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FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT PEACE AND GOVERNANCE



THE IMPACT OF YOUTH BULGE ON COMMUNITY SECURITY IN EPWORTH;

CASE STUDY DOMBORAMWARI

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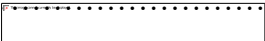
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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the impacts of the youth bulge on community security in Epworth, with a specific focus on the Domboramwari area. The research employed a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative data through survey questionnaires and semi-structured interviews within an interpretivist research philosophy. It seeks to address critical questions regarding the challenges and opportunities presented by a large youth population, the relationship between youth demographics and crime rates, socio-economic factors driving youth involvement in criminal activities, and youths' perceptions of community security threats... Epworth is experiencing an outstanding rise in its youth population, which has escalated from 63,611 in 2012 to 97,750 in 2023, accounting for 39% of the total population. In 2020, over 50% of reported crimes at the Epworth Police Station were attributed to youth. This situation has multiple effects on the community (residents, business owners, and local authorities), which include; property loss, loss of life, financial setbacks, physical harm, emotional trauma, and a declining quality of life. Findings shows a significant relationship between the youth bulge and crime rates in Domboramwari. The study identifies challenges such as high unemployment, social unrest, and resource strain and suggested that youth participation in crime is often a consequence of socio-economic desperation rather than choice. The research concludes that the youth bulge presents a significant challenge to community security in the area, by show a significant link between the large youth demographic in Domboramwari and elevated crime rates. Through its findings the, study managed to suggest some recommendations which include; the establishment of community-based youth empowerment centers to tackle unemployment and social exclusion, implementation of vocational training and entrepreneurship programs in collaboration with local businesses, increased government funding for education and social services, and the promotion of community dialogue to address security concerns.

DECLARATION FORM

I Alfa A Mudimu (B210434B), do solemnly declare that this research study herein, is my own work and has not been copied from any source without the acknowledgement of the source.

Students signature.....

Date: 31/ 03/ 2025

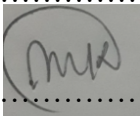
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Supervisors Signature

Date: 12/09/25

Chairpersons Name

Chairpersons Signature.....

Date.....14/09/2025.....

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DEDICATION

This research is dedicated to my family, the Mudimu's family.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I acknowledge the work of my supervisor Dr. C. Muchemwa for his mentorship and assistance during my studies. I also would like to thank my father Mr. N. Mudimu for his support throughout my studies, my twin brother Omega P. Mudimu, who always motivate me each time I feel like giving up. I also acknowledge the support from my brothers' and mother Ms J. Batai who always helps me when I needed anything during my studies. Thank you for being my pillar of strength.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AfDB- African Development Bank

AfDC- African Development Community

ILO- International Labour Organization

OT- Opportunity Theory

SIT- Social Identity Theory

UN- United Nations

UNESCO- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Social Organization

UNICEF- United Nations Children's Fund

UNODC- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

WB- World Bank

ZRP- Zimbabwe Republic of Police.

TABLE OF FIGURES AND LIST OF TABLES

Figure 1 4.2.1 Gender	21
Figure 2 4.2.2 Age.....	21
Figure 3.2 age barograph	21
Figure 4 occupation pie chart	22
Figure 5 <i>Approval letter for data collection in Domboramwari</i>.....	45
Figure 6 Questionnaire guide.....	46
Figure 7 Interview Guide	47
Figure 8 shows a similarity report from Turnitin.....	48
Table 1Table 4.1.1 Questionnaires response rate.....	20
Table 2Table 4.1.2 Semi-structured interviews response rate	20

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT.....	2
DECLARATION FORM.....	3
DEDICATION	4
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	5
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS.....	6
TABLE OF FIGURES AND LIST OF TABLES.....	7
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	8
CHAPTER ONE:	1
INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of the study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem.	2
1.3 Purpose of the Study	3
1.4 Objectives	3
1.5 Research Questions	3
1.6 Assumptions of the study	3
1.7 Significance of the study	3
1.8 Delimitations of the study	4
1.9 Limitations of the study	5
1.10 Definition of keywords	5
1.11 Dissertation Outline	6
CHAPTER TWO:	7
THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS AND LITERATURE REVIEW	7
2.0 Introduction.....	7
2.1 Theoretical Frameworks	7

2.1.1 Opportunity Theory	7
2.1.2 Social Identity Theory.....	8
2.3 Literature review	9
2.3.1 The Challenges and Opportunities of Youth Bulge to Community Security.....	9
2.3.2 The Relationship Between Youth Bulge and Crime Rates	11
2.3.3 Socio-Economic Factors Pushing Youth to Participate in Criminal Activities	12
2.3.4 Perceptions of Youth on Community Security Threats	13
2.4 Chapter Summary	14
CHAPTER THREE:	15
RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY	15
3.1 Introduction.....	15
3.2 Research Philosophy	15
3.3 Research Approach	16
3.4 Research Design.....	16
3.5 Population and Sample	16
3.6 Sampling Method/s to be Used.....	17
3.7 Data Collection Methods	17
3.8 Validity	17
3.9 Reliability.....	18
3.10 Data Analysis	18
3.11 Pilot Testing/Pretesting the Questionnaire.....	18
3.12 Ethical Considerations	19
3.13 Chapter Summary	19
CHAPTER FOUR:.....	20
DATA PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS	20

4.0 Introduction.....	20
4.1 Response rate	20
4.2 The Demographic variables	20
4.2.3 Occupation.....	22
4.3 Challenges Brought by a Large Youth Population to Community Security	22
(a). High Unemployment	22
(b). Social Unrest	23
(c). Increased Crime Rates.....	24
(d). Resource Strain	24
(e). Economic Development and Entrepreneurship	25
4.4 The Relationship Between Youth Bulge and Crime Rates	25
4.5 Socio-Economic Factors Influencing Youth Participation in Criminal Activities.....	26
4.6 The Perceptions on Community Security Threats	29
(a). Danger to Safety and Well-Being.....	29
(b). Threats to Personal and National Safety	29
(c). Risks to Life, Property, and Stability	30
(d). Harm or Danger to Individuals or Communities.....	30
(e). Menace to Peace and Public Order.....	31
4.7 Chapter summary	31
CHAPTER FIVE:	32
SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATION AND AREAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH.....	32
5.0 Introduction.....	32
5.1 Summary	32
5.2.0 Conclusions.....	33

5.2.1. The challenges and opportunities of large youth population to community security.	33
5.2.2. The relationship between youth bulge and crime rates.	34
5.2.3. Socio-economic factors which push to youth participate in criminal activities.	34
5.2.4. The perceptions of community security threats.	34
5.3.1 Recommendations.	34
5.3.2 Recommendations for Further Study	35
References.	36
Annexures (one).	45
Annexures (two) data collection instruments guide.	46
Questionnaire	46
Interview Guide	47
SIMILARITY REPORT	48

CHAPTER ONE:

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) state that, the global youth population was 1.2 billion, which is 16% of the global population in 2020. This phenomenon, known as the 'youth bulge,' has been correlated with heightened competition for resources, employment, and social status, potentially exacerbating social tensions and conflicts (Goldstone, 2002). This in turn can compromise community security, as frustrated youth may turn to criminal activities such as gang violence, or other forms of social unrest (World Bank, 2011). According to the World Bank (2018), countries with a high youth bulge are more likely to experience social unrest and conflict. For example, Mexico has significant youth population, with around 30% of its population aged 15-29, this demographic is bringing challenges to the community which include; theft, gang violence and drug trafficking (UNODC 2019).

Human security is a concept introduced by the United Nations Development Program (1994) which prioritises the protection of individuals and communities from threats to their well-being other than state. Community security is a vital component of human security which refers to the safety and stability of communities, encompassing aspects like crime, violence, and social cohesion (Kaldor, 2007).

Africa is facing challenges like other continents of having a more than 400 million population of people aged 18 to 35 (Africa's Youth Population, 2022). Africa's youthful population is expected to increase by 50% in 2050, posing significant trials for economic development and social cohesion (African Development Bank, 2020). This is putting African community security at high risk if nothing done to reduce factors (such as poverty and unemployment) which attract young people to commit crimes. Research by the Africa Institute for Security Studies, (2019) highlights the link between youth bulge and human insecurities intercepting the community security particularly in urban and pre-urban areas where high crime rates are noticed in South Africa.

Southern Africa faces unique challenges related of youth bulge which include high levels of unemployment and poverty which can fuel crime and social unrest. As noted by Southern

African Development Community (2019), the expanding youth population is juxtaposed with a landscape of limited economic expansion, inadequate employment prospects and eroding social services and development. This has led to a community insecurity with youth involvement in criminal activities becoming increasingly pronounced. High youth unemployment rates and limited economic opportunities have contributed to community insecurity in Mozambique and Zambia (African Development Bank 2019).

Zimbabwe faces significant economic and social challenges which include high unemployment rates, poverty, and inequality. These challenges are turning the country's large youth population into drivers of community insecurity. According to Zim-Stats (2022) the youth population (15-34 years) in Zimbabwe grew from 4,660,144 in 2012 to 5,508,630 in 2022, representing approximately 26.8% growth, with an average annual youth population growth rate of 2.55% from 2012 to 2022. The youth bulge in Zimbabwe is particularly pronounced, with 60% of the population under the age of 35 (UNICEF, 2019). This demographic trend has contributed to social unrest, high crime rates, and community insecurity mostly in urban areas. Urban areas like Mbare, Mukobva, and Chitungwiza are particularly affected by the large youth population, which intensify rivalry over scarce resources and fueling tensions, gang crimes and social unrest. As argued by Muchemwa (2019), there is a relationship between these growing youth population and increased crime rates in urban areas like Harare. Epworth's unique context which marked by rapid urbanization, poverty and inequality, presents a compelling case study to explore the impacts of youth population growth on community security.

1.2 Statement of the Problem.

Epworth is experiencing a remarkable surge in its youth population, which has increased from 63,611 in 2012 to 97,750 in 2022 which accounting to 39% of the total population (ZimStats 2022). This rapid growth has become a primary driver of community security worries. This issue is exacerbated by a high youth unemployment rate of 18.2% at the national level, which is likely even higher in urban areas due to its rapid youth population growth of 26.8% from 2012 to 2022 (ZimStats 2022). As a resulting youth bulge affects community security in various ways which include; rising crime rates, drug abuse, and social unrest. Notably, over 50% of reported crimes in 2020 at Epworth Police Station were attributed to youth (ZRP, 2020). Consequently, the community (comprising residents, business owners, and local authorities) suffers from multiple

adverse effects such as; loss of property and lives, financial losses, physical harm, emotional trauma, and a deteriorating quality of life.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

To investigate the effects of youth bulge on community security in Epworth, focusing on Domboramwari.

1.4 Objectives

1. To assess the challenges and opportunities of large youth population to community security.
2. To examine the relationship between youth bulge and crime rates.
3. To identify socio-economic factors which push to youth participate in criminal activities.
4. To assess the perceptions of community security threats.

1.5 Research Questions

1. What are the challenges and opportunities of youth bulge to community security?
2. What is the relationship between youth bulge and crime rates?
3. What are the socio-economic factors which push to youth participate in criminal activities?
4. What are the perceptions of youth on community security threats?

1.6 Assumptions of the study

1. This study posits that the large youth population (15-35 years) in Domboramwari, Epworth, exacerbates community security concerns which lead to heightened social unrest and criminal activity.
2. This study assumes that limited access to education, employment, and economic opportunities in Domboramwari, Epworth, drives youth engagement in criminal activities, erodes community security, and imperils human security across physical, economic, and social dimensions.

1.7 Significance of the study

The findings of this study provide critical insights into the relationship between youth bulge and community security in Domboramwari, Epworth. By examining how the large youth

population exacerbates community security concerns, this research used inform evidence-based strategies to alleviate social unrest and criminal activity. Policymakers and stakeholders are expected to benefit from understanding the different dynamics driving insecurity, enabling targeted interventions to promote youth development and community resilience. Addressing the scarcity of education, employment, and economic opportunities is crucial for ensuring human security in Domboramwari, Epworth. This study's investigation into the consequences of limited access to these essential resources will highlight the urgent need for sustainable solutions. By identifying the links between socioeconomic factors, youth engagement in criminal activities, and community security, this research will guide policymakers, international organizations, and local communities in designing effective programs to promote youth empowerment, social inclusion, and community development.

The study's outcomes have across-the-board of implications for Zimbabwe and similar contexts, where youth bulge and socioeconomic challenges intersect. By shedding light on the complex relationships between youth demographics, education, employment, and community security, this research will contribute to the development of comprehensive policies and interventions. Ultimately this study will enhance understanding of the critical factors influencing human security, informing strategies to promote social cohesion, community well-being, and sustainable development in informal urban settlements.

1.8 Delimitations of the study

The present study is delimited to exploring the impact of youth bulge on community security within the specific context of Domboramwari, Epworth, Zimbabwe. Geographically, the research focuses exclusively on this urban settlement, excluding other regions or rural areas. This delimitation allows for an in-depth examination of the complex relationships between youth demographics, community security, and socioeconomic factors within this unique setting. The study delimits its scope to focus on people aged from 15 to 35 years (youth) and community members residing in Domboramwari. The study's timeframe (7months) also bound the research, enabling a comprehensive understanding of the phenomena under investigation. By acknowledging these delimitations, the study ensures a focused and rigorous examination of the research questions, yielding valuable insights into the experiences and perceptions of community members in Domboramwari.

1.9 Limitations of the study

This study acknowledges several limitations that impacted its findings significantly. Social desirability bias influences participants' responses which lead them to provide answers deemed acceptable rather than truthful. The study's sampling bias limited generalizability, as the focus on Domboramwari, Epworth, Zimbabwe, may not represent the broader population. Researcher bias possibly also influenced data analysis and interpretation, shaped by the researcher's perspectives and experiences. The study's timeframe limitations also restricted its ability to capture long-term effects or seasonal variations, potentially overlooking critical dynamics. The study's operational capacity is also constrained by limited human resources, which impacted negatively on data collection and analysis efficiency. Lack of cooperation from participants have compromised data quality, introduced biases and reduced the study's reliability. The researcher faced problems such as: limited access to accurate data, suspicious or fear from community members, language barrier (make it difficult to convert the message), ethical clearance from local board and physical assault by youth gangs. The researcher employed different strategies to encounter these limitations which include: triangulate data, engaged local gate keepers, build trust and support through community leaders, use Shona translations for interview, and trauma sensitive approach.

1.10 Definition of keywords

Youth bulge refers to a demographic phenomenon where a significant proportion of a country's population is comprised of young people, typically between the ages of 18 and 35 (Urdal, 2006). Community security refers to the safety and well-being of individuals and groups within a specific geographic or social context, encompassing physical, psychological, and social dimensions (Krause, 2004). Human security is concerned with protecting individuals and communities from threats to their well-being, dignity, and livelihoods, encircling seven essential components: economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community, and political security. (UNDP, 1994). Sustainable peacebuilding involves creating a durable and self-sustaining peace which address the root causes of conflict, promoting social justice, and fostering inclusive and participatory governance (Lederach, 1997). Conflict resolution is the process of addressing and resolving disputes through non-violent means, involving negotiation, mediation, and problem-solving to achieve mutually acceptable outcomes (Fisher, 1997).

1.11 Dissertation Outline

The research project consisted of five chapters and these are as follows:

1. Chapter one which is the introductory chapter deals with introducing the reader to the background of the research and the motivations behind it.
2. Chapter Two is for literature reviews of the research project topic and other perceptions already in existing surrounding the topic.
3. Chapter Three explores the research methodologies used and why they were chosen to be perfect for this study.
4. Chapter Four will provide a summary and analysis of the results from the problem and display the information using extra means like pie charts and bar graphs.
5. Chapter Five will deal with the summary of the research project and the possible solutions that may be used to address the identified problem.

CHAPTER TWO:

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS AND LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter reviews literature, theoretical frameworks and other findings to study the impacts of youth bulge on community security in Epworth, particularly in Domboramwari. To unpack the study, the chapter aims to provide overview of the accessed literature on the, challenges and opportunities of youth bulge to community security, relationship between youth bulge and crime rates, socio-economic factors pushing youth to participate in criminal activities, perceptions of youth on community security threats. To gain deeper understanding of this phenomenon, the study draws upon a combination of theoretical frameworks.

2.1 Theoretical Frameworks

The theoretical framework aims to provide a crucial lens through which to analyze the social, economic, psychological factors that contribute to the observed outcomes. By employing a multi-theoretical approach, this research aims to offer a comprehensive explanation of the challenges and opportunities presented by youth bulge in the context of community security. This study is going to use Opportunity Theory and Social Identity Theory.

2.1.1 Opportunity Theory

Opportunity Theory is primarily articulated by Cloward and Ohlin (1960) who asserts that, criminal behavior arises from the intersection of individual motivation and the availability of opportunities to commit crime. OT points out that, when legitimate ways for success such as education and employment are limited, individuals particularly youth may resort to illegal means to achieve their goals (Messner & Rosenfeld 2001). As noted by Hagan (1992), OT emphasizes that crime is not only a product of individual propensity but is heavily influenced by the social environment. Hirschi and Gottfredson (1983) in support indicated that, the absence of legitimate opportunities can lead to increased rates of crime in communities where youth face socioeconomic difficulties. In applying OT to Epworth context, the youth bulge creates significant challenges, as the growing population of young individuals competes for limited resources which create a suitable environment for criminal behavior.

In urban areas like Epworth, specifically Domboramwari, the implications of Opportunity Theory become more and more manifested. According to Cloward and Ohlin (1960) the high rates of unemployment and lack of educational facilities create a situation where youth distinguish crime as the only feasible way to economic stability. According to Merton (1938) OT discusses the concept of innovation which link the individual's inability to achieve societal goals through legitimate means and the increase of crime rates in the communities. This is particularly evidenced in Domboramwari, where economic exclusion may force youth to engage in theft or drug-related activities as alternatives to high rates of employment.

The lack of effective community guardianship strongly contributes to the rise in criminal activity among youth (Hagan 1992). Cohen and Felson (1979) argues that, crimes are likely to occur in environments where the potential for detection and punishment is low by suggesting that community disorganization can facilitate criminal behavior. The OT indicated, that weakened communities draw and diminished collective efficacy resulted to an increase in opportunities for crime, as young people engage in illicit activities without fear of repercussions (Cloward & Ohlin 1960). This emphasizes the importance of fostering community engagement to mitigate crime this reinforcing the relevance of OT in understanding the compound relationship between youth bulge and community security.

2.1.2 Social Identity Theory

Social Identity Theory is developed by Henri Tajfel and John Turner (1979), it suggested that, individuals derive part of their self-concept and identity from their membership in social groups which can lead to both positive and negative group dynamics. To intersect this with youth bulge, particularly in marginalized communities like Epworth, SIT provides insights into how strong group identities can foster conflict and insecurity (Hogg & Abrams 1990). As youth form connections based on shared characteristics or experiences, they may show in-group favoritism while exhibiting hostility towards out-groups which exacerbates tensions within the community (Hogg & Vaughan, 2018).

The youth bulge can intensify feelings of competition among groups as young people compete for limited resources, such as jobs and social status (Turner 1982). This competition can breed enmity, in most case when youth perceive that their group distinctiveness is under threat. According to Tajfel (1982), the need for positive social identity can lead individuals to engage in

discriminatory behaviors against out-group members, which may manifest as aggression or violence. In urban areas youth may form gangs or groups that prioritize loyalty to their group over community well-being which may result in increased territorial disputes and violent confrontations (Hogg & Abrams 1990). In support to the theory Brewer, (1999), argue that, these dynamics can destabilize community security, as rival groups clash over perceived threats or challenges to their identity.

The psychological mechanisms of SIT suggest that, when young individuals feel marginalized or excluded from broader societal structures, they are more likely to stick to their group identities as a means of self-affirmation (Deaux 1996). This can lead to radicalization of extremist especially when they feel subjugated by government (Khosravi, 2017). Youth who are strongly linked with their peer groups may be more susceptible to engaging in delinquent behavior as a way to assert their identity and resist perceived oppression (Hogg & Vaughan 2018). As a result, the youth bulge becomes a double-edged sword because it can provide a sense of belonging and it can also create conducive environments for violence and misconduct.

The intersection of social identity theory and community security is particularly pronounced in the context of urban and pre-urban areas which experiencing demographic shifts. Young people may form strong identities to their groups and develop negative stereotypes about other groups which lead to social fragmentation (Hogg, 2006). This division can reduce social cohesion which makes it difficult for societies to unite in the face of challenges. In urban areas such as Epworth the rise of group identities among young people creates tensions which further undermining community security and stability (Khosravi 2017). The suggestions of SIT are critical for understanding how the youth bulge can back the rising of community security consents in Epworth, highlighting the need for interventions that promote inclusivity and intergroup dialogue to ensure community security.

2.3 Literature review

2.3.1 The Challenges and Opportunities of Youth Bulge to Community Security

The phenomenon of youth bulge is characterized by an unprecedented proportion of young people in a population which presents both challenges and opportunities for community security (Jensen (2017)). According to the United Nations (2020), the global youth population is projected

to reach 1.3 billion by 2030, with Africa accounting for nearly half of this growth. This demographic shift has significant implications for community security, as highlighted by several literature in this chapter.

Youth bulge born several challenges to community security which include the increased competition for resources, social unrest, and potential recruitment into violent groups (Brzoska 2016). As noted by Urdal (2017), Youth bulge can lead to poverty, high unemployment rate and frustration, creating a fertile ground for social unrest and conflict mostly in developing countries where state or government cannot provide sufficient opportunities for them (Muchemwa 2019). In support, Goldstone (2014) argues that youth bulge can contribute to the emergence of extremist groups, as young people become disappointed by the socio-economic prospects of a state. According to Brzoska (2016), youth bulge can strain community resources, such as education and healthcare, which resulted in social tensions. This notion is supported by Østby (2016) who suggested that, youth bulge can lead to increased crime rates predominantly in urban areas.

The wrong way round, large number of young populations presents opportunities for community security by increasing human capital, innovation, and social mobilization (Østby 2016). Young people can bring new ideas, energy, and skills to communities, driving economic growth and social progress Cincotta (2018). Jensen (2017) suggested that, youth bulge can foster social entrepreneurship, community engagement, and civic participation. This highlights the potential for youth-led initiatives to address community problems, such as environmental degradation and public health as some of the best opportunities which came as a result of youth bulge. Youth bulge can provide a unique opportunity for communities to invest in education, skills development, and leadership training (Honwana 2019).

Education and employment are critical factors in mitigating the challenges and embracing the opportunities of youth bulge for community security (Gavigan 2018). According to Schultz (2018), investing in education can help to equip young people with skills, knowledge, values and constructive community engagement. AfDB (2019) highlights the importance of job creation and entrepreneurship in reducing youth unemployment and promoting community stability. Vocational training and apprenticeships can provide young people with practical skills and economic opportunities which maybe helpful in addressing their needs.

2.3.2 The Relationship Between Youth Bulge and Crime Rates

The relationship between youth bulge and crime rates is a critical area of study in understanding the dynamics of social stability and security in various communities. A youth bulge refers to a demographic pattern where young people constitute a significant proportion of the population, it often associates with increased crime rates, particularly in developing countries (Upreti 2018). The relationship between the two, youth bulge and crime rates has brought attention to the community security concerns which resulted in significant investigation by various literature on the correlation between the two.

Østby (2016) suggested that, youth bulge is closely linked to the of crime rates, particularly in urban and pre-urban areas. In support Brzoska (2016) state that, youth bulge is associated with increased property crime and violence. According to Urdal (2017), youth bulge can lead to increased competition for resources which may result in high crime rates as a way of survival. These literature create a gap in the link between youth bulge, increased gang violence and organized crime in urban areas. Cincotta and Goldstone (2014) argue that countries which are experiencing a youth bulge are often face significant unemployment rates, which can lead to increased frustration and a sense of hopelessness among young people. Young individuals who lack access to economic opportunities are more likely to engage in criminal activities as a means of survival (Feseha 2018). The World Bank (2016) further supports this view, indicating that unemployment among youth is a critical factor contributing to social unrest and crime, particularly in urban areas where competition for limited resources is violent.

Youth bulge is associated with increased crime rates in African states mostly because of the persistent government failures in the region, while the relationship is less pronounced in Asia (Gavigan 2018). In environments where governance is weak, young individuals may feel subjugated and resort to crime as a means of expressing their frustrations. However, Jensen (2017) indicated that, youth bulge can have a positive impact on community cohesion in well-functioning economy which resulted in reduction in crime rates. According to Schultz's (2018), education and job opportunities can mitigate the negative impacts of youth bulge on crime rates. AfDB (2019), highlighting the importance of vocational training and entrepreneurship in reducing youth unemployment and crime. McGloin and Piquero (2019) argues that young individuals who feel marginalized or excluded from societal structures are more likely to engage in criminal activities.

2.3.3 Socio-Economic Factors Pushing Youth to Participate in Criminal Activities

The socio-economic factors driving youth to engage in criminal activities include poverty, limits access to basic needs and opportunities which force them to engage in illegal activities such as theft and drug trafficking to fulfill their economic needs (Gunuboh 2023). Low socio-economic status is a substance to criminal behavior, especially for individuals from poor backgrounds often perceive crime as one of the few available ways for financial gain (Sariaslan et al. 2014). The lack of resources and opportunities in poor communities fosters a sense of hopelessness among youth, which can drive them toward criminal activities as a means of asserting control over their circumstances (Shah et al.2019).

The significance relationship between high unemployment rates and increased crime is well noticed in countries with large number of youths. Goldstone (2014), argues that, unemployment is a significant driver of youth involvement in criminal activities. Young people without stable incomes are often experience feelings of frustration and anger which can lead to criminal behavior as a coping mechanism (Vargas 2023). Cincotta and Goldstone (2014), claim that high levels of youth unemployment create a fertile ground for criminal activities, as individuals seek alternative means to achieve financial stability. The World Bank (2016) in support to this view, alluded that, unemployment not only increases the likelihood of youth engaging in crime but also exacerbates social tensions within communities, leading to higher overall crime rates. Gavigan (2018), added that, even employed youth may engage in crime if their wages are insufficient to meet basic needs.

Social marginalization and exclusion are one of the socio-economic factors which push young people to engage in crimes mostly in urban areas. Youth from marginalized communities are more likely to engage in crime due to lack of access to resources and opportunities (Mitra 2022). Cincotta (2018) notes that social exclusion can lead to feelings of frustration and disillusionment among young individuals which increase their chance of involved in criminal activities. Bhattacharya (2020) notes that poor quality education can exacerbate social exclusion and increase criminal involvement. In support to that Honwana (2019), suggested that, the impact of social exclusion on youth mental health and well-being, potentially contributing to criminal behavior.

2.3.4 Perceptions of Youth on Community Security Threats

The perceptions of youth regarding community security threats are shaped by a multifaceted relationship of social, environmental, and psychological factors. According to Muchemwa (2019), Zimbabwean youth perceive community security threats as multifaceted which include; physical, economic, and social dimensions. Young people perceive community security threats as primarily related to economic instability, unemployment, social unrest, and poverty (Mhlanga 2021). As noted by Mutenga (2020), youth unemployment rates in Zimbabwe are alarmingly high, contributing to feelings of frustration and disillusionment. The impact of economic instability on youth livelihoods, exacerbating their vulnerability to crime and violence Muponde (2019).

In Epworth, specifically Domboramwari, youth perceptions of community security threats are shaped by the area's unique socio-economic challenges. According to Bhattacharya (2020), youth perceive community security threats as primarily related to gang violence, theft, and substance abuse. Gukuura (2019) highlighted the impacts of urbanization and migration on youth perceptions of security threats in Epworth, particularly in relation to stranger danger and crime. Moyo (2020) supported by saying that, youth in Domboramwari perceive community security threats as closely linked to lack of access to education, employment, and healthcare.

Young people frequently associate their sense of safety with their experiences of crime particularly violent crime. The World Bank (2020) further supports this notion by emphasizing that youth who experience or witness crime are more likely to internalize feelings of insecurity, which can lead to long-term psychological effects. This perception of crime has a significant threat as it is common theme among youth, shaping their understanding of community safety (Hogg & Vaughan 2018). Chitiyo and Chikoko (2019) argues that, the fear of crime can alter young people's daily behaviors, compelling them to avoid certain areas or limit their social interactions.

The lack of adequate public services and infrastructure is perceived as a community security threat by young and vulnerable individuals (Sariaslan, et al. 2014). Mhlanga (2021) argues that, poor street lighting, insufficient policing, and inadequate recreational facilities contribute to a sense of vulnerability among young people. These environmental factors not only facilitate criminal activity but also hinder community cohesion, as young individuals feel less inclined to engage in public spaces that they perceive as unsafe (Hogg & Vaughan 2018). According to

Honwana (2019), youth in Africa often feel excluded from decision-making processes and social services, exacerbating their vulnerability to security threats.

2.4 Chapter Summary

The theoretical explored in this chapter highlighted the impacts of youth bulge on community security in Epworth, particularly in Domboramwari. The chapter reviewed the existing literature on the area of study, contributing to the understandings of the, challenges and opportunities of youth bulge to community security, relationship between youth bulge and crime rates, socio-economic factors pushing youth to participate in criminal activities, perceptions of youth on community security threats.

CHAPTER THREE:

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter outlines the research methodology and design used to investigate the impacts of youth bulge on community security in Epworth, specifically in Domboramwari. In order to achieve the study objectives, this chapter is going to provide an overview of the research philosophy, research approach, research design, population, sampling method, data collection techniques, data analysis, ethical considerations, validity and reliability measures. This chapter is designed to provide a clear understanding of the research methodology, safeguarding that, the study findings contribute to the existing literature on youth bulge and community security.

3.2 Research Philosophy

This study has used an interpretivist research philosophy to explore the social experiences and constructs of youth in Epworth specifically in Domboramwari community (Creswell, 2014). Interpretivism pursues to understand how individuals interpret their social world, acknowledging reality which is context-dependence and shaped by social interactions (Bryman, 2016). This enables an in-depth examination of the complex relationship between youth bulge, community security and socio-economic factors. By adopting interpretivism, the researcher played an active role in observing and interpreting how the social world is recognized, emphasizing knowledge construction through researcher-participant and interactions (Schwandt, 2007).

The study used the constructivist epistemology research paradigm which emphasize the co-created knowledge between researcher and participants (Lincoln & Guba, 1985). This paradigm helps to addresses questions such as, how do people construct knowledge? and how should reality be represented? (Schwandt 2007). This epistemology helps acknowledges dynamic and subjective knowledge influenced by multiple factors. As per ontology, reality is implicit to be dynamic, complex, and shaped by social, economic, and cultural contexts (Guba & Lincoln, 1994). This approach also recognizing the dynamic and evolutionary nature of reality, which is influence by individual interactions and experiences.

3.3 Research Approach

A research approach is a tailored plan that directs a researcher's methodology, which guide decisions and ensure research coherence (Kara, 2015). It encompasses both the specific techniques for data collection and the underlying philosophical frameworks that inform these methods (Haralambos & Holborn, 2004). A methodology is accountable for outlines the step-by-step protocol for collecting and analyzing data (Resnik 2018). This study has employed a mixed-methods research approach to investigate the impacts of youth bulge on community security in Epworth especially in Domboramwari. The mixed-methods design has allowed the researcher for a comprehensive understanding of the complex relationships between youth bulge, community security, and socio-economic factors. By combining quantitative and qualitative methodologies, this study achieved a more comprehensive understanding of the impacts of youth bulge on community security.

3.4 Research Design

This study has used an exploratory and field research design and to investigate the impacts of youth bulge on community security in Epworth, Domboramwari. The exploratory design is particularly suited for this study, because it enables an in-depth examination of the research phenomena which allows the identification of patterns, relationships, and themes that may not have been previously documented (Creswell, 2014). Field research was also used in this study because it fills the gaps in understanding the research problem applied to local conditions or to specific groups of people that cannot be ascertained from existing data (Bryman (2016). By adopting these designs, the study highlighted the knowledge gap and provided valuable insights into the complex relationships between variables. In line with the exploratory and field design, data collected using surveys, and in-depth interviews tools.

3.5 Population and Sample

This study targets the population of people aged from 15-35 located in in Domboramwari, Epworth, with an estimated population size of 10,000 (Zim Stats 2022). The inclusion criteria were comprised of people aged from 15 to 35, residing in Domboramwari, and were willing to participate. Equally, people who are under 15 or above 35, who are not residents of Domboramwari, and those who unwilling to participate were also excluded.

3.6 Sampling Method/s to be Used

The study was carried using a mixed sampling approach, it combined the probability and non-probability techniques to gather representative data that accurately reflects the characteristics of the targeted population. In probability sampling (simple random sampling), the researcher selected 100 youth for the survey, ensuring equal selection chances and minimizing bias (Babbie, 2016). In non-probability sampling (purposive sampling) the researcher selected 20 key informants participation for in-depth interviews which allowed for in-depth exploration of themes (Patton, 2015). This mixed approach provided a comprehensive understanding which is suitable for studies requiring both range and depth (Creswell, 2014).

3.7 Data Collection Methods

This study has employed a multi-method approach to data collection. The study has combined both quantitative and qualitative methods to provide a comprehensive understanding of the impacts of youth bulge on community security in Epworth, Domboromwari. Quantitative data collection involves administering a structured questionnaire to 100 youth participants which were selected through simple random sampling. The questionnaire encompasses demographic information, youth bulge and community security perceptions, and socio-economic factors influencing criminal activity. This method has allowed the collection of standardized data which helped the researcher in statistical analysis and generalizability. To complement the quantitative data, the qualitative methods such as interviews with 20 key informants have been used to facilitate discussions on youth bulge, community security. Qualitative data collection methods provide rich, detailed insights into social phenomena and reflect context and capture subtle that quantitative method might failure to capture (Kieglmamm 2020).

3.8 Validity

To ensure validity, the study questionnaire and interview guides was guided by a comprehensive literature review on youth bulge, community security, and socio-economic factors. This has helped to establish content validity. On construct validity has been achieved through grounding the study in established theoretical frameworks, specifically Social Identity Theory and Opportunity Theory. These frameworks provides a durable foundation for understanding the nexuses between variables, thereby enhancing the validity of the study.

3.9 Reliability

Reliability was ensured through standardized data collection tools, pilot-testing, and trained research assistants. Data triangulation, combining quantitative and qualitative methods which enhances reliability by allowing cross-validation of findings. This multi-method approach increases confidence in the results. Yin (2014) suggested that, careful study design, which emphasize data collection and data analysis procedures are crucial for ensuring reliability of the study.

3.10 Data Analysis

Data analysis involves converting raw data into concrete facts and ideas that can be understood either qualitatively or quantitatively (Celine, 2017). In this study, the researcher has used thematic analysis, which is a qualitative method to identifying, analyzing, and reporting themes or pertain within data (Braun & Clarke, 2006). This approach involves examining data to identify recurring themes through careful enciphering, theme identification, and labeling. The researcher during the data collection has also apply a systematic data analysis process which include reading, evaluating, and labeling themes (Braun & Clark). Thematic analysis is particularly useful for discovering embedded themes and concepts in qualitative data and serves as a helpful tool for inexperienced qualitative researchers (Clark & Braun, 2017). By adopting these methods, the study has managed identify common issues, summarized views and present meaningful results.

3.11 Pilot Testing/Pretesting the Questionnaire

A pilot test was conducted with 10 participants from the target population to assess the questionnaire's clarity, relevance, and cultural sensitivity. Semi-structured interviews were also gathered the feedback which enabling the researcher to identify and minor ambiguities, inadequate scaling, and cultural insensitivities (Salant & Dillman, 1994). Based on the feedback, revisions were constructed to rephrase unclear questions, adjust scales, incorporate culturally sensitive language. This pilot test ensures the questionnaire is strong, reliable, and effective in capturing accurate responses.

3.12 Ethical Considerations

Creswell (2014) argues that, ethical considerations are a set of rules that governs scientific research on how it should be conducted and distributed, it also outlines the ethical requirements for study. The study was adhering make to follows the following rules and ethics

- *Avoiding harm.* This code ensures that study participants suffer no adverse casualties from their involvement (Baines et al., 2013). Participants were protected against physical, emotional harm, discomfort, humiliation, offense, or any betrayal throughout the research.
- *Voluntary Participation:* This principle ensures that participants are engaged freely, without coercion or risk of harm (Israel & Hay, 2006). Before interviews or discussions began, contributors were informed of their right to withdraw at any time.
- *Informed Consent:* According to Newman, (2016) contributors must be given voluntary informed consent by signing forms that detail the study's terms and risks, and they will be free to decline, withdraw, or remove their data.
- *Confidentiality and Anonymity:* Participants' material was kept safe and protected in accordance with the provision of data protection act 2023.

3.13 Chapter Summary

This chapter outlined the research methodology which is were employed in the investigate of the impacts of youth bulge on community security in Epworth, specifically in Domboramwari. The study has adopted a mixed-methods approach by combining both quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis methods. This chapter was, also outlined the sampling method, the target population, ethical considerations, pilot testing/pretesting the questionnaire, validity and reliability, research design, research instruments which were used in the study.

CHAPTER FOUR:

DATA PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

4.0 Introduction

Purpose of this chapter aims to discuss the findings stemming from the data collection procedures. The findings will be presented according to the study's objectives which, are: to assess the challenges and opportunities of large youth population to community security. to examine the relationship between youth bulge and crime rates. to identify socio-economic factors which push to youth participate in criminal activities and to assess the perceptions of community security threats.

4.1 Response rate

Table 1 *Table 4.1.1 Questionnaires response rate*

Expected responses	Actual responses	Spoiled or Non responses	Response rate in percentage
100	85	15	85%

Table 2 *Table 4.1.2 Semi-structured interviews response rate*

Expected responses	Actual responses	Failed responses	Response rate in percentage
20	16	4	80%

This research aimed to administer 100 questionnaires and 20 semi-structured interviews. Despite some attrition, the study achieved a robust response rate of 85% for questionnaires (85 out of 100) and 80% for interviews (16 out of 20). According to Fincham (2008), these response rates are considered acceptable and support the generalizability of the findings. The detailed response rates are presented in the 4.1.1 and 4.1.2 table above.

4.2 The Demographic variables

To ensure a targeted understanding of the research topic, this study focused exclusively on individuals aged 18-35. This demographic was selected to capture the perspectives of young adults

actively engaged in the community. The subsequent analysis of their responses will be structured to reveal insights based on gender, age, and occupation within the community.

Figure 1 4.2.1 Gender

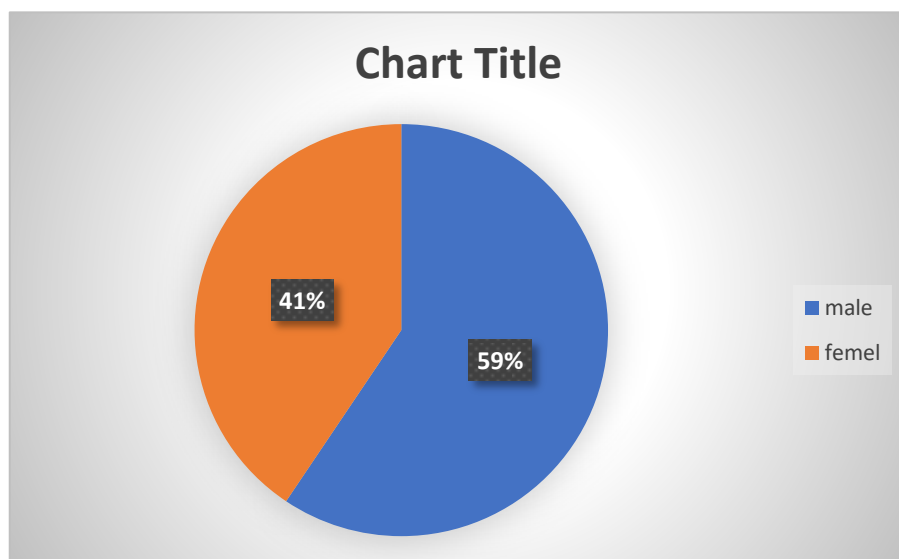


Figure 2 4.2.2 Age

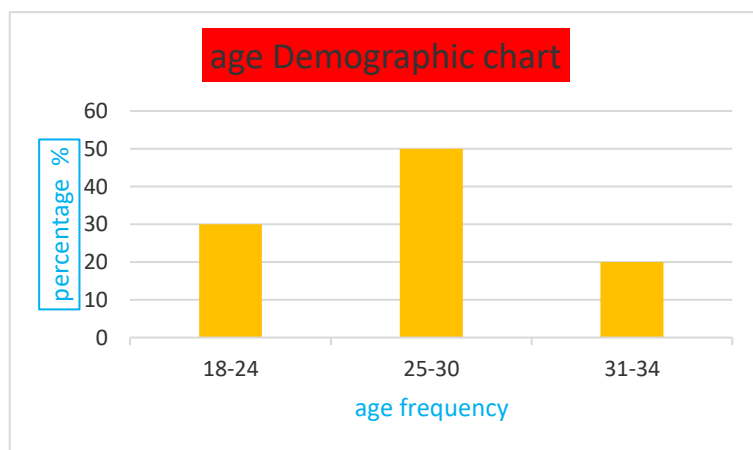


Figure 3.2 age barograph

4.2.3 Occupation

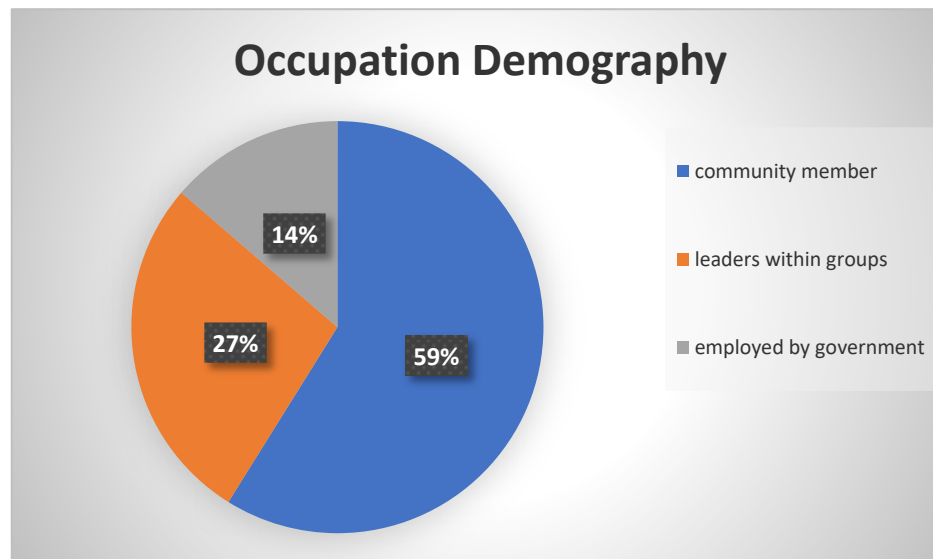


Figure 4 occupation pie chart

4.3 Challenges Brought by a Large Youth Population to Community Security

The participants were asked about the challenges and opportunities of large youth population to the community security. On this issue these were the various challenges and opportunities noted by the researcher from participants responses which include:

(a). High Unemployment

Participants suggested that, high unemployment rates among youth can significantly threaten community security, as economic exclusion often leads to a range of social issues. This is in line with the ILO (2021) which stated that, youth unemployment can exacerbate feelings of marginalization and desperation, leading many young people to engage in illicit activities as a means of survival. Large number of unemployed youths are more susceptible to criminal influences and peer pressure, which can further destabilize communities (Hwang 2018). According to O'Hare et al. (2019) regions with high youth unemployment rate often experience increased property crimes and violent offenses, as young individuals seek out alternative means to improve their economic situations. In regard with the question how large youth population became a challenge to the community security,

one of the respondents said: *“high youth unemployment is linked to diminished economic growth, which can lead to increased unhappiness and unrest among young people, when youth struggle to*

find jobs, they may become disillusioned with both the economic system and the institutions that govern their lives, leading to a potential rise in anti-social behavior. Then can you imagine that if they are in large numbers, they will be no community security guarantees”.

The above response indicates that there is the correlation between large youth population, unemployment which undermines the community security. In support, Neumark (2018) reveal that higher youth unemployment rates correlate with increased property crimes and violent offenses, as youth seek alternative means of survival.

(b). Social Unrest

Social unrest is another theme that emerge on challenge of youth bulge to community security. Respondents show relation between large youth population and community security consent as they suggested that, the presence of a large youth population can also lead to heightened social unrest, particularly when young people feel their voices are ignored in political and economic discussions. This can lead to a breakdown in trust between law enforcement and communities, further worsening tensions and potentially leading to violence (Roberts & Martin, 2020).

One of the respondents on social unrest said: *“When young people feel disenfranchised and ignored by political and economic structures, they are more likely to partake in protests, riots, and other forms of civil disobedience. For example, here at “(majecha)” area where Environmental Management Agencies (EMA) involved in a conflict with local people over the soil deposition, young people were selling it while EMA wanted to conserve the environment”.*

This supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (2019) which notes that youth exclusion and lack of opportunities are major drivers of social unrest in many developing countries. There is a significant correlation between youth demographic pressures and social movements as young individuals mobilize to demand change in response to supposed injustices. (Choudhury et al. 2021). Based on the responses from the participants, high population of young people, even if they are doing nothing wrong in the streets it’s a scare by its self because it brings a lot of panic in the community which undermines the community security in different ways.

(c). Increased Crime Rates

The negative relationship between a large youth population and community security in Epworth be demonstrated by increased crime rates is well-presented by the participants. Youth are excessively represented in crime statistics, particularly in urban settings where opportunities for engagement in criminal behavior are more accessible (Fagan and Davies 2016). According to McCarthy and Smith (2022), areas with high population of youth often experience spikes in gang-related violence, as young people seek affiliation and identity through these groups.

Participants from police station commented on the issue, she said: *“...here in Epworth, the absence of positive recreational activities and mentorship programs leaves many youths without useful outlets, increasing their chance of engaging in criminal activitie...s”*. She added *“Increased crime rates among youth populations present a intricate challenge to community security, as countless factors link to create an environment conducive to criminal behavior.*

The above response indicates that there is strong link between large youth population to the community security concerns. As noted by Merton and Luhmann (2019), young individuals are more likely to engage in risk-taking behaviors, including crime, when economic opportunities are limited. Hance based on the reply of participants youth bulge can lead to cream rates which undermines the overall community security.

(d). Resource Strain

Resource strain is one of the challenges of youth bulge to community security in Epworth, because it impacting everything from education to healthcare and housing. Municipalities with rapidly growing youth populations often struggle to provide suitable services which leads to overcrowded schools and underfunded programs (McKinsey & Company 2021). World Economic Forum (2022), indicated that when resources are stretched, the quality of education and social services declines which unfavorably affects youth development in third world countries.

One of participants commenting on the issue, regarding youth population and resource strain: *“.....This is exactly what happening in Epworth, so many young people but very few government schools and training centers, this affect us because we are prolong the cycle of viciousness and poverty, it is like we are training our kids to fight for everything they want. Because in everywhere, in whatever you want there is a line and shortage of supply....”*

In Epworth, specifically Domboramwari, there increased demand for education, healthcare, and social services can overwhelm existing infrastructure and resources, leading to a decline in the quality of these services due to the large population of youth in that area. Youth populations flow in urban areas result in overcrowding educational institutions, leading to diminished educational outcomes and increased dropout rates (Urban Institute 2022).

(e). Economic Development and Entrepreneurship

Participants suggested that, A large youth population presents significant opportunities for economic development and entrepreneurship in Domboramwari, which can enhance community security through job creation and innovative solutions. Young people are often more willing to take risks and explore unconventional avenues, which can lead to the emergence of new markets and industries (Kauffman (2016). International Labour Organization (2020) supports this notion by highlighting that, youth-led enterprises are more inclined to engage in social entrepreneurship which addresses local challenges while generating income.

One of the participants said: *“.... yes, sometimes we need them (youth), because they reduce the burden of unemployment, he added if you go to the shopping center you will see small phone shops, although some are illegal but they are helping a lot because they employ some and give them opportunity to life therefore, they are a use to community security”*.

World Bank (2021) reinforces the idea that investing in youth entrepreneurship can lead to sustainable economic development, as these enterprises are often more adaptable to changing market conditions. Young entrepreneurs can drive innovation in sectors such as technology and sustainability, leading to community resilience and long-term economic stability (Ratte 2021). Responses from participants indicated that, a large youth population represents a massive pool of potential entrepreneurs and innovators which are capable of generating new ideas and solutions to pressing community challenges.

4.4 The Relationship Between Youth Bulge and Crime Rates

The responses showed how demographic shifts in Epworth, specifically at Domboramwari, mainly the high concentration of young people in a population, can influence crime rates. They rise a of theme or lenses that can explain the relationship which include the, economic, social, political and culture. One of the participants indicated that, *“... One of the primary chauffeurs of crime rates among youth is lack of economic opportunity...”*. This response link with the views of

Grogger (2021), argues that a 20% drop in wages could lead to a 12-18% increase in youth participation in crime, highlighting the sensitivity of young individuals to economic conditions. Economic instability can lead to higher rates of delinquency mostly in regions experiencing a youth bulge (Mastrobuoni and Pavan, 2019).

Political context is another critical factor noted by participants influencing the relationship between youth bulge and crime rates in Epworth. According to Alimi (2020), in regions where young people feel politically sidelined, there is a higher tendency for unrest and criminal behavior. Political disenfranchisement can drive young individuals toward criminal activities as a form of protest or expression of frustration (Pavan 2019). However, the study notes that, in Epworth the political contexts facilitates the relationship of large population of youth and crime rate in different ways. This factor drove youth in to crime through illegal practices, such corruption, because that many youths a well link with the ruling party groups or gangs where they commit crimes and go unpunished. Hence understanding the political context is vital for addressing the root causes of youth crime in areas like Domboramwari which are experiencing a demographic youth bulge.

Respondents suggested that, youth bulge in Domboramwari has strong bond to crime rate because of cultural of violence we have which significantly impact youth behavior. In societies where violence is normalized, young individuals are more likely to engage in criminal activities (Patterson 2024). One of the participants indicates that *“cultural narratives around masculinity and aggression are stimulus youth crime rates in Epworth at large.”* He added *“...cultural factors, such as peer influence and societal expectations, play a crucial role in shaping youth behavior.”* The study notes that, understanding these cultural dynamics is crucial for developing effective interventions aimed at reducing youth crime large youth population areas and is emphasizing the importance of addressing cultural narratives in crime prevention strategies, suggesting that changing societal perceptions can lead to reduced youth crime.

4.5 Socio-Economic Factors Influencing Youth Participation in Criminal Activities

Findings indicated that, they are various socio-economic factors which push youth to actively participate in criminal activities. The following are some of the factors which raised by the participants as push factors for youth to engage in criminal activities in Domboramwari, Epworth.

Poverty is among socio-economic factors that significantly influences youth participation in criminal activities. Young individuals raised in poor communities are often face limited access to basic resources such as nutrition, healthcare, and stable housing, which can lead to feelings of hopelessness and desperation (Agnew, 1992).

One of the participants (police officer) said: *sometimes adolescence are in crimes not because they love to do bad thing, but because of their socio-economic background that accompanies poverty which creates a fertile ground for crime as young people seek alternative means to fulfill their basic needs.*

This argument is in line with view (Levin & Cramer, 2012) who suggested that, the lack of financial stability can push young individuals toward criminal enterprises as a means of survival or social mobility. Agnew (2018) argues in his General Strain Theory, economic strain, especially when coupled with feelings of injustice and anger, significantly increases the likelihood of deviant behavior. The opportunity theory, climax how limited access to genuine means of achieving economic success can lead to the formation of criminal subcultures, where youths adopt illegal methods as a perceived alternative (Cloward and Ohlin 1960).

Lack of education is another factor which plays a pivotal role in predisposing youth to criminal behavior in Domboramwari. Educational attainment is closely tied to employment opportunities, and youths who drop out or do not have attend schools often find themselves with in limited opportunities for stable and well-paying jobs (Murray, 2012). The study noted that, the education institutions play a crucial role in socializing young people into acceptable norms and values, hence when young people disengage from education, they may also disengage from societal norms which may result in anti-social behaviors. Higher levels of education relate with lower crime rates, highlighting the importance of investing in accessible and quality education for all young people (UNESCO (2023). In support to this the researcher noted thy are limited number of schools in Domboramwari, this creates the cycle or generational uneducated people which will result on perpetuation of crimes in the area. Social control theory, argues that attachment to school and belief in conventional values serve as protective factors against delinquency (Hirschi (1969).

The findings notes that, Peer influence is a powerful factor in shaping youth behavior, particularly in the context of criminal activity in Domboramwari. Adolescents are particularly prone to peer pressure as they seek acceptance and validation from their social circles and youths

are more likely to engage in delinquent behavior when they associate with peers who display similar tendencies (Brown, 2004).

One of the respondents (parent) said *“I brought my child to this location in 2013 and he was good and innocent kid, but after catching up with the local, chiefly my neighbors he became a new person, I cannot even leave him alone at the house because he is no longer the person I used to know.”* He added *“criminal behavior is learned through relations with others, particularly within intimate social groups and nobody became a criminal by miracle but they do copy from elsewhere...”*. The correlation between peer groups and criminal involvement can often be reinforced by a desire for status or acceptance, leading individuals to adopt behaviors that they might otherwise reject (Warr, 2002).

The finding demonstrates the great relation between substance abuse and crime rates in youths, as the consumption of drugs and alcohol can harm decision and increase impulsivity. Many young individuals turn to substances as a means of managing stresses that associated with poverty, unemployment, and social exclusion (Bennett et al., 2009). The study has shown that substance abuse can lead to criminal behavior both directly and indirectly, for example, young and unemployed individuals may commit crimes to finance their drug habits or may engage in criminal activities under the influence of drugs. Substance abuse can create a network of lawbreaking, as youths may associate with others who share same habits which leads to increased chances for criminal behavior (Patterson et al., 1998). Friedman (2013), suggested that, the relationship between substance abuse and criminality is complex and it can perpetuate cycles of addiction and crime. The study notes the high rate of pick pocket, shoplifter, and robberies in Domborawari is dedicated to substance abusers. The participants highlighted some of the areas which they do not recommend for anyone to wake alone be it day or night, and those places are populated with young addicts.

Corruption is one of the socio-economic factors which indirectly push or exacerbate youth participation in crime activities in Domborawari, Epworth. When young individuals perceive the law as unjust or biased, they may be more inclined to engage in criminal activities (Klein & Maxson, 2006). However, in Epworth the study notes that corruption in government is the one which turning youth bulge into a case for the community security in Domborawari. Miss management of resources at the top, and all thing like bribery are worsening the economic situation

in Epworth leaving youth with no choice but seek for alternatives. Mungiu-Pippidi (2015), in line with the research findings indicate that, the normalization of corrupt practices can produce an environment where criminal behavior is not only accepted but also encouraged, as individuals seek to cross a system that rewards unethical behavior. Corruption can manifest in several forms such as bribery, nepotism, and abuse of power, leading to a sense of disappointment among youth (Vian, 2008). The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC, 2022) highlighted the link between corruption and organized crime, showing how corrupt officials can facilitate and protect criminal networks. The study notes that youths who witness or experience corruption may lose faith in the rule of law and see crime as a feasible option.

4.6 The Perceptions on Community Security Threats

There respondents were asked about how do they think or understand about community security threats, and they were various themes and definition emerged from their responses which include:

(a). Danger to Safety and Well-Being

The findings indicated that, danger to safety and well-being is essential in understanding community security threats. Individuals often assess their environment based on perceived risks which directly impact their sense of security (Taylor and Brower 2018). According to Gilling (2020), fear of crime can result in behavioral changes, which include; reduced outdoor activity and increased reliance on surveillance measures, ultimately affecting overall community well-being. Here are some of the words from one of the participants to support that “...*the involvement with direct happenstances to crime, disorder, and social vulnerability, specifically in here at Domboramwari, the fear of victimization, whether from petty theft or violent crime, significantly impacts security in Epworth...*”. The feeling of concern and fear even in the absence of direct violence or threats can significantly reduce an individual’s sense of safety (Jackson 2016). The researcher observed that, the perception of community security is deeply rooted in the instant danger to safety and well-being, which encompasses the everyday risks that individuals face within their local environment.

(b). Threats to Personal and National Safety

Personal and national safety another is crucial theme from participants to consider in assessing community security threats. Personal safety concerns are often linked with broader state

security threats such as terrorism or cyber-attacks, creating a complex web of perceived threats which can lead to increased vigilance and anxiety at the community level (Möller and Heitmeyer 2019). However, this study notes that there is no or less terrorist and cyber threats in Epworth, it places its emphasis on political violence which overshadow local crime concerns, leading to a twisted understanding of safety among community members. According to Bigo (2016), the proliferation of surveillance technologies and political shoring's aimed to enhance national security, can increase feelings of insecurity among certain communities.

(c). Risks to Life, Property, and Stability

Participants perceived risks to life, property, and stability community security threats. The implications of crimes such as, theft or violence, extend beyond immediate harm, affecting property values and community stability (Zedner 2020). Another participant said, *“in this are you are lucky if you see the next day and your house if is full of property...”* Communities with weakened social ties are more susceptible to crimes such as robbery, and such events can exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, leading to long-term instability (Anderson 2019). The impact of economic instability (poverty and unemployment) can fuel social unrest and crime which undermines community security (Collier 2017). The findings indicated that high crime rate such as theft, robbery, rape and gang violence mostly buy youths in Domboramware are definitely threats to community security.

(d). Harm or Danger to Individuals or Communities

Another theme perceived as security threat in Domboramwari harm or danger to individuals or communities. According to Cops and Vandeviver (2017), individuals frequently feel endangered not only by criminal activities but also by systemic issues such as poverty and inequality. The study notes that in Domboramwari everywhere you are at, there a potential harm or danger of victimized by crimes, leading to heightened fears and a sense of vulnerability in the community. Smith et al. (2020) suggested that, the media plays a crucial role in shaping public perceptions of danger, often sensationalizing crime and perpetuating fear.

One of the participants said *“if you work around this area especially late ours of the day you will see someone obligating a crime and its normal here, we used to it...”* he added *“because what we experienced here it’s a experience to us, that you must be ready for always as long you are here”*.

The study note that community security perceptions are basically shaped by the experience of harm or danger to individuals or communities which include both direct victimization and vicarious experiences of harm, such as witnessing or hearing about violent crime. Young (2016) explore the concept of inclusive security, highlighting the importance of addressing the various needs and experiences of different community groups. Fair and respectful treatment by law enforcement can enhance feelings of security (Tyler 2015)

(e). Menace to Peace and Public Order

The participants perceive community security threat as are deeply influenced by the menace to peace and public order, which involves a wide range of threats such as civil unrest, political violence, and social disorder. Threats to public order, such as riots or civil unrest, can significantly undermine societal stability (Loader and Walker 2019). One of respondents define community threat as *“injustices whether related to policing or social inequality as long it often triggers violent responses and threatening the peace within societies.”* This argument is in line with Della Porta (2020) who pointed out the impacts of political disagreement and its chances to escalate conflicts, highlighting how community engagement can prevent such outcomes. Historical grievances, increased political polarization and social divisions can contribute to a sense of instability and uncertainty fueling the cycles of violence and conflict impacting community cohesion (Varshney 2012).

4.7 Chapter summary

This chapter presents and analyses the findings delivered from data collection procedures which focuses on the impacts of youth bulge on community security in Epworth, specifically within Domborawari. Findings shows that there is relationship between youth bulge and community security issues. The study also shows that they are various socio-economic factors which forces youth to engage in criminal activities. Fundings also shows that community security threats can be defined in many themes depending on what you have experience as individuals or as community at large. Beyond the factors that influence youth participation in criminal activities, a large youth population also present distinct challenges to community security which potentially exacerbating existing problems.

CHAPTER FIVE:

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATION AND AREAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

5.0 Introduction

This chapter seeks to summarize the key findings from the research study and draw conclusions based on the research questions. It is also going to outline recommendations stemming from the findings. The study investigated the impacts of youth bulge on community security in Epworth, Domboramwari. Through survey questionnaires and semi-structured interviews insights were made on the challenges and opportunities of large youth population to community security and the perceptions of community security threats. The findings provided useful information to address each of the research questions. Conclusions were presented on socio-economic factors which push to youth participate in criminal activities and the relationship between youth bulge and crime rates. In addition to summarizing the study, this chapter reflects on the implications of the results. Recommendations are put forth regarding adjustments to policy environment, resettlement, youth empowerment, and emphasis on skills training. It is hoped these provide a positive attitude towards channeling large proportion of youth in to community prosperity.

5.1 Summary

Chapter one states an introductory remark to the study. The objectives of the study were: to assess the challenges and opportunities of large youth population to community security, to examine the relationship between youth bulge and crime rates, to identify socio-economic factors which push to youth participate in criminal activities and to assess the perceptions of community security threats. The statement of the problem shows the growing population of youth in Epworth, why this is considered a problem to community security and how is it affecting the community security in Epworth, Domboramwari.

Chapter two discuss literature review and theoretical frameworks for the study. The literature gives valuable insights into the research problem, it pointed out that the large proportion of young individuals in a population, presents significant implications for community security in Zimbabwe. it also highlighted that regions with a high concentration of youth often experience heightened tensions, particularly when economic opportunities are limited.

The study employed different theories to support its findings these include: The opportunity theory which provides a valuable framework for understanding the relationship between youth bulge and crime. Social identity theory, also provides additional insights on how group dynamics among youth can impacted on community security. Human security theory which emphasizes the importance of protecting individuals and communities from violence and harm by focusing on the well-being of people rather than just the state. Therefore, the study aimed to investigate the positive and the negative contributions youth bulge community's security.

Chapter three gave an overview of the methodology which was used in the study. The study employed interpretivist research philosophy to understand how individuals' social experiences construct youth in Epworth specifically in Domboramwari. The study was conducted using the exploratory and field research designs to investigate the impacts of youth bulge on community security in Epworth, Domboramwari. This research also used a mixed-methods research approach to allow a comprehensive understanding of the complex relationships between youth bulge, community security and socio-economic factors. The study employed different data collection tools which include survey questionnaires and semi-structured interviews. It also uses both simple random sampling and purposive sampling to improve the validity and reliability of the findings. The target population (respondents) were people aged between 18-35 and were Domboramwari residents.

Chapter four present and analyse the data collected from the findings. There are many themes that emerged in the findings that are going to be discussed further in the conclusions of the study.

5.2.0 Conclusions

To address the research questions the following conclusion were drawn to summarize the findings;

5.2.1. The challenges and opportunities of large youth population to community security.

The findings highlighted the challenges caused by a large youth population to community security which include high unemployment rates, social unrest, increased crime rates, and resource strain. However, the study also identified potential opportunities for community security arising from a large youth population such as economic development through entrepreneurship and the strengthening of community bonds and identity.

5.2.2. The relationship between youth bulge and crime rates.

The research exposes a significant relationship between a large youth population and high crime rates within Epworth. In particular, Domboramwari demonstrates a high incidence of crime, which is strongly linked to its large youth demographic. The presence of a large youth population appears to perpetuate a cycle of criminal behaviors such as drug and substance abuse, theft, robbery, and rape, among others.

5.2.3. Socio-economic factors which push to youth participate in criminal activities.

The findings also indicated that youth involvement in criminal activities is often not a matter of choice, but a last resort driven by various factors. Life in Epworth presents significant challenges for young people due to issues such as unemployment, poverty, lack of educational opportunities, peer pressure, substance abuse, social exclusion, and corruption.

5.2.4. The perceptions of community security threats.

The findings indicate that the concept of community security can be defined through various themes based on social experiences. The Research in Epworth has identified several key themes that define different perception on community security threats. These include: danger to safety and well-being, threats to personal and national security, risks to life, property, and stability, harm or danger to individuals or communities, and threats to peace and public order.

5.3.1 Recommendations.

- Establish community-based youth empowerment centers to address unemployment, lack of education, and social exclusion by provide micro-loans and mentorship for youth-led businesses. These centers should offer skill training, and provide entrepreneurial support to strengthens community bonds and identity which may resulting in a reduction of youth crime by providing alternatives.
- Implement targeted vocational training and entrepreneurship programs by partner with local businesses, civil society and vocational colleges to offer training in in-demand skills. This help to reduces the likelihood of youth turning to criminal activities.
- Improve access to quality education and social services by increasing government funding for schools and colleges. Implement programs (financial assistance program) to address school dropout and partner with NGOs to provide social support to vulnerable families.

- Promote community dialogue and conflict resolution mechanisms by organizing regular community meetings to discuss safety concerns. This helps address perceptions of community security threats, and builds trust and social cohesion.

5.3.2 Recommendations for Further Study

- ✓ An assessment on the livelihoods of unemployed youth in Epworth.
- ✓ An in-depth study on the economic security of the vendor in urban areas.

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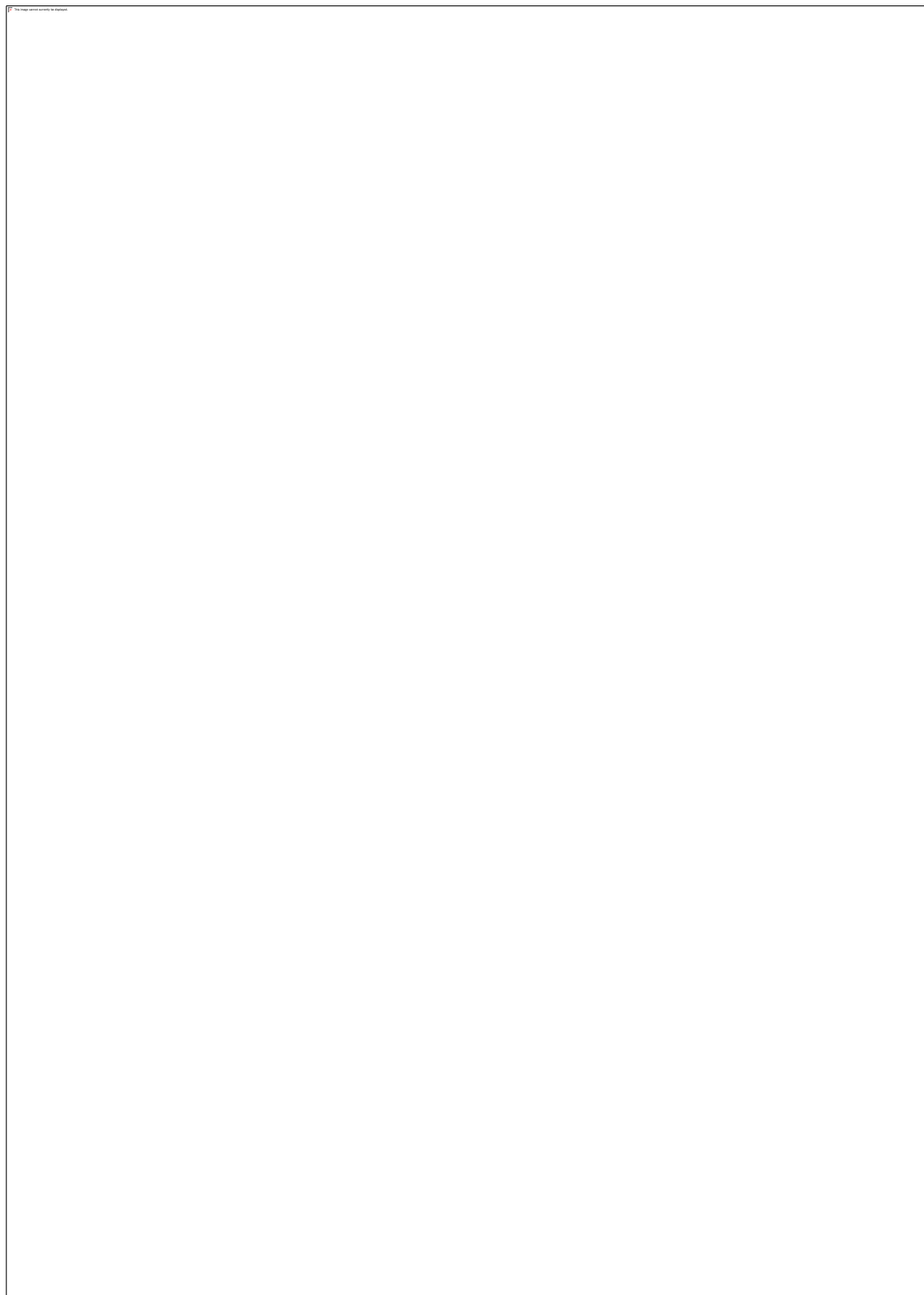
Annexures (one)

Figure 5 *Approval letter for data collection in Domboramwari*

Annexures (two) data collection instruments guide

Questionnaire

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Figure 6 Questionnaire guide

Interview Guide

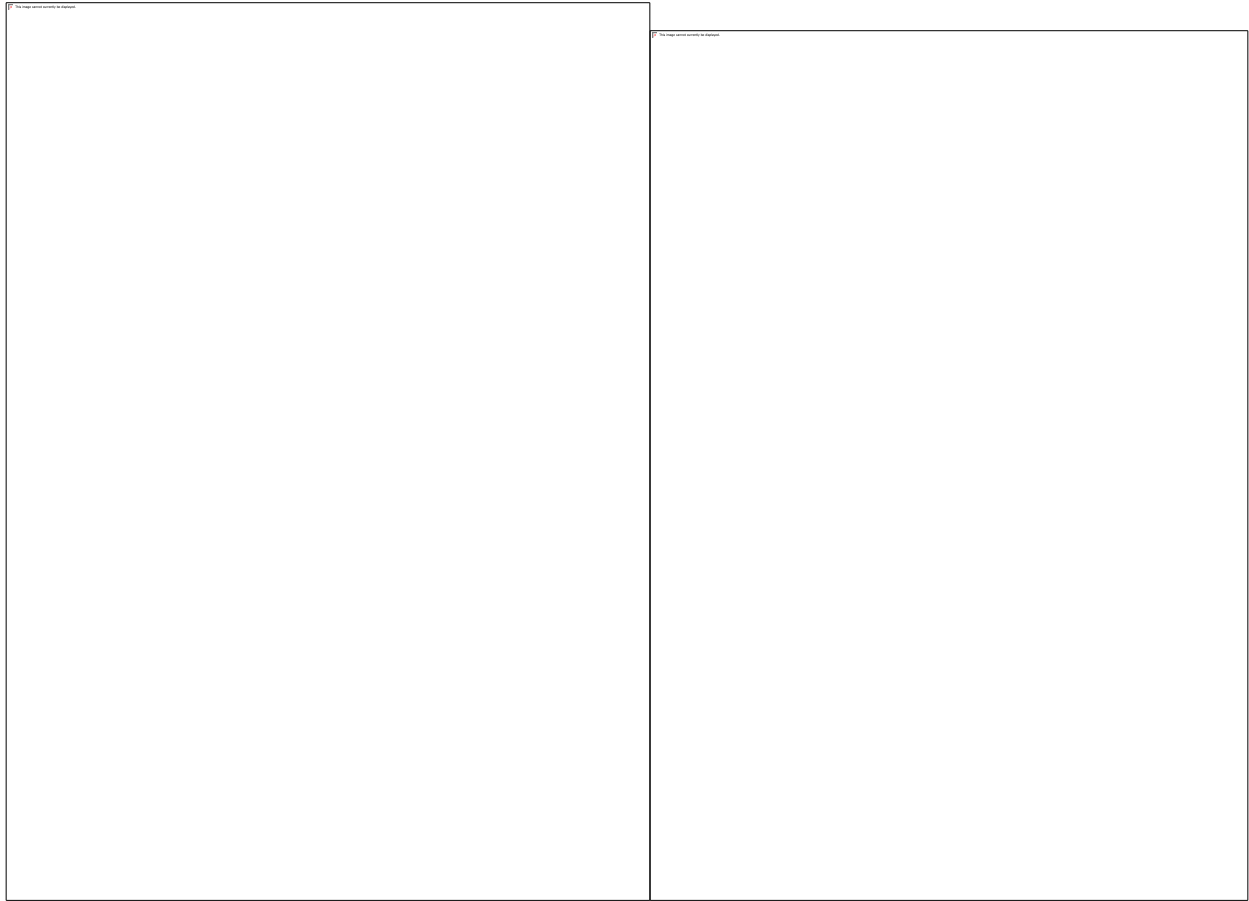


Figure 7 Interview Guide

SIMILARITY REPORT

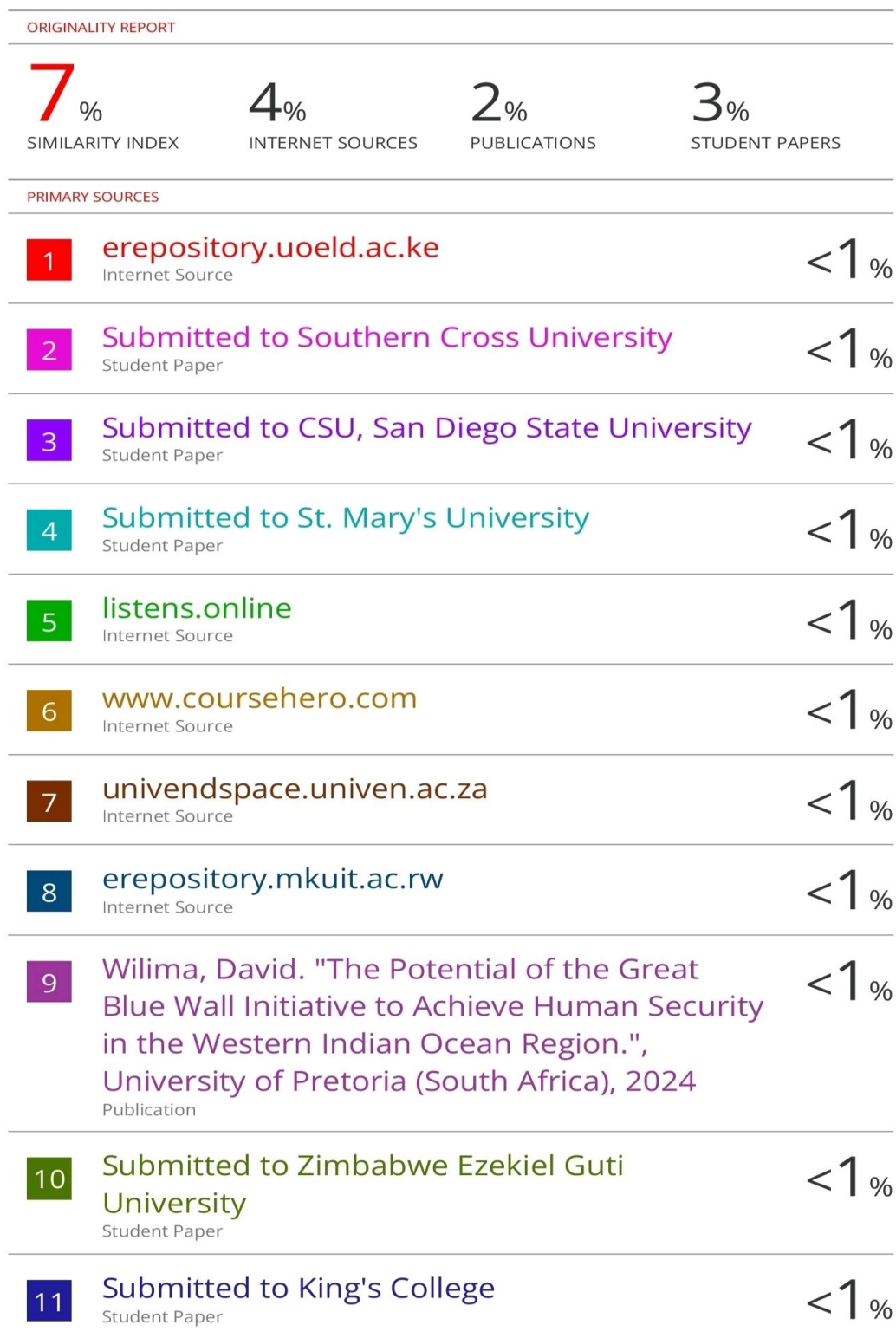


Figure 8 shows a similarity report from Turnitin