100.0	

The table 1 above shows that 5% of the respondents. Majority, 38% of the respondents had secondary education while 35% had tertiary education, 22% had primary education and finally 5% had no formal education which might determine their involvement in peace building processes in their communities. The general level of education determines level of education from respondents and the majority of them had minimum qualifications to engage meaningfully in the study. Education is generally regarded as one of the factors that influence one's social class and social classes also influence how much one is engaged in community development activities.

4.2 Women participation in peace processes

A total of thirteen women were asked if they have ever participated in any local peace building initiatives. The figure below shows the responses.
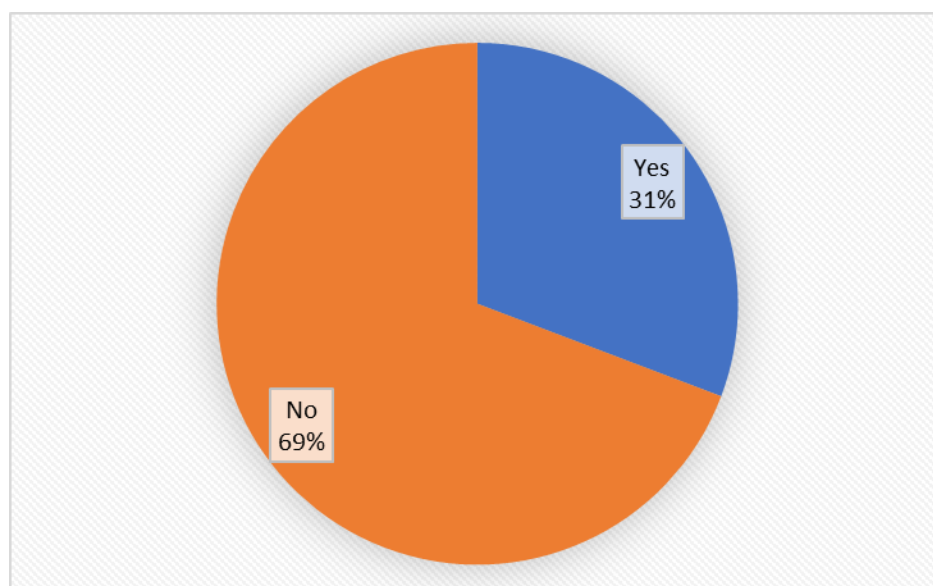

Figure 3. Women participation in peace building activities

The figure above shows that 69% of respondents have never participated in peace building activities while on 31% have ever participated in such activities. This points to the exclusion of

women in peace building initiatives in communities. According to ALIGN, 2023 challenges for women's participation in peace processes is rooted in patriarchal norms and values that devalues women as a weaker sex. They have limited to no room to participate in peacebuilding activities.

4.3 Perception of women participation in peace building processes

Table 4. Perception of women participation in peace building processes

The interviewed women were asked to give their opinions on participation on women in peace building processes in their communities. The majority, 53.9% indicated that they were of the opinion that, women participation in peace building processes was very low. 15.4% highlighted that it was low while the other 15.4% also thought participation of women in peace building activities was moderate. While the other 7% were of the opinion that women participation is high and the other 7% also thought it was very high. Conclusively, majority (69.3%) of the respondents were of the opinion that, women are not participating in peace building activities in their communities.

Perception on women participation in peace building processes		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very low	7	53.9	53.9	53.9
	Low	2	15.4	15.4	69.3
	Moderate	2	15.4	15.4	84.7
	High	1	7.7	7.7	92.4
	Very high	1	7.7	7.7	100.0
	Total	13	100.0	100.0	

4.4 Barriers to women participation

Table 5. Barriers to women participation in peace processes

Barrier	1	2	3	4	5	Total response
Cultural norms		7.7	23.1	38.5	30.8	100%
Gender based discrimination		7.7	15.4	46.2	30.8	100%
Lack of representation in decision making roles			23.1	30.8	46.2	100%

A significant number of participants believed that, cultural norms, gender-based discrimination and lack of representation in decision making has led to the exclusion of women in participating in peace processes. The researcher found that 69% of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed that, cultural norms are inhibiting women participation in peace processes. Culturally and socially, women a seen as a weaker gender and their role is in the kitchen and the bedroom. This has led to their exclusion in most of community development initiatives. 23% were not sure if cultural norms are leading to exclusion of women. While only 7% disagreed with the assertion that cultural norms are acting as a barrier to women participation in peace processes.

Furthermore, 77% of the respondents indicated that gender discrimination is the cause of women exclusion in peace processes in the communities. While the other 77% also agree or strongly agreed that women's exclusion is due to lack of representation in decision making roles.

4.5 Impact of the exclusion of women

Women in the study were asked on how the exclusion of women has affected the effectiveness of peace processes in Bindura district. Below is a graph which shows their responses.
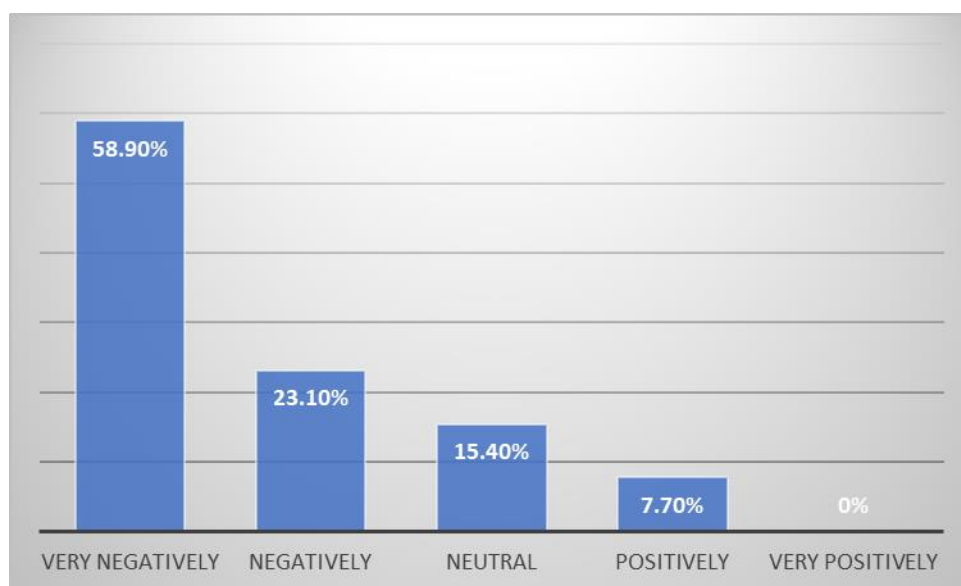
Figure 4. Impacts of the exclusion of women

59% indicated that, the exclusion of women has affected the effectiveness of the peace processes in the district very negatively. While 23% were of the opinion that, it has affected negatively. This implies that, 82% of the participants believe peace building processes without the participation of women is incomplete. One of the key informants noted that;

Exclusion of women and people with disability in peace processes has consequences to themselves and the community as a whole. Imagine these are people we live with daily in our society and they are not given space to contribute. We are saying whatever the outcome in the peace processes will affect them in one way or another. They are part of us yet you never hear

people talking about them in community meetings especially people living with disability. Those with speech disorders are always laughed at and it says a lot. The emotional damage is huge and that's exclusion of people living with disability and women in peace processes has some huge impacts. Those with disabilities and women are always at the center of violence or abuses hence it is key to involve them meaningfully.

4.6 Impact of the exclusion of women in peace processes

Participants were asked for specific support or resources they think would empower women to participate more actively in peace processes. They all believed that, training and capacity building programs, establishment of support networks for women and advocacy and awareness would go a long way in ensuring women in Bindura district are participate in peace processes. 92% of the participants indicated that, advocacy and awareness initiatives are key in motivating women to participate. 86.62% said they believe in establishment of support networks for women to led and coordinate participation of women in peace building processes. All women who were interviewed indicated that, training and capacity building for women is key in ensuring they participate in peace building activities in their communities. The table below shows the areas of support women needed for their full participation in peace building activities.
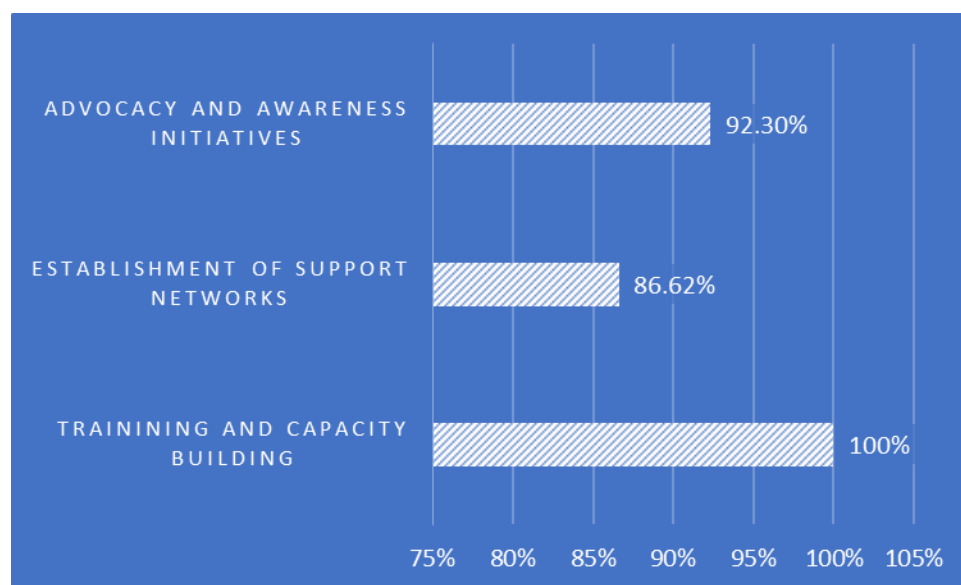
Figure 5. Support needed to empower women to participate in peace building initiatives

4.6.1 Suggestions for improvement to increase women's participation in peace building processes

Research participants were asked to give recommendations on areas where they thought would enhance the involvement of women in peace building efforts in Bindura district. Among the participants, 92% indicated that, they would want to see and increase in awareness and sensitivity trainings for community leaders, while 80% recommended promotion of inclusive policies and practices. This was also supported by a key informant from a local NGO who said;

"*Local NGOs have tried to ensure participation and inclusion of the marginalised groups by assisting in creating forums for engagement. However, it has been long without any tangiable results as organisations are fighting for space to much rather than ensuring those who need our support are really assisted. There is need to have a clear policy and frameworks for guidance in*

terms of implementation of the inclusion policy. Currently the major document that has been used is the constitution of Zimbabwe.

This was further stressed by UN Women (2017) which postulated that, lack of sustainable funding that restricts both the implementation of their peace projects, as well as their ability to systematically document their initiatives and effectively communicate best practices. Possible rivalry over funding among community-based organizations can also limit cooperation and incentivize project-based work over long-term strategies. Moreover, funding is often allocated to projects in capitals instead of rural areas, which also narrows opportunities to gather knowledge and experiences from women at the grassroots level.

Another key informant also highlighted that there is need to ensure we hold political leaders accountable. He emphasised the need to move the talk and move away from cosmetic talks that ends in the board rooms. He said;

" there is need to ensure there is political will for the inclusion of the disadvantaged groups. Women are very crucial in our communities, besides their God given role they also nature our society. They should be given space to contribute in every part of the community. However, they have been deliberate moves by those in power to exclude them startegically. On paper they are represented but in reality women remain in the periphery of the community especially in decision making. So engaging the political leadeers to ensure there are policies for inclusion and that such policies are religiously followed would go a long in womens inclusion in peace processes. But not only that, inclusion of women has been a passive thing or a ritual without any meaning

This is in sync with the United Nations' publication on womens participation in peace building processes which noted that weak political commitment has been the major challenge and women

role in peace processes is but a formality, and that women are better suited to observer roles or, at most, to inclusion in negotiations only to address women's issues.

Furthermore, 86.62% recommended the establishment of support networks for women. In an interview with the local politican. He said;

"there has been a lot of talk for the need to have an inclusive development, where women, the youths and people with disability are fully enaged and participate in things that affect them daily. And the best was is to organise such groups so that they speak with one voice. Nevertheless, this has not been the case, the few organisation that have been formed have been manipulated and abused by us politicans. If they still exist they no longer serve the will of their communities. So there is need to have strong networks for vulnerable groups so that they are also onboard and this means every part of the society should geninuelysupport such networks for them to be vehicles of inclusion.

The figure below shows the number response for recommmentations on areas of improvement.

Figure 6. the number response for recommendations on areas of improvement

4.7 Impact of exclusion in peace processes for people with disability

Type of disability of the respondents

The figure below shows the types of disability for the respondents of the study.
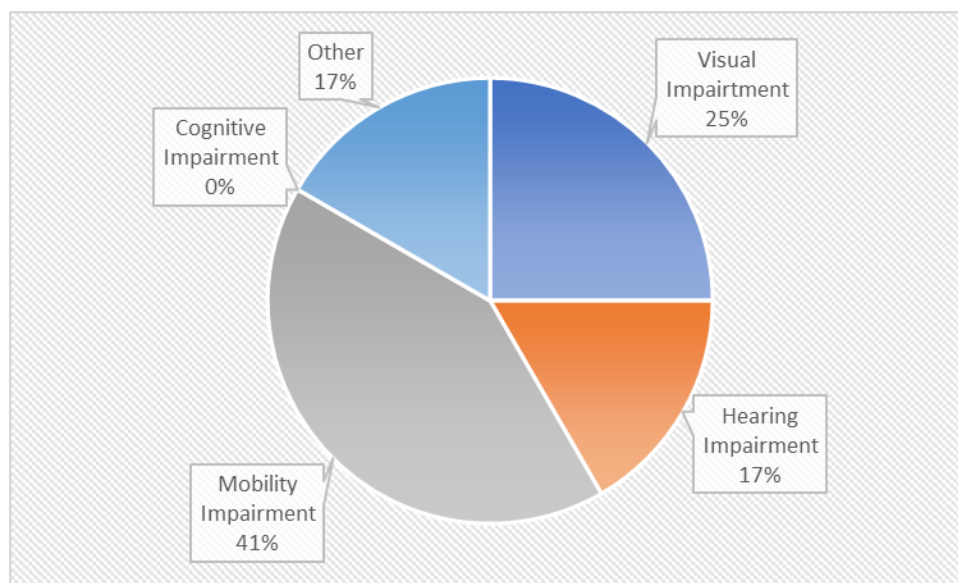
Figure 7. Types of disabilities for research participants

Mobility impairment had the highest proportion (41%) of the research participants, followed by visual impairment with 25%, hearing impairment had 17% and other types of impairments contributed 17% as well. The study had a good representation of all the impairments for its nature.

4.7.1 Participation in peace processes

Participants were asked if they have ever participated in peace building initiatives. The figure below shows the response from the interviews.
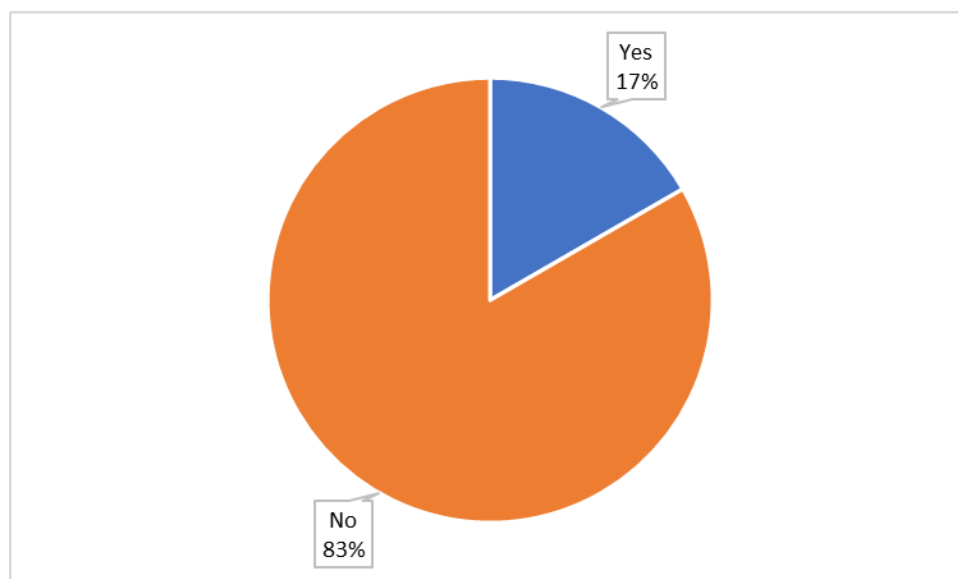
Figure 8. Participation in peace processes

From the pie chart above, 83% of the respondents had never participated in peace building initiatives in their community while on 17% had participated in peace building processes. This highlights a gap on involvement of people with disability in peace building processes. This also supports the perceptions of people with disability on their involvement in peace building initiatives. All the respondents indicated that, they think the level of participation for people with disabilities in peace processes is low or very low in their communities.

4.7.2 Barrires to peace processes for people with disabilities

The table below shows factors affecting participation of people with disabilities in their communities.

Table 6. Barrires to peace processes for people with disabilities

Barrier	1	2	3	4	5	Total response
Physical accessibility issues			8	50	42	100%
Lack of representation of people with disabilities in peace processes initiatives.			25	25	50	100%
Institutional barriers (laws, policies and practices that discriminate against people with disabilities)			25	58	17	100%
Social stigma and discrimination			8	42	50	100%
Lack of resources				58	42	100%

Majority of the respondents indicated that, factors such physical accessibility, lack of representation of people with disabilities in peace processes, institutional barriers, social stigma and discrimination and lack of resources contributes to their exclusion in peace building

initiatives in their communities. 92% of the respondents believed that, physical accessibility issues hindered participation of people with disability in peace building activities in their communities. 75% noted that, lack of representation is contributing to their exclusion in peace building initiatives. From the group, 75% also believed that, there are institutional barriers that are perpetuating their exclusion in peace building processes. According to ALIGN (2023), people with disability are seen as unproductive beings who should be hidden from the public and have limited access to the basics that are needed for effective participation in local activities such as education and information. 92% and 100% of the respondents believed that, social stigma and discrimination and lack of resources contributes to their involvement in peace processes. This concurs with findings from ALIGN (2023) which states that, religious and cultural norms views disability as a curse, particularly for women as their impaired bodies are undesirable, seen as shameful for their families and render them "others". This spells how difficult it is for someone with disability to freely participate in peace building activities.

4.7.3 Impact of the exclusion of people with disabilities in peace processes

The respondents were asked on how much their exclusion has impacted their lives. 92% of the participants indicated that, their exclusion has impacted them very negatively. The representative from the Non-Governmental Organizations had this to say when asked about the impact of exclusion of the people with disability and women;

"Imagine you are in a community and everyone except you is given a chance to contribute. Exclusion takes emotional toll on people who are excluded. It gets worse when it is someone that the community has always not accepted. Not being a chance in your community is like being told you are not part of us. So, we might take it lightly but it's actually a big issue which has a lot of emotional implications on those excluded. Sometimes you leave them behind but the issues on the

table directly affect them probably on a daily basis. And that alone is likely to create other problems and that how big the impact of exclusion is".

4.7.4 Support and empowerment

The research study was interested in finding what are the areas people with disabilities would want supported to ensure they participate in more actively in peace processes. 92% of the respondents indicated that, they would love to see more trainings and capacity building workshops specifically for people with disability to ensure they are also knowledgeable on how to navigate the community structures for them to participate in peace processes. ALIGN (2023) also found that, stakeholders, including local leaders, women and people with disability would benefit from capacity strengthening as well as awareness raising to change mindsets and support the greater inclusion and participation of women and people with disability. This is a key aspect that should be embraced and implemented because inclusion of disadvantaged groups remains both an end and a means to minimize their marginalization and discrimination they face in the society. This is further supported by Close (2021) who stated that, identifying and addressing physical, communication, institutional and attitudinal barriers to inclusion is key. She furthers opines that, disability inclusion in conflict-affected contexts requires peace builders to make reasonable accommodation to ensure the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities.

86% said they would want to be supported by transport to reach gathering places for peace building initiatives. With 100% are of the view that, financial support is very critical for people with disability to upgrade their social status for them to be considered in community development initiatives. 100% of the respondents highlighted that, they would have some advocacy and awareness initiatives for their sector to ensure they have the information needed to

ensure their participation. This was supported by one of the key informants from Bindura Municipality. He said,

"*The major challenge with that group is that, they are no structures on where to find them. Even if you engage one of them, it will be that person only who will benefit. So, organization is their main challenge and they are need for everyone to support them form structures so that whenever we want to engage them, we know where to go. I have had of advocacy trainings; I think that is what is needed as a start-up for such groups.*

Close (2021) also recommended the use of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) to ensure inclusion and sustainability of their inclusion. She articulated that, connecting disability inclusion to the notion of a positive, gender-equal and sustainable peace can help disability activists link with the efforts of other civil society networks in peace building sector. They can also push back the resistance to disability inclusion and support practical, localized change. However, forming OPDs is a mammoth and it needs the multi-stakeholders' approach to help them form and shape such organizations. Training is a continuous ingredient if such networks and organizations are to be formed.

4.8 Chapter Summary

The research shows that a larger population of women in Bindura District do not attend peace processes due to cultural norms, gender-based discrimination and lack of representation in decision making. While a large number of people with disabilities in Bindura District are excluded from peace processes because people with disability are seen as unproductive beings who should be hidden from the public and have limited access to the basics that are needed for effective participation in local activities such as education and information. The research found that the impacts of the exclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace processes in

Bindura District are emotional toil and that the agreements at these peace processes always tend to be incomplete as they fail to address issues affecting all members of the society like abuse of the disabled and gender inequality. The next chapter will give an overall summary, conclusion and recommendations on the findings and suggestions adopted from the research.

CHAPTER 5

5.0 SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND AREAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

5.1 Introduction

The following chapter is going to give the summary, recommendations and conclusions on the research titled " the impacts of the exclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace processes" focusing on Bindura District. In the study, the researcher found that the residents of Bindura District see structural challenges as the main barriers to the participation of people with disabilities and women in peace processes and the major impact of the exclusion on both groups is emotional toil. however, the chapter will look at recommendations for the government of Zimbabwe in order to deal with issues of exclusion of these two groups in peace processes.

5.2 Summary of findings

This chapter summarizes the findings from the research analysing the impacts of exclusion for women and people with disabilities in peace building in Bindura district and provides conclusion based on the research findings, and recommendations for future research. The study aimed at understanding the nature of the exclusion for women, people with disabilities as well as establishing the underlying factors for the exclusion, the social, economic and political impacts of the exclusion of women and people with disability in the peace processes.

The study used the feminist and disability studies as its theoretical framework. The study is grounded in feminist theory and disability studies, both of which underscore the importance of inclusivity and representation in peace processes. These theories provide vital perspectives for analysing the exclusion of women and individuals with disabilities in peace processes. These

frameworks highlight the importance of inclusive practices that recognize diverse experiences, ultimately enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of peace outcomes.

The research was carried out in Bindura district and mixed methods approach was used in the process of data gathering using interviews and questionnaires. A sample of 37 participants was used and they were purposively sampled. Thematic approach was used in terms of data analysis while SPSS was used to analyse qualitative data. Information from the key informants was used to strengthen the qualitative information.

The findings established that women and people with disabilities face a lot of exclusion in peace building processes in the Bindura district. This exclusion means closure of social, political and economic spaces for women and people with disability. The excluded groups suffer psychological damage as they try to leave with their exclusion. There is little being done to ensure gender and disability equality and equity. There is a huge gap between gender and disability policies on paper and the reality on the ground. In other words, there are policies that a packaged, printed and shelved somewhere without implementation. There are signs of political will to ensure gender and disability are implemented by those in lower-level offices but they do not know where to start.

5.3 Conclusions

This study established that, women and people with disability are being excluded in peace building processes in their communities and they are very much aware of their exclusion. They also recognize major factors that barriers to their participation which include the structural challenges. Inclusion of these groups has been ceremonial, whereby they are invited to an event but they are not accorded the opportunity to participate. Women and people with disability

proposed some trainings on advocacy to ensure they have the capacity to engage with gate keepers to be involved in peace building initiatives.

Another key take away was the fact that, exclusion of these two groups has emotional toll on them. They are eager to participate is all key community activities including peace building platforms. Women and people with disability are systematically excluded by being in the same space which are dominated by powerful in the community. They are actual present in the meetings and forum but they do not have the chance to air out their views. Otherwise, they are only there as spectators. The emotional damage is worsened when one ponders on the myths which are mostly associated with disability. Resultantly, the exclusion of people with disability has huge impact on them psychological and their view of the society as a whole.

In addition, it was also discovered that, the government has not taken the issue of inclusion seriously as some of the government officials. There were instances where the government officials emphasized the need for the non-governmental organizations to take the lead in sensitizing the community about gender mainstreaming and disability inclusion. This alone shows a big gap in terms of the political will. The government is asking for responsibility from entities that should be supplementing its effort to deliver. Relying on NGOs which are donor funded is not sustainable, as such the government should be on the forefront in terms of implementing gender and disability policies as well as sensitizing the community.

Nevertheless, the study found out that, there is a will to learn how to embrace disability and gender issues among the lower-level government officials as shown by the local councillor who insisted trainings on such issues. Having political leaders who are willing to go beyond cosmetic inclusion is key and this could be a model practice where other leaders can also take some lessons.

Furthermore, it was also noted that, the community leaders are cognizant of the exclusion that women and people with disability are excluded in peace building initiatives. Some even advocated for gender and disability awareness campaigns and inclusion workshops as a way of ensuring those in key social and political positions are in a position to recognize these key groups and they are also equipped with ideas on how to guarantee their inclusion.

Additionally, access to education for people with disability is one of the key factors that exacerbate their exclusion. From a sample of 12 participants of people with disability, only 2 had no formal education whilst 8 had at most primary education. This limits their participation in community platforms because they already feel less important due to their level of education. Moreso, most forums use English language for communication and those who cannot comprehend or speak it are left behind.

5.4 Recommendations

- There is need for strong advocacy to ensure there are institutions that support and also create conducive environment for women and people with disability to participate in peace building initiatives and other community activities

- There should be a strong structural reform that acknowledge both on paper and in reality, and women and people with disability have rights that must be exercised and for such actions to happen every part of the community should act.

- The government should be on the forefront in terms of both advocating and implementation of inclusivity policies.

- The government needs to come up with strategies which are comprehensive to ensure people with disability have some form of formal education which will enable them to acquire skills to navigate the social structure in their respective communities.

- The government should ensure that special needs such as wheelchairs and hearing aids for people with disability are readily available and freely accessible for those in needy.

- The government should ensure the school curriculum demystifies issues of disability to ensure the community is ready to core exist with those with disabilities.

- All organizations either government, private or non-governmental should have a strong disability inclusion policy.

5.5 Areas for further research

One of the further studies areas should be focused on;

- why the government is not concerned with implementation of key constitutional acts such as the disability act

- Has the government had the required capacity in terms of the know-how of the implementation of the key acts and policies that are meant to reduce the level of inequalities that exist among the weak members of the society in this case the women and people with disability.

- Is the government not relegating its core mandate to NGOs by living the later to ensure that the community is educated on issues of equity, equality and inclusive.

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Annexures

i.) Questionnaire for Women in the research on the Impacts of Exclusion in Peace Processes

My name is Nyasha M Chimunhu , and I am a Bachelor's student studying Peace and Governance at Bindura University of Science Education. I am conducting research on the impacts of the exclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace processes, focusing specifically on Bindura District. Please be assured that this research is solely for academic purposes and will not be used for any other reason without the participants' or the company's consent. All information collected will be kept strictly confidential. I appreciate your willingness to assist me in this research endeavor.

Instructions

Do not write your name anywhere on this questionnaire.

Provide your response on the appropriate given space.

1. Demographic Information:

Age: (Please tick one)

[ ] a) 18 - 24 years

[ ] b) 25 - 34 years

[ ] c) 35 - 44 years

[ ] d) 45 - 54 years

[ ] e) 55 - 64 years

[ ] f) 65 years and above

Educational Background:

[ ] a) No formal education

[ ] b) Primary education

[ ] c) Secondary education

[ ] d) Tertiary education

[ ] e) Other (please specify): _____

Occupation: _____

2. Participation in Peace Processes:

Have you ever participated in any local peacebuilding initiatives?

[ ] a) Yes

[ ] b) No

3. Perceptions of Inclusion:

How would you rate the level of participation of women in peace processes in your community?

(1) Very Low

(2) Low

(3) Moderate

(4) High

(5) Very High

4. Barriers to Participation:

Please indicate the extent to which you believe each of the following barriers contributes to the exclusion of women from participating in peace processes. (Rate each from 1 to 5, where 1 = Not at all, 5 = Very Much)

Barrier	1	2	3	4	5
Cultural norms					
Gender based discrimination					
Lack of representation in decision-making roles.					
Other(please specify)					

5. Impact of Exclusion:

In your opinion, how has the exclusion of women affected the effectiveness of peace processes in Bindura District?

  (1) Very Negatively

  (2) Negatively

  (3) Neutral

  (4) Positively

  (5) Very Positively

6. Support and Empowerment:

What specific support or resources do you think would empower women to participate more actively in peace processes? (Select all that apply)

[ ] a) Training and capacity-building programs

[ ] b) Establishment of support networks for women.

[ ] c) Advocacy and awareness initiatives

[ ] d) Other (please specify): _____

7. Suggestions for Improvement:

What recommendations would you make to enhance the involvement of women in peacebuilding efforts in your community? (Select all that apply)

[ ] a) Increase awareness and sensitivity training for community leaders

[ ] b) Promote inclusive policies and practices

[ ] c) Establish support networks for women

[ ] d) Other (please specify): _____

THANK YOU

ii.) Questionnaire for People with Disabilities on the Impacts of Exclusion in Peace Processes

My name is Nyasha M Chimunhu, and I am a Bachelor's student studying Peace and Governance at Bindura University of Science Education. I am conducting research on the impacts of the exclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace processes, focusing specifically on Bindura District. Please be assured that this research is solely for academic purposes and will not be used for any other reason without the participants' or the company's consent. All information collected will be kept strictly confidential. I appreciate your willingness to assist me in this research effort.

Instructions.

Do not write your name anywhere on this questionnaire.

Provide your response on the appropriate given space.

1. Demographic Information:

Age: (Please tick one)

 a) 18 - 24 years

 b) 25 - 34 years

 c) 35 - 44 years

 d) 45 - 54 years

 e) 55 - 64 years

 f) 65 years and above

Type of Disability:

  a) Visual impairment

  b) Hearing impairment

  c) Mobility impairment

  d) Cognitive impairment

  e) Other (please specify): _____

Educational Background:

  a) No formal education

  b) Primary education

  c) Secondary education

  d) Tertiary education

  e) Other (please specify): _____

2. Participation in Peace Processes:

 Have you ever participated in any local peacebuilding initiatives?

  a) Yes

  b) No

3. Perceptions of Inclusion:

How would you rate the level of participation of people with disabilities in peace processes in your community?

 (1) Very Low

 (2) Low

 (3) Moderate

 (4) High

 (5) Very High

 4. Barriers to Participation:

 Please indicate the extent to which you believe each of the following barriers contribute to the exclusion of people with disabilities in peace processes. (Rate each from 1 to 5, where 1=not at all, 5 Very much)

Barrier	1	2	3	4	5
Physical accessibility issues					
Lack of representation of people with disabilities in peace processes initiatives					
Institutional barriers (laws, policies and practices that discriminate against people with					

disabilities)					
Social stigma and discrimination					
Lack of resources					
Other (please specify)					

5. Impact of Exclusion:

In your opinion, how has the exclusion of people with disabilities affected the effectiveness of peace processes in Bindura District?

(1) Very Negatively

(2) Negatively

(3) Neutral

(4) Positively

(5) Very Positively

6. Support and Empowerment:

What specific support or resources do you think would empower people with disabilities to participate more actively in peace processes? (Select all that apply)

a) Training and capacity-building programs

b) Access to transportation

c) Financial support

d) Advocacy and awareness initiatives

e) Other (please specify): _____

7. Suggestions for Improvement:

What recommendations would you make to enhance the involvement of people with disabilities

in peacebuilding efforts in your community? (Select all that apply)

 a) Increase awareness and sensitivity training for community leaders

 b) Improve physical accessibility in meeting spaces

 c) Promote inclusive policies and practices

 d) Establish support networks for people with disabilities

 e) Other (please specify): _____

<div align="center">THANK YOU</div>

iii). Interview questions for representatives from the Department of Urban and Local Authorities regarding the impacts of exclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace processes in Bindura District:

Introduction

My name is Nyasha M Chimunhu, and I am a final year student at Bindura University of Science Education, pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Peace and Governance. I am currently conducting a research project titled, "The impacts of the exclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace processes in Bindura District." I kindly ask you to answer the following questions. This research is intended for educational purposes only and will remain confidential. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

1. What policies or frameworks does the Department have in place to promote the inclusion of women and people with disabilities in local peace processes?

2. From your perspective, what are the main barriers that prevent women and people with disabilities from participating in peacebuilding activities in Bindura District?

3. How does the Department engage with marginalized groups, including women and people with disabilities, to ensure their voices are heard in peace processes?

4. What impact do you believe the exclusion of women and people with disabilities has on the effectiveness of peace processes in your community?

5. Can you describe any partnerships or collaborations the Department has with NGOs or community organizations aimed at promoting inclusion in peacebuilding?

6. How does the Department monitor and evaluate the participation of women and people with disabilities in peace processes? Are there specific metrics used?

7. What strategies or initiatives does the Department plan to implement in the future to enhance the participation of women and people with disabilities in peace processes?

iv) . Humanitarian representatives interview questions on the impacts of exclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace processes in Bindura District:

Introduction

My name is Nyasha M Chimunhu, and I am a final year student at Bindura University of Science Education, pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Peace and Governance. I am currently conducting a research project titled, "The impacts of the exclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace processes in Bindura District." I kindly ask you to answer the following questions. This

research is intended for educational purposes only and will remain confidential. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

 1. How does your organization define and prioritize the inclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace building initiatives

 2   . What specific challenges have you encountered in ensuring the participation of women and people with disabilities in peace processes?

3. How does your organization assess the needs and perspectives of women and people with disabilities when designing peacebuilding programs?

 4. Based on your observations, what impacts does the exclusion of these groups have on the overall effectiveness and sustainability of peace initiatives in the district?

5. How does your organization work with local authorities to promote the inclusion of marginalized groups in peace processes?

 6. What capacity-building activities does your organization offer to empower women and people with disabilities to participate in peace processes?

 7. What strategies or recommendations do you have for improving the inclusion of women and people with disabilities in future peacebuilding efforts in Bindura District

v) Interview questions for politicians regarding the impacts of exclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace processes in Bindura District:

1. What specific policies or commitments has your party made to promote the inclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace processes?

2. How aware are you of the challenges faced by women and people with disabilities in participating in peacebuilding efforts in your constituency?

3. In your opinion, what are the main barriers that prevent these groups from engaging effectively in peace processes?

4. What strategies do you believe are necessary to enhance the participation of women and people with disabilities in peace initiatives?

5. How do you perceive the impact of excluding women and people with disabilities on the stability and success of peace processes in Bindura District?

6. How does your office collaborate with civil society organizations to support the inclusion of marginalized groups in peacebuilding activities?

7. What are your long-term goals or visions for ensuring that women and people with disabilities have a meaningful role in peace processes in your district?

vi) Interview questions for local leaders from Bindura District regarding the impacts of the exclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace processes:

Introduction

My name is Nyasha M Chimunhu, and I am a final year student at Bindura University of Science Education, pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Peace and Governance. I am currently conducting a research project titled, "The impacts of the exclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace processes in Bindura District." I kindly ask you to answer the following questions. This research is intended for educational purposes only and will remain confidential. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

1. What measures are currently in place in your community to ensure the inclusion of women and people with disabilities in local peace processes?

2. How do you perceive the impact of excluding women and people with disabilities on community dynamics and peacebuilding efforts?

3. What specific barriers have you identified that prevent women and people with disabilities from participating in peace initiatives in Bindura District?

4. How do you engage with women and people with disabilities to understand their needs and perspectives in peace processes?

5. What role do local organizations or NGOs play in facilitating the inclusion of marginalized groups in peacebuilding activities?

6. Can you share any success stories where the inclusion of women and people with disabilities has positively impacted peace efforts in your community?

7. What steps do you believe are necessary to improve the participation of women and people with disabilities in future peace processes in Bindura District?

vii) Interview questions for academics from Bindura University regarding the impacts of exclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace processes in Bindura District:

Introduction

My name is Nyasha M Chimunhu, and I am a final year student at Bindura University of Science Education, pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Peace and Governance. I am currently conducting a research project titled, "The impacts of the exclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace processes in Bindura District." I kindly ask you to answer the following questions. This research is intended for educational purposes only and will remain confidential. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

1. What specific areas of research have you explored related to the inclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace processes?

2. How do theoretical frameworks in your field address the importance of inclusivity in peacebuilding, particularly concerning marginalized groups?

3. In your studies, what barriers have you identified that hinder the participation of women and people with disabilities in peace processes?

4. Based on your research, what are the potential consequences of excluding these groups from peacebuilding initiatives?

5. What policy recommendations would you suggest to local authorities to enhance the participation of women and people with disabilities in peace processes?

6. How can educational institutions, like Bindura University, contribute to raising awareness about the importance of inclusivity in peace initiatives?

7. What areas of further research do you believe are necessary to better understand and address the exclusion of women and people with disabilities in peace processes?

BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

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DEPARTMENT OF PEACE AND GOVERNANCE

28 November 2024

P.A
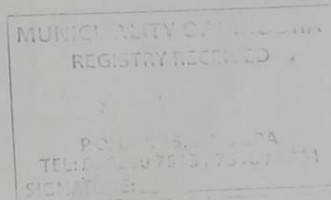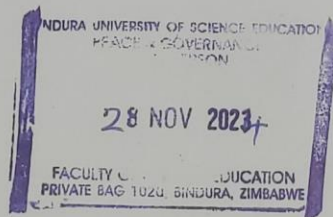*Ask the topic. Proposal.*
17/3/25.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE: REQUEST TO UNDERTAKE RESEARCH IN YOUR ORGANISATION

This serves to introduce the bearer, ...NYASHA M CHIMUNHU...., Student

Registration Number ....B211345 B...., who is a **HBSC PEACE AND GOVERNANCE**

student at Bindura University of Science Education and is carrying out a research project in you

area/institution.

May you please assist the student to access data relevant to the study, and where possible, conduc

interviews as part of a data collection process.

Yours respectfully

J.KUREBWA (DR)
Acting Chairperson

BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION
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28 March 2025

Nyasha M Chimunhu
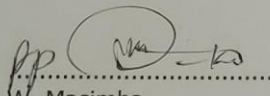Bindura University of Science Education
BINDURA

Dear Sir,

RE: PERMISSION TO CARRY OUT AN ACADEMIC RESEARCH PROJECT

We acknowledge receipt of your letter on the above received on 08 March 2025.

Please be advised that you have been granted permission to carry out your research as requested. The permission is granted on the following conditions: i) that you should share the results of your research with Council in order for her to learn from your findings ii) that the research findings will be used for academic and no other purposes.

Should you require any more information in connection with this issue please contact the undersigned.

Yours Faithfully

W. Masimba
Chamber Secretary
For Town Clerk

MUNICIPALITY OF BINDURA
CHAMBER SECRETARY
2 8 MAR 2025
P.O. BOX 15, BINDURA
TEL: 066210 7513 / 7518 / 7361
SIGNATURE: _____

Dissertation

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