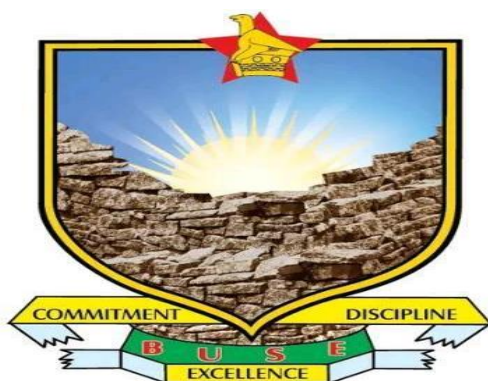


BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES



**THE EFFECTS OF COMMUNITY GARDENING ON HOUSEHOLD LIVELIHOODS IN
ZIMBABWE: A CASE STUDY OF MUSANA COMMUNAL AREA-BINDURA RURAL**

BY

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**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF PEACE AND GOVERNANCE IN PARTIAL
FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
HONOURS DEGREE IN PEACE AND GOVERNANCE.**

FAULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

SUPERVISOR: DOC KATSINDE

BINDURA ZIMBABWE

JUNE 2024

ABSTRACT

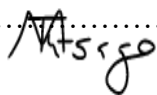
The aim of the study was to find out the effects of community gardening on household's livelihood in Zimbabwe: A case study of Musana –Bindura rural. The objectives were to examine the social effects of community gardening on household livelihood, to analyze the economic effects of the project and to examine how the project had influenced the households in terms of environmental development of the study area. Qualitative method was used in the study. Convenience sampling was used by the researcher. Questionnaires and interviews were used in the research by the researcher to collect data .The findings of the research shows that the community garden project had positive effects on household livelihoods .Socially the household had benefited from the project as it had created a sense of unity, also economically it had remain as the main source of income in each household. The community at large had developed from the project. The study concludes that community gardening project had great impacts not only on the household level but also at the community level , therefore it is recommended for further researchers to research on the multifaceted impacts of community gardening projects, these include exploring the nexus between community gardening, health diets and environmental factors that influence health.

Key words; Effects, livelihoods, community

DECLARATION FORM

I, (B200240B), declare that the project is the result of my findings, researches and the sources had been indicated and had been referenced.

Student signature



Date 28/06/2025

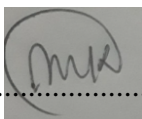
Lecturer Dr T J Katsinde

Lecturers' signature.



Chairperson Dr J Kurebwa

Chairperson s' signature.....



DEDICATIONS

I dedicate this project to my family and friends.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my gratitude to all those who contributed to the completion of this project. Firstly, my Supervisor for his invaluable guidance and support throughout the entire duration of this project. Lastly, my family and friends for their unwavering support and encouragement throughout the challenges and demands of this academic journey.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1:1 Background of the study

Community gardens have an important role in communities, promoting unity, promoting good health and food security. The history of community gardening dates back to the late 19th century. Community gardening refers to use of a piece of land by many of people in an urban, peri-urban or rural areas for mainly horticultural production (Harris, 2009; Jackish, 2012).The gardens fostered a sense of community. Community gardens are important spaces in the community. They offer social interaction and education .The gardens originated as vacant lot gardens during the economic recession of the 1890s.

Community gardens create the sense of ownership and participation. It calls for a high level of organization and management. Harris (2009) asserts that apart from improving health standards of household members through increased fresh vegetable consumption, community gardening enhances exercises and physical fitness among the farmers. Wakefield et al (2007) noted, community gardening was one key method of creating household food security and eliminating food deficiency diseases among both children and the adults

Community gardens plays an important role in rural life. Their importance is shown as they bring peace. "Victory gardens", as they were called, governments encourage them to promote self-sufficiency and reduce the strain on the food supply chain. These programs were implemented during the World War 2 to support the war effort and supplement food production at home during a time when much of the agricultural labor force was overseas (Lackey and Associates,

1998. Community gardens experienced a decline in popularity as the economy improved and access to affordable food became easier after the war. However, one can note that pockets of dedicated gardeners kept the spirit alive, maintaining and nurturing these green spaces.

According to Smith (2000) the perishability natures of many vegetables necessitate their production in regions with quick access to urban areas which serves as their market. These sentiments were encoded by Ferris et al (2001) who say there is need to extend marketing over a long period as possible so that frequent regular trips market with small consignment is achieved, to cost of these becomes prohibitive as the distance from the markets increases. This therefore means that the importance of locating community gardens close to urban areas cannot be over emphasized.

The successful study of community gardening is centered on the presence of sufficient interest and unity of purpose within a group plus the availability of required resources. Worden et al (2009) noted that management approaches employed when starting a new community gardens can be classified into two categories that are individual plots and common green space. The garden is divided into small portions for personal use.

1:2 Statement of the problem

The high rate of poverty in Musana leading to high level of school dropouts and high rate of unemployment prompted the researcher to research on the effects of community gardening on household livelihoods in Zimbabwe: A case study of Musana communal area-Bandura rural.

1:3 Aim of the study

This research was designed to analyze the effects of community gardening on household livelihood in Zimbabwe: A case of Musana of Bindura rural.

1:4 Objectives of the study

The research seeks to:

- I. Examine the social effects of the community gardening project in Musana communal area.
- ii. Analyze the economic effects of community gardening project on household in Musana.
- iii. Examine the effects of communal gardening project on development in the home environment of households in Musana communal area of Bindura rural district.

1:5 Research questions of the study

- i. What are the social effects of the community gardening project on livelihoods in Musana.
- II. How does community gardening project had influence on the economy of households in the area.
- iii. What is the effects of the communal gardening project on development of home infrastructure of households in Musana communal area of Bindura rural district?

1:6 Significance of the study

The main thrust of the study is to reveal how the community gardens has positive effects on household livelihoods thereby come up with recommendations that will deal with livelihood challenges through community gardening initiatives. The researchers concern is to come out with concrete probable interventions that can be used to address the community livelihood challenges through community gardening.

The results of this research shall help:

The Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Settlement to promote community gardening in Zimbabwe and its policy makers to take community gardening into consideration

Non-Governmental Organizations to diversify their operations to include community gardening
Community members to appreciate community gardening initiatives.

The Ministry of women affairs, community, and small and medium enterprises development, when monitoring community development ventures.

1:7 Delimitation of the study

The Musana communal area is located in the Bindura district to the northeast of the capital city, Harare in the Mashonaland Central province of Zimbabwe .In Musana highest temperatures usually occur. The geology in the home area had an influence on the soils in study area, which are mostly sandy leading to low capacity in holding water. The main economic activity in the study area is horticultural agriculture, with crops such as vegetables.

1:8 Limitations of study

The researcher experienced problems of research subjects who felt to fill the questionnaires due to language problems. Follow ups were carried out to circumvent these challenges.

Some research participants were suspicious of the motives of the research and showed reservations in participating in the study. The researcher went over this challenge by first producing an introductory letter from local authority showing approval for the researcher to visit the study area to collect data.

The researcher also highlighted to the full researching procedures to participants and obtained their approval. The study proceeded as planned.

1:9 Definition of terms

Livelihood-The pattern of life that comprises the capabilities, material assets, social resources and activities required for a means of living, comprises the capabilities, assets and activities required for a means of living (Chambers and Vonway, 1991; Feb, 2001)

Community-a group of people living the same locality who ,regardless of the diversity of their backgrounds, have been able to accept and transcend their differences enabling them to communicate effectively and openly and to work together towards goals identified as being their common good(Kearney,2009)

Community garden-these are out of door plots of land where group of citizen's work regularly to propagate agricultural produce for household consumption (Jackish 2012)

1:10 Chapter outline

The project had five chapters.

Chapter One, presents the background of the study on effects of the community gardening project on households in Musana communal area, Mashonaland. Also given are the statements, aim of study ,study objective and guiding research questions .Thereafter, the study writer has indicated the importance of the study to various people .The study delimitations ,assumptions and anticipated limitations are given .The key terms have contextually defined for easy understanding of discussed issues .

Chapter Two, indicates the literature review and theoretical framework.

Chapter Three, gives the research methodology.It outlined the research methods that were used by the research in data collection. The research design method that was used, the research approach, the target populations as well as the sampling techniques used are explained in the chapter. It also

shows the data sources, data collection tools, the data presentation and analysis technique as well as the ethical considerations that were used.

Chapter Four, presents the data that was collected by the researcher from the participants.

Chapter Five, shows the research summary, conclusion and recommendations.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2:1 Introduction

This section outlines the relevance of community gardens as poverty alleviation. There are various aspects considered by previous researchers which shall help in exploring the issues of concerns in this research. Community gardens and livelihoods shall be defined. The relationship between community gardens and livelihoods shall be explored. Use of other researches, publications, newspapers, the internet and other sources of information shall be crucial to this section.

2:2 Theoretical framework

2:2.1 Collective empowerment theory

This theory involves fostering a sense of collective empowerment, empowering individuals and communities to participate in various initiatives, such as environmental conservation efforts. It emphasizes the idea that when individuals and communities come together to participate in collective actions, they experience a sense of empowerment and are more likely to engage in activities that contribute to the betterment of their communities and the environment.

The origin of empowerment as a form of theory is rooted in the interrelated forms of individual empowerment and collective empowerment, underscoring the scholarly recognition of the importance of collective empowerment as a theoretical concept. Gumusluoglu et al (2017), provide insights into the theory of collective empowerment, emphasizing the role of leadership, participative approaches, and the integration of individual and collective empowerment in fostering community engagement and action. Community gardens also offer an entry point for participants to be part of a collective.

This theory aligns with the concept of empowering citizens through collective participation. Additionally, the concept of empowering citizens through collective participation may contribute to the positive aging benefits reported by members of gardening groups, who experienced

significantly more social and physical benefits than non-members. Community gardens underscores the potential for these spaces to not only enhance individual well-being but also to strengthen social connections and community resilience. The concept of empowering citizens through collective participation in community gardens is multifaceted and encompasses various dimensions. The concept of empowering citizens through collective participation in community gardens underscores the potential for these spaces to not only enhance individual well-being but also to strengthen social connections, community resilience, and civic engagement.

2:3 the social effects of community gardens.

There are various aspects in literature that try to prove the relationship between community gardens and livelihood issues. To this effect the following sections are devoted to explore. Following the multidimensional nature of how community gardening relates to poverty alleviation and scarification of livelihoods concern. The researcher shall try to break into segments that explore the social effects of community gardens. This nexus exploration shall put food security, education, health and social cohesion into consideration.

2:3.1 Food security

According to Hallberg (2010) during the 1980s, the concept of food security began gaining grounds as it replaces a more medical model of hunger and nutrition. In the universal declaration of rights everyone has a right to food. So in this regard community gardening tends to promote the four dimensions of food security which are food availability, food access, food utilization and stability of supply. It should be noted that community gardens assures the availability of food to community dwellers thereby works as a crucial tool in achieving food security. Hence there seems to be a nexus between community gardens and food security.

Considering the food system concept it can be noted that the capacity to produce food is essential in achieving food security this fact can buttress the essentiality of community gardens. Food system refers to asset of activities ranging from producing food through to consuming. The latter also made mention to the fact that in situations where food supplies are insufficient to meet domestic food requirements, food security policies should focus much on increasing domestic food production. Hence in this regard community gardens do serve a purpose. Hallberg(2009) stated that food production in community and backyard gardens has a remarkable history which tresses back to the periods of world war 1 and 2 where planting gardens was considered patriotic with a due object to provide food during the war time. Community garden provide households with food access at a low cost thereby ensuring the household nutritional balance of the families concerned.

Having explored these contributions of the community gardens it can be noted that they can be engaged to or in the quest of addressing the issues to do with food insecurity. As in case of Zimbabwe which was once a bread basket for Africa but currently facing an immense agricultural decline community gardens will be a crucial action in promoting food security. Evaluation of community gardens report by Lackey and Associates (1998) has went further to quote, program stakeholders directly involved with the food pantries as they discussed the value of the vegetable donations from the field of dreams community garden. Their responses seems to buttress the link that exists between community gardens and food security.

2:3.2 Education

There is a link between education and community gardens. According to Hallberg (2009) posits that many community gardens act as educational forums, gardens provide youth an opportunity to learn variety of topics. Therefore in this regard it is crystal clear that community gardens are essential in counteracting poverty since lack of education is one of the dimensions of poverty.lt

should also be noted that due to nutritional provision of the so called “nutrition gardens” education is promoted since food availability will be assured and promotes pupils physical wellbeing thereby promote school attendance of school pupils. According to Kearney (2009), poor nutrition can affect school and work performance and impact one's concentration and sleep habits. Hence in this regard community gardens are seen as a crucial component in promoting education.

To add on, gardening in school may not only improve the nutrition of school children, but also serves an important function in introducing farming and educating children in vegetables and fruits production. In more, progressive examples gardening activities are integrated within the curriculum and are used in science, mathematics and health classes. Community gardens since they pull a group for community members it also allows sharing of ideas as well as recommended methods of farming. So community gardens also promote a common ground for knowledge sharing.

2:3.3 Community gardens and social cohesion

Community gardens are also said to be valuable in a sense that they give an opportunity for social interaction, which creates a sense of unity and belonging amongst those who reside in the community of concern. Hallberg (2009; 21) also stated that the neighborhoods near community gardens experienced decrease in amount of criminal activity reported. Therefore there are ample chances of community gardens in decreasing crime rate thereby promoting community social cohesion. Through interaction and participation the communities are also soldered to uniform ethical considerations.

It should also be appreciated that according to Glover et al (2005), community gardens are not just meant for gardening practices but for other facets of the community. These include socialization that will be appreciated through working together. This also creates a room for ample friendship

creation. This can also foster common community unity and understanding. Therefore many gardeners are active in gardening because they have the desire to connect with others and develop a sense of oneness.

2.3.4 Community gardens and health

Community gardens increase access to fresh produce and plants as well as satisfying labor and neighborhoods improvement, sense of community and connection to the environment. Community gardens are publicly functioning In terms of ownership, access and management. Furthermore community gardens improve users health through increased fresh vegetable consumption and providing a venue of exercise ,Harris (2009).These sentiments clearly agrees with Wakefield et al (2007),the authors found in their studies that community gardens can increase access and availability to fresh fruits and vegetables and are perceived by gardeners to provide numerous health benefits including improved nutrition.

2:4 The economic effects of community gardening

Community gardening has emerged as a dynamic force with multifaceted impacts on livelihoods and economic dimensions. The cultivation of shared green spaces has transcended its traditional role, evolving into a catalyst for economic empowerment at the community level. This introduction explores the economic effects of community gardening, shedding light on how these endeavors not only cultivate fruits and vegetables but also nurture a fertile ground for employment creation, local economic circulation, and entrepreneurial ventures. As we delve into the intricate tapestry of community gardening, it becomes evident that its influence extends far beyond the boundaries of

mere cultivation, reaching into the realms of employment opportunities, cost savings, and the overall resilience of local economies.

2.4.1 Employment Opportunities

Community gardening can create jobs, fostering economic growth by providing employment opportunities in tasks such as planting, maintenance, and distribution of produce.

2:4.2 Local Economic Circulation.

The sale of locally grown produce from community gardens can stimulate local economies, as money spent on these products tends to circulate within the community, supporting small businesses and enhancing local economic resilience.

Community gardening may inspire entrepreneurial initiatives, such as the creation of small businesses related to processing, packaging, or selling garden produce. This diversification can strengthen the local economic landscape. Well-maintained community gardens can enhance the aesthetic appeal of neighborhoods, potentially leading to an increase in property values, which in turn can positively impact residents' wealth and economic well-being.

2:5 Community gardening and infrastructural development

Community gardening project has several positive effects on infrastructure developments in the home environment. Community gardens can contribute in creating a more loveable environment, enhancing the beauty of the community and potential reducing crime. Additionally they play a role in building community resilience.

2:5.1 Construction of boreholes

Community gardens often rely on sustainable water sources to support their irrigation needs. Construction of boreholes in the home environment provides a reliable and sustainable water supply for clean water supply for households. Boreholes help to address water scarcity issues and promotes self sufficient in water supply for gardening purposes.

2:5.2Construction of stores

Glover et al (2005) argues “that the relationships built both within and outside the community garden network are integral to the sustainability of community”. Community gardening served as neighborhood land marks and provide opportunities for building relationships and education .The project contribute to the overall beautification of the city and serve as a point of pride for the local community. Community gardens contributes to the overall appeal of an area, leading to support and construction of local stores.

2:9 Summary

In this chapter the definitions of community gardens has been explored. Types of models of community gardens have also been focused on. Followed by the nexus that exists between community gardens and food security, education, employment and social relations. Efforts have also been done to explore the positive effects of community garden on household livelihoods.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter shows the research methodology that was applied to collect data in response to the research questions. The researcher used mixed method design. Also shown were the study population, sample and sample procedures. The use of a questionnaire and interviews was done in this research. This section points out the population of study. A justification of the sampling procedures used will be explored. Merits of selected instruments will be given.

3.2 Research design

Research design is considered as a significant exercise. Gray (2009) points out that the choice of research methodology is determined by researcher's expectations of research results, in that regard a research methodology is influenced by whether the research is inclined towards a positivism, interpretivist or other perspective. The research paradigm that was followed is of qualitative nature. Qualitative research shows the researchers understanding of how things come to be what they are in real social world (Hancock et al, 2009) the research design is made up of various components which include strategy, framework, participants, process, results and decisions.

3.3 Target population

Target population is a group of individuals with characteristics that are of interest to the researcher (Rubin and Babie, 2011). The research population is made up of individuals who have common characteristics. In this research a sample population being of households involved in community gardening in Musana -Bindura rural area. Individuals funding and playing a leadership role in the issues of community gardening were interviewed. The respondents were chosen because they represent those households involved in community gardening.

3.4 Sample

A sample refers to a subject of the population, that is, small portion of population. In this study, the use of a sample will enable the researcher to effectively gather data within the time frame. The researcher shall use a sample of thirty households. The rationale for using this study sample being backed by Taylor (2006), who posits that a well selected sample of 30 usually produces normal distribution curve. Therefore use of a sample above this is ideal.

3.5 Sample procedures

The researcher used convenience sampling .This will facilitate the effectiveness of research outcomes within the limited space of time. This highlighted that the respondents were chosen on basis of their availability .Also the elements of purpose sampling were targeting community leaders and gardening farmers.

3.6 Sampling techniques

The researcher used sampling so as to choose the most appropriate elements to focus on .King and Horrocks (2010) defines sampling as the collection of some part of totality of the basis of which inference about a totality is made.

3:6.1 Convenience sample

According to Hancock et al (2009) a convenience sample refers to the selection by the researcher available elements and those who are to participate in the research. The researcher in this study went to Musana communal area then selected community garden farmers who were available to answer the questionnaire. This was effective as the researcher got information from the right individuals. It saved time for the researcher.

3:7 Research instruments

This section explores the research instruments that were used by the researcher in data collection.

The researcher made use of a questionnaire and interviews

3.7.1 Questionnaires

A questionnaire captures data from the farmers. This was used to ensure that the respondents are also given ample opportunity to express themselves.

This process is crucial as it addresses the real research target issues. The questionnaire is crucial in the data collection for the research. It had a list of questions to gather data on issues to be researched. It is reliable when researching. Santrock noted that (2003) a questionnaire allows quick gathering of valuable data.

In this study, the questionnaire consists of 20 questions. The instrument consists of four sections A-D. The target of the questionnaire survey is the community farmers. The questionnaire will be administered of research subjects. The instrument is ideal for use due to its capacity to capture a wide range of data from a large population group within a short time. Section A captures data on the social demography of the respondents. Section B collects data on the social effects of community gardening on household livelihoods in the study area while Section C sources data on the economic effects of community gardening. The last section captures data on how the community gardening has influenced development in the home environments of households. There is also room for the participants to note down their opinions or views concerning the effects of community gardening project.

3.7.2 Interviews

Green (2009) points out that, interviews are similar to everyday conversations, although, they are focused on the researchers need for data. The researcher led interview with the community gardening chairs. This is because garden chairman socialize with those involved in community gardening. They have a better understanding on what is happening within their community. The researcher also do interviews with other farmers who were too busy to fill the questionnaires.

3.7 Data presentation and analysis

According to Barbour (2014), data presentation and analysis in social sciences is used for studying content of communication by engaging different aspects of content. The information collected from the questionnaire and interviews will be confidentiality kept. Data was presented using pie charts and tables. The data collected using interviews was also presented. The researcher noted the research findings.

3.8 Reliability and validity

The researcher secured a letter from the school, informing that the researcher was on a study on the effects of community gardening on household livelihoods in Musana. The researcher then seek a permission letter from Bindura Rural District Council to carry out the study. The researcher visits the village heads to inform them of his intentions to carry out the research. The researcher distributes and administers the questionnaires to the selected participants. At each visited household he first explains the purpose of the visit and obtains the informed oral consent of the participants. They will be told to feel free to ask any questions which they felt were necessary.

3.9 Pilot testing

Pilot testing of the questionnaire was done one week before the actual data collection exercise. Pilot test refers to "the small scale study to test a questionnaire, interview, checklist, to minimize the likelihood of respondents having problems in answering the questions" (Saunders et al, 2007). The testing of instruments indicates realistically how the questions are to be answered. No major modifications of instruments were done after pre-testing of data collection instruments of this study. It is the process of conducting a small-scale version of your research to test the methods and procedures you plan to use in the main study. Pilot testing can help you identify any problems or issues with your research design before you start the full-scale study.

3.10 Ethical considerations

It is regarded that in research ethical considerations influence whether a study is ethically acceptable (Nolan and Behind, 2016). Various issues are considered in this research to ensure compliance ethically including

Before embarking on the interviews, administering the questionnaires and other data collection methods for this study there was informed consent. This was sought and granted from relevant individuals and institutions or departments through detailed writings so as to avoid unauthorized acquisition of data and infringement of rights.

Participants were also told of their right to seek clarity on various issues throughout the discussion.

No one was forced to participate in this research. The rights were also reserved to all participants who were unwilling to respond to particular questions for various reasons. Saunders et al (2007), states that it is unethical to force participants answering that they are not comfortable with.

The researcher also handled sensitive data with care and all the data collected in this research was used for the purpose of the research only and not for other purposes outside the scope of this study.

3.11 Summary

The chapter has revealed the research methods, and techniques used to carry out the study. The study population sample, sample procedures and research ethics were given. Interviews and questionnaire were identified and used as the research instruments for the study. Both the data collection procedures and data analysis plan were shown.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

The main thrust of the study was to analyze the effects of community gardening on livelihood of households in Zimbabwe: A case of Musana. This chapter analyses and discusses the findings of the study on the effects of community gardening on household livelihoods in Zimbabwe. The data that is to be presented, analysed and discussed is on the three objectives of the study which are: to examine the social effects of community gardening project in Musana, to analyse the economic effects of community gardening on households and also to examine the effects of community gardening project on development of the environment of households in Musana. The chapter presents the social demographic status, then present, analyse and discuss the gathered information.

4:2 Bio Data

Bio data presents the social information of the participants who participated in conducting the study. The social demographic information include sex, age group, marital status and educational level. This information is crucial as it allows researchers to understand the characteristics of the population being studied. The bio data is also used to ensure that the study sample is representative of the population being studied.

4.2.1 Sex

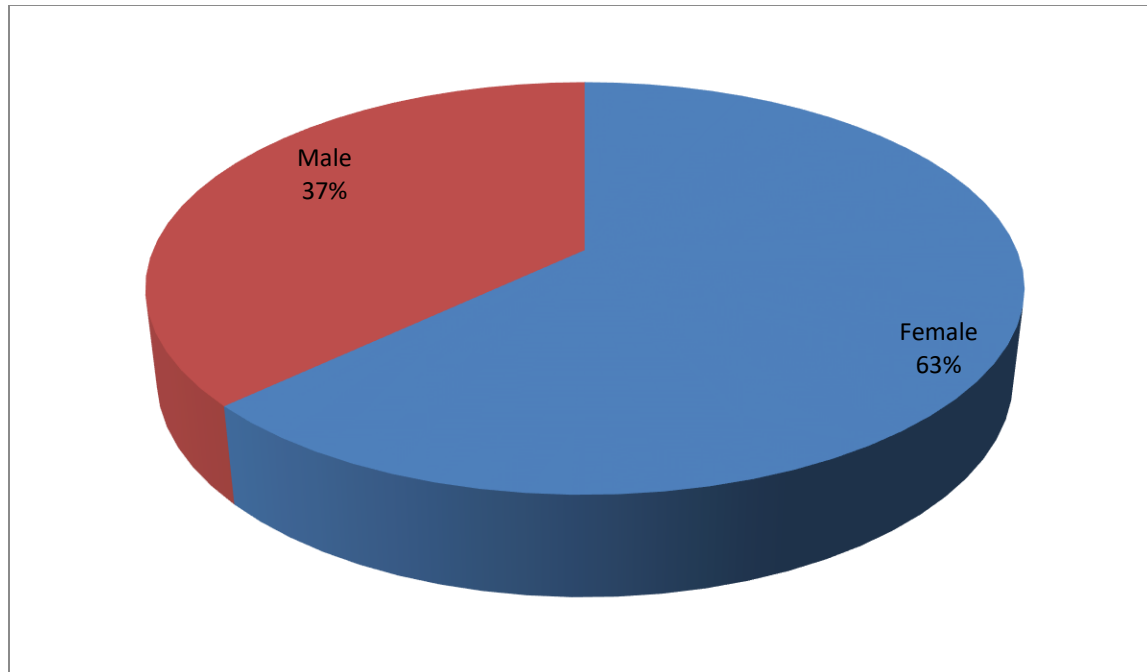


Figure 4.1. Sex (No. 30)

Fig 4.1 shows sex of the participants. Majority were 19 (63%) female, males were 11 (37%). The reason for including both man and women in answering the research questionnaire is to come out with information which is not biased.

4.2.2 Age

Table 4.1: Age (30)

Age group in years	Frequency	Percentage
18 -25years	6	20%
26-35years	9	30%
36-45years	11	37%
46 and above	4	13%
Total	30	100%

Table 4.1 reveals the age groups of participants. The majority of respondents 11(37%)fall under the age group of 36-45 years .The age group of 46 and above has the least percentage 4(13%).The reason for involving all aged group is to get data from all ages. The researcher was able to find the most participating group in the project.

4.2.3 Marital status

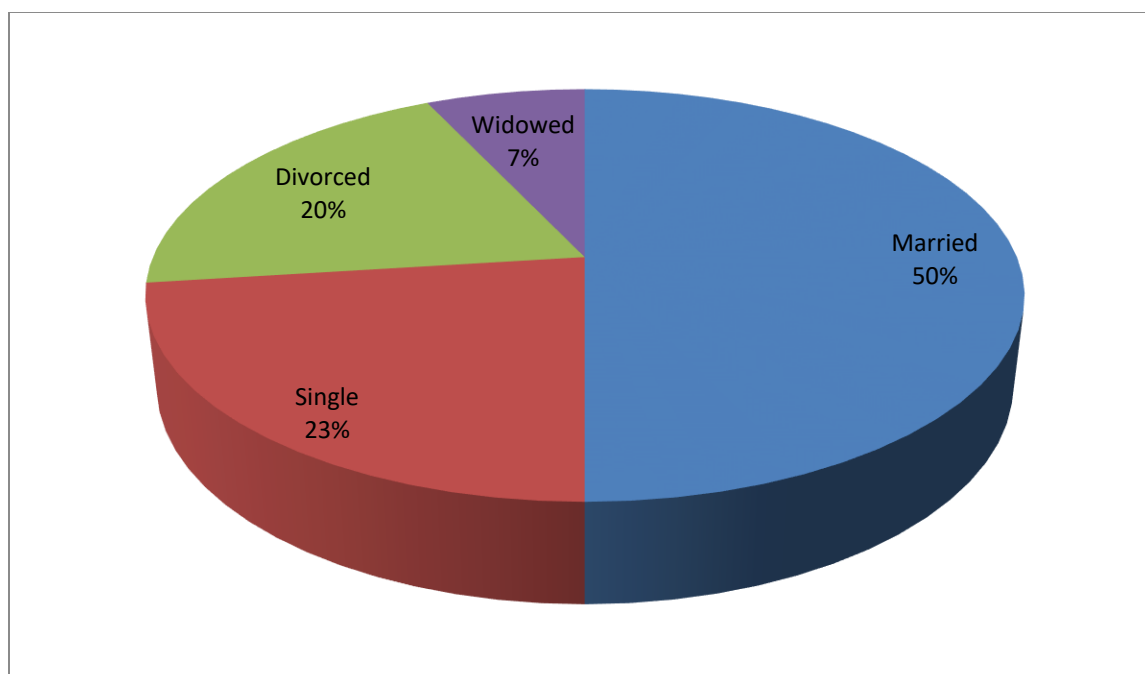


Figure 4. 2 Marital status (30)

Fig 4.2 highlights the marital status of participants, the majority of respondents 15 (50%) are married. The least 2 (7%) are the widowed. This indicates that the married is dominant in the community gardening.

4:2.4 Level of education

Table 4. 2: Level of education (30)

<u>Level of Education</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Primary	2	7%

Secondary	18	60%
Tertiary	9	30%
None	1	3%

In Table 4.2, the level of education of the participants is presented. The majority 18 (60%) attended secondary education. The least 1(3%) demonstrates those who did not attain any education.

4:3 Social effects of community gardening

Table 4.3 shows the social effects of community garden (30)

Social effects of the community gardening project	Frequency	Percentage
Ability to pay school fees	28	93%
Unity in the community	27	90%
Ability to pay hospital fees	16	53%
Ability to buy clothes from the shop	27	90%

The majority 28(98%) give more credit to the social effects of the community gardening project. 16(53%) manages to pay hospital fees.

4.3.1 Ability to pay fees

The majority of the participants highlighted that with the money they obtain from the garden they are able to pay fees for their children.

Participant 4 from the interview points out that:

When we had vegetables we would just go and cut them out and eat them. We saved money ,we eat good and I also could save some vegetables for the winter thus money for paying school fees I can afford ,even for my two children who are at tertiary level.(Participant 4,38 years old)

This is in line with another participant from the interview who points out that;

I was able to pay school fees on my own without my parents help but with the money I get from the project .Now I had a post graduate degree in education with Zimbabwe Open University(Participant 2,27 years old)

The above findings indicates that the project had positive results on household livelihoods. These findings are in line with Hallberg (2009) who noted that money generated from gardening projects is more enough to pay bills if managed properly. Hence, the participants are able to pay fees.

4.3.2 Unity in the community

Table 4.2 shows that 27(90%)of participants reported that, the community gardening project has brought a sense of unity among the community .The issue of gardening project has brought people together by creating bond between each other. In an interview the participants shared that;

Community gardening project has created bond between us and our children, we are now working together and issues concerning theft in the community has decreased due to the project. (Participant 1, 40 years old)

The above findings indicates that a sense of unity is brought through the project. The findings are similar to existing literature concerning unity in the community through gardening. According to Glover et al (2005) he points out that community gardens are not just meant for gardening practices but for other facets of the community, these include socialization that would be appreciated through working together. This creates a room for ample friendship creation. Moreover, studies by Glover et al further argued that the relationships built both within and outside are integral to the

sustainability of community gardening. Therefore, each household is active in gardening because they had the desire to connect with others and develop a sense of oneness.

4.3.3 Ability to pay hospital fees

16(53%) are now able to pay hospital fees with the money they obtain from the garden. Some responded that, the money they manage to get from the project is can pay hospital fees.

Participant 5 during an interview mentioned that;

Nowadays hospital fees and medication are expensive though as farmers we are able to pay. We also try to boost our health through health eating and we improve our nutrient.

(Participant 5, 40 years)

The above findings indicate that people are able to pay hospital fees and obtain the services they need on time. Studies by Wakefield et al (2007), the authors found in their studies that community gardens can increase access and availability to fresh fruits and vegetables and are perceived by gardeners to provide numerous health benefits including improved nutrition.

4:4 Economic effects of community garden.

Table 4.4 Economic effects of community garden. (30)

Statement	Frequency	Percentage
The main source of income is the garden.	28	93
Due to community gardening employment opportunities has risen in the community.	27	90

The garden project has led to entrepreneurship development in my community	27	90
The sale of locally grown produce from the community gardens had stimulated local economies	15	50

4.4.1 Gardening as the main source of income

Table 4.4 shows that, the majority of 28 (93) agrees that the main source of income is from the gardening project. This is indicated by a participant in the interview

Participant points out that,

Nowadays he can have more than one hundred United States dollar in his pocket per day from the products he sells.

In the same line with another Participant who stated that;

Vegetables are needed every day and to us it is a great privilege the main source of income is now from the project. (Participant 2, age 27years).

The above findings reveals that, with the decline in employment rate ,the project has played a significant role which had helped a lot of people in the area .This is because it had managed to stand as the main source of income for the people in the area ,helping them to pay all their expenditures. This aligns with Kingsley and Townsend (2006) who argues that as we delve into the intricate tapestry of community gardening, it becomes evident that its influence extends far beyond the boundaries of mere cultivation, reaching into the realms of employment opportunities, cost savings and the overall resilience of local economies. What does this mean? This means that

gardening project had great impact when it comes to the issue of income generation in household livelihoods and the community at large.

4.4.2 Employment opportunities

In the study, 27 (90%) people appreciated the fact that the project had paved way of trading for other basic commodities, hence employment opportunities have risen in the community.

During an interview, one of the participants points out that;

No matter how young you are the project had created employment for everyone, you can water someone's garden and get paid even packing the produce. (Participant 5, 40years)

These findings indicates that ,the community gardening project had helped in household livelihoods as participants noted that, without community gardens the community would have breed more thieves but instead it created opportunities for the youths as they are now occupied with productive activities.

4.4.3 Entrepreneurship development

Table 4.4 shows that, 90% of the respondents give credit to the fact that the gardening project has led to entrepreneurship development in their community. Through packaging of the produce the project had caused the development of entrepreneurship as some are now into the production of packaging pockets.

4:5 the community gardening project and infrastructural development.

Table 4.4 indicates the infrastructural development in the study area. (30)

Statement	Frequency	Percentage

The family managed to construct a brick house.	28	93%
The family managed to fence its homestead.	16	53%
More stores are being constructed in the area from the money obtained from gardening.	27	90%
The family managed to construct a borehole for clean water supply.	15	50%
The family uses a well-constructed safe Blair toilet, due to money obtained from the project.	30	100%

4.5.1 Managed to construct a brick house.

The majority of the people who are into the project they had managed to construct a brick house, with a total of 93 % .During an interview with one of the respondents pointed out that ;

I had managed to build a six roomed house, all the materials needed I bought with the money that I obtain from the project.

The findings highlights that the project helped the majority of people to construct brick houses.

4:5.2 Managed to fence their homestead

In table 4.4, 53% of respondents had accepted the fact that they had managed to fence their homestead from the money obtained from the project. However 47%, they indicated that they were not able to fence their homesteads because they considered it unnecessary and less important.

4.5.3 Managed to construct a borehole

In table 4.4 most of the people in the study area 50% responded true that they had a well-constructed borehole which is their source of clean water. For the safety of their health they respondents that they are now drinking safe and clean water .The responses of the findings are in line with the existing literature by Glover et al (2005) argues that the relationships built both within and outside the community garden network are integral to the sustainability of community.

4.7Chapter summary

This chapter focused on the presentation of data, its analysis, and discussion of the findings. The data is presented using pie charts and tables, showing the outcomes of the effects of community gardening project on household livelihoods in Zimbabwe. A case study of Musana. The thrust of 2 the study was to understand the social, economic effects of the community gardening project on household livelihoods as well as its effect on infrastructural development in the study area. The next chapter will focus on summary, conclusions and recommendations of the research findings.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter summarises the whole project on the effects of community gardening on household livelihoods in Zimbabwe. The thrust of the research is to identify the effects of community

gardening on household livelihoods in Musana. The summary of the key findings were presented in line with the specific objectives of the research. The objectives of the study were to: examine the social effects of community gardening project, to analyse the economic effects of the project on household livelihoods and to examine the effects of community gardening on infrastructural development in the home environment. Conclusions are also drawn from the research questions and overall findings of the research. The recommendations were formed on the basis of the analysis of participant's views and opinions.

5.2 Summary

5.2.1 Summary of the whole project

Chapter One, outlines the introduction to the study, shows the background of the study and the importance of the study. In this chapter, the aim of the study, research questions and objective of the study were also shown in this chapter. Definition of key terms along with the delimitations and limitations of the study and chapter conclusion is presented.

Chapter Two, presents the literature view. The chapter was for the researcher to reveal the present literature as well as to shape the research such that it adds value to prior research. The chapter also presented the theoretical framework

Chapter Three, provides the different methods followed in conducting the research, this involves information of the research design, the target population sampling techniques as well as the data collection tools and data analysis methods used in the study. In this chapter, the ethical considerations are indicated.

Chapter Four, present, analyse and discuss the findings of the research. Data was presented using tables and pie charts. Findings were in line with the research objectives of the study.

Chapter Five, presents the summary and conclusions of the study. Moreover, the ways to encourage the other parties to support the project.

5.3 Summary of the research findings

The first research objective was to examine the social effects of community gardening project on household livelihoods. The study revealed that the community gardening project had positively affected household livelihoods in Zimbabwe, socialite study shows that the majority of people have reported social impacts from the community gardening project on household livelihoods suggests several significant conclusions. These social effects identified were, the ability to pay fees, unity in the community, ability to pay hospital fees. The study shows that, that the majority of respondents indicated that they can now pay school fees with the money they generate from the project. Another social effect value was placed on the sense of unity in the community and homesteads which has been brought by the community gardens. Participants indicated that the project had brought unity in the community. Hence, the research findings indicates that the community gardening project has substantial social impacts on household livelihoods, fostering social cohesion, potentially leading to positive social change, and providing support to vulnerable populations. These conclusions highlight the multifaceted benefits of community gardening initiatives beyond individual households, extending to broader social and community-level impacts.

The second objective of the study was to analyse the economic effects of community gardening on household livelihoods. The study highlighted that the economic effects had positive results on household livelihoods and these effects include gardening being the main source of income, employment opportunities and entrepreneurship development. The research findings indicated that, economically the project had effects in household livelihood. This was highlighted by the creation

of employment for both young and old people ,entrepreneur development which had led to the stimulation of local economies as well as the project being the main source of income.

The third objective of the study was to examine the effects of community gardening project on infrastructural development in the environment of households in Musana. Positive effects were identified these include the ability to construct a brick house, to fence the homestead, the increase in the construction of stores in the area, construction of a borehole as well as a safe Blair toilet due to the money obtained from the project. Participants revealed that they had well-constructed boreholes which is their source of clean water for the safety of their health. To add on, the majority in the home area they had managed to construct a brick house and some managed to fence it .This concludes that community gardening had played a pivotal role in Musana.

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5.4 Conclusions

The first research question was to identify the social effects of community gardening on household livelihoods. The community gardening project had positive effects on household livelihoods. These effects are ability to pay school and hospital fees, unity in the community and able to buy clothes from the shop. These social effects of community gardening on household livelihoods are linked to Sustainable Development Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities. Community gardening contributes to this goal by enhancing urban and peri-urban agriculture, improving access to public transportation, and strengthening capacities for planning urban development. Socially, community gardening plays a significant role in addressing rural growth and its impact on the livelihoods of communities, as well as in promoting sustainable agriculture and food security. It also aligns with efforts to ensure healthy lives and promote sustainable agriculture, as outlined in

the Sustainable Development Goals framework .Therefore, the effects of community gardening on household livelihoods are closely linked to Sustainable Development Goal 11.

The second research question was to understand how does community gardening had influence on the economy of households in the area. Positive influence on the economy of households was revealed in the study. Majority of people highlighting that the project has become the source of income, created employment and skill building which had led to entrepreneurship development. Thus the sale of locally grown produce from the community gardens had stimulated local economies.

The third research question was, “what is the effects of the communal gardening project on development of home infrastructure of households in Musana communal area”. Most households managed to construct brick houses, to fence their homesteads, construct boreholes for clean water supply, constructed Blair toilets. In addition the community at large had developed as more stores are being constructed in the area from the money obtained from the gardening.

5.5 Recommendations

- i. The study findings indicates that, community has benefited more from the social effects of gardening on households hence there is need for community members to appreciate community gardening initiatives for it plays a pivotal role in household livelihoods.
- ii. The study findings revealed that for community gardening project to run well, there should be finances thus there is need for Non-Governmental Organizations to diversify their operations to include community gardening into consideration for it requires a lot of financial resource for it to function well.

iii. The study findings shows that, community gardens needs to be monitored for better results. It is recommending that, The Ministry of women affairs, community, and small and medium enterprises development should monitor community gardening project and should support these project with finances.

iv. Community gardening project had great impacts not only on the household level but also at the community level .There is room for further researchers to research on the multifaceted impacts of community gardening projects, these include exploring the nexus between community gardening, health diets and environmental factors that influence health.

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APPENDIX A: Research letter from Bindura University of Science Education



BINDURA, Zimbabwe

Tel: 263 - 71 7531-6, 7621-4

Fax: 263 - 71 7534

Peace & Governance Department
dmakwerere@buse.ac.zw

Cell 0772 596 562

BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

Date: 14 March 2024

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

=====

RE: REQUEST TO UNDER TAKE RESEARCH PROJECT IN YOUR
ORGANISATION/AREA

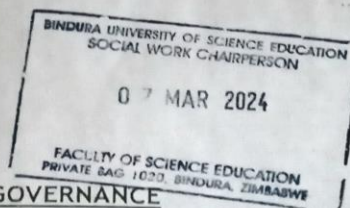
=====

This serves to introduce the bearer [REDACTED] Student
Registration Number B 2002408 who is a HBSc Peace and
Governance student at Bindura University of Science Education and is carrying out
a research project in your area.

Your usual cooperation and assistance is therefore being sought.

Yours faithfully

D. Makwerere (Dr)
CHAIRPERSON - PEACE AND GOVERNANCE



APPENDIX B: Research letter from Bindura Rural District Council

BINDURA RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

All communications to be addressed to
The Chief Executive Officer
P/A Manhenga
Bindura


VISION
A rural district council with socially and economically empowered communities

Email: ceo.binduradc@gmail.com
Cell +263 77800659

Ref XC 121/Adm23

8 May 2024

Ref : Application for Permission to undertake Research in Bindura

This letter serve as authorization to conduct a research project on The effects of community gardening on household livelihoods in Musana, Bindura. After the completion of your study, may you kindly share a copy of your project to Bindura Rural District Council.

Should you require any clarification pertaining to the same do not hesitate to conduct the undersigned.

BINDURA RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
REGISTRY
08 MAY 2024
P/A MANHENGHA, BINDURA
TEL: 0719 519 955

Yours faithfully


D. Kapondoro
Chief Executive Officer

APPENDIX C: Questionnaire

Project title: The effects of community gardening on household livelihoods in Zimbabwe.

Case study of Musana communal area-Bindura rural.

My name is B200240B.I am a final year student at Bindura State University of Science Education, studying an Honors Degree in Peace and Governance request your participation as I will be accumulating data for the project entitled **The effects of community gardening on household livelihoods**. The research aims to analyze the effects of community gardening on household livelihoods in Zimbabwe. The objectives of the study is to understand social and economic effects of community gardening on household livelihoods as well as its effect on infrastructural development in the home environment. The data collected is to be analyzed, not to be shared with any other parties and the results will be reported in my dissertation.

Section A

1. Sex

Male [☐] Female [☐]

2. Age group

18 -25years [☐]

26-35years [☐]

36-45years [☐]

46years and above [☐]

3. Marital status

Single []

Married []

Widowed []

Divorced []

4. Educational level

Primary education []

Secondary education []

Tertiary education []

None []

Section B: Social effects of community gardening project on household livelihoods.

Please on this section use the scale below to indicate your response

Strongly Agree [S A] Agree [A] Disagree [D] Strongly Disagree [S D]

		S A	A	D	SD
5	From the money generated from the garden, I am now able to pay school fees for my children.				
6	Community gardening project has brought a sense of unity as people work together.				
7	Due to community gardening I am now able to pay hospital fees.				
8	I am now able to buy clothes from the shops.				

Section C: Economic effects of community gardening project on household livelihoods.

		True	False
9	The main source of income is from the gardening project.		
10	Community gardening has paved way of trading for other basic commodities.		
11	Due to community gardening employment opportunities has risen in the community.		
12	The sale of locally grown produce from the community gardens had stimulated local economies.		
13	The gardening project has led to entrepreneurship development in my community.		

Section D: Effects of the community gardening project on infrastructural developments in the home environment.

		True	False
14	The family managed to construct a brick house due to availability of money obtained from the project.		
15	The family managed to fence its homestead.		
16	More stores are being constructed in the area from the money obtained from gardening.		
17	The family managed to construct a borehole for clean water supply.		
18	The family uses a well-constructed safe Blair toilet, due to money obtained from the project.		

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Any comments please feel free to note them below.

.....

.....

THANK YOU

APPENDIX D: Guide for interviews

Project title: The effects of community gardening on household livelihoods in Zimbabwe. A case study of Musana communal area-Bindura rural.

My name is B200240B.I am a final year student at Bindura State University of Science Education, studying an Honors Degree in Peace and Governance am working on a research and I request your participation as I will be accumulating data for the project entitled **The effects of community gardening on household livelihoods**. The research aims to analyze the effects of community gardening on household livelihoods in Zimbabwe. The objectives of the study is to understand social and economic effects of community gardening on household livelihoods as well as its effect on infrastructural development in the home environment. The data collected is to be analyzed, not to be shared with any other parties and the results will be reported in my dissertation.

Section A: Social effects of community gardening on household livelihood.



1. Can the crops produced in the community garden be said to have significantly contributed to skill building.
2. How has community gardening led to social interaction?
3. In your opinion, to what extent has the community gardening project contributed to food security.
4. Has community gardening project influenced education in the community?




Section B: Economic effects of community gardening on household livelihoods.







5. In your opinion, to what extent has the community gardening project contributed to family income savings in households.
6. Has community gardening inspire entrepreneurial initiatives such as the creation of small business related to packaging or selling garden produce in the community?
7. To what extend has community gardening led to local economic circulation.
8. in your observation, what major assets have farmers managed to acquire due to their involvement in the community gardening project.

Section C: Effects of the community gardening project on infrastructural developments in the home environment.


9. Has community members managed to construct big houses with the money generated from the project.
10. Has households managed to construct nice drinking water point.
11. To what extent, has the community contributed in the construction of roads.
12. Can the crop produced in the community gardening be said to have contributed more to the construction of stores in the area.


final project



17






Match Overview



17%

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1	Submitted to Bindura U... Student Paper	3%	>
2	Submitted to Midlands ... Student Paper	3%	>
3	doczz.net Internet Source	2%	>
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