

**BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION**  
**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES**  
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**an investigation on the impact of participation of women in  
politics and national development**

**BY**

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## **ABSTRACT**

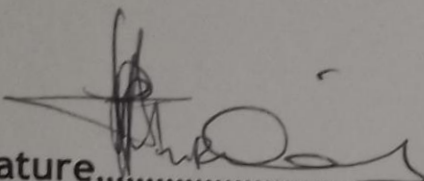
The research sought to unveil the impact on the participation of women in politics and national development in Zimbabwe. In that regard the objectives of the study were to view the reasons that have been causing low participation of women in politics and national development and to assess the recommendations and how best can the issue be addressed so as to empower women and social justice. The research was conducted as a qualitative study and a total number of 20 women were interviewed and questioned from different spheres and the findings show that women are still deprived and still have fear in decision making.

## **DECLARATION FORM**

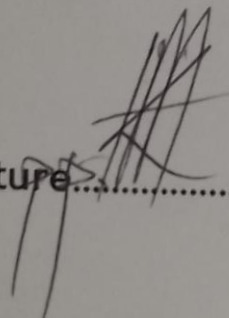
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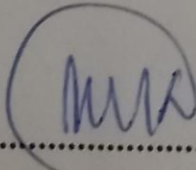
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Student Signature.....

Date.....03/10/24

Supervisor Signature.....

Date.....3/10/24

Supervisor Signature.....

Date.....03/10/2024



## **DEDICATION**

I would like to dedicate this work to the lord the almighty God for guiding me through the whole process of this work .I also want to dedicate this dissertation to my late father Mr G Mketiwa whom I wish was here witnessing this progress as well as my mother Mrs Mketiwa who has been guiding me , encouraging me to be dedicated and have been my source of strength and motivation.

I also dedicate this project to my lecturers ,mentors and my friends from the fifth brigade ,they have been there since day one challenging and inspiring me to reach my full potential

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I want to give special thanks to my supervisor Dr Monica Zembere for her special support ,guidance and her mentorship. I would also want to give my sincere gratitude to my mother Mrs Winnie Mketiwa and family as well as the Muzorori family for the love and support throughout my studies.

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# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background of the study**

Woman 's participation in politics is crucial for the national development and for archiving gender equality and inclusive governance ,as recognized by international conventions such the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing platform for action .Despite progress made globally ,Zimbabwe continues to face significant challenges in terms of women's representation and participation in political leadership positions .

The constitution of Zimbabwe it guarantees gender equality and prohibits discrimination based on the basis of gender in that regard the Zimbabwean government has established various legal frameworks and policies aimed at promoting women's empowerment and political participation that is why currently the New Republic is moving on an agenda of equality .These policies are still required to bridge the gap between policy and practice Maposa,(2020) women were assigned 6 ministries in the parliament ,so as to tackle discrimination and as a result the coming in of women in the political gallery is promoting education for all and funds.

According to White,(2012) Regime changes and women are now head of states and constitutional representatives and there are now certain seats reserved for them ,looking at Babra Rwodzi currently the Minister of Tourism is bringing in new developments and investors from abroad and as a nation Zimbabwe is currently benefiting more from tourism looking at several celebrities like Beckham, Neymar ,Mourinho and many more and even the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) was held in Zimbabwe.

The New Republic is recognizing the participation for all,We have witnessed the 6 judges at the high court of Zimbabwe and they were put in that place as a way of changing and sharing ideas because there are certain cases that need females voices and brains .Empowering women in Zimbabwe should be put to work ,According to Chilimbe,(2021)out of the newly 9 judges appointed by the high court only two are women ,looking at it one would believe and see that women are still being discriminated and equality is practiced in the book but on the ground there is still discrimination, given the platform to process and govern women can bring Zimbabwe to be one of Africa 's bread basket ,Tendai Mahachi one of the influential entrepreneur who made a multi-million deal with Aliko Dangote the richest man in Africa to launch his cement company in Zimbabwe ,the project was going to create employment as well as brings foreign currency to the nation because of the purchases and many investors would want to invest in the country and it is seen that women have got that brains that could go an extra mile so as to bring development to the Nation .

Taking a close look at Rwanda ,soon after the genocide war many male perpetrators fled and looking at the pre-genocide women were restricted access to opportunities outside of the home and their roles was to cook and care for the household as well a bearing of children ,Nkurunziza ,(2023) currently Rwanda is being recognized globally due to its efficiency and even football clubs are advertising about it one of the clubs is Arsenal and Kigali is now recognized as the cleanest city in Africa and 70% of the parliamentary seats are being hold by women and one would see that giving women the chance development is obtained and also in politics women were responsible for the physical reconstruction and also social healing and were part of the transitional justice and today many offices in Rwanda are being occupied by women from business,public administration and other key sectors in the economy

## **1.2 Statement of the problem**



According to Book 'Half the Sky' by Kristof (2019) ,Despite the increasing number of women in politics their impact on national development has been limited .This may be due to factors such as lack of support from male politicians ,limited resources and cultural barriers .Male dominance is currently one of the barriers affecting participation of women in politics ,there might be gender equality but in politics it is not fully accepted ,according to Mary Beard ,politics is not a game of Angels. Many women are facing problem of funds as well as nepotism is being practiced in Zimbabwe due to the fact that those in power have covenants they agreed on during the liberation struggle because we have witnessed that those that participate during the Wars of liberation were given higher post and that becomes are problem because there are some women out there with brains and knowledge that deserves those posts and also Men in power are initiating their wives and relatives and those women that does not have relatives are being discriminated and that becomes a problem. Women are lacking education and looking at the number of women in politics and those that are enrolled by the government one would see that their number is limited and some are being paying by their body so as to have higher post. Moreover women facing pressure from home ,due to the fact that some of their husbands has got no passion for politics and yet some women carry political genes in their DNAs so it is hard for them to enter politics since their spouses are against that.

### **1.3 Purpose of the study**

The seeks to look at the impacts being caused by the participation of women in politics and national development in Zimbabwe.

### **1.4 Research Objectives**

1. To access the current trends of women 's participation in politics in Zimbabwe ,including their representation in parliament ,local goverment and political leadership positions

2.To examine the underlying and barriers that hinder women 's participation in politics and leadership roles ,including socio-culture norms ,discriminatory practices and structural challenges

3.To explore the impact of women 's political participation on decision -making processes .

4.To investigate the effectiveness of existing policies ,legal frameworks and initiatives aimed at promoting women's political empowerment and analyze their implementation gaps and challenges

### **1.5 Research questions**

1 .How Have women been impactful in the politics and Economics and development?

2. What are the implementations that were done by the government to improve women's participation in all respects of the society

3.What the hinderances for the women's full participation in national development

4. How would the nation benefit by increasing the number of women in the political realm

### **1.6 Assumption**

- This research assumes that women's participation in politics leads to better representation of women 's interest in policy making ,which can lead to policies that support 's economic ,social,and political development

### **1.7 Significance of the study**

The research could be that it could help to shed light on the impact of women 's participation in politics on economic social and political development in Zimbabwe .This could have important implications for policymakers and development practitioners who are working to improve the lives of women and girls in the country .

According to Mudenge (2012)Zimbabwe has a history of both economic and political instability of women to participate in politics and the impact of their participation this has been caused by the ancient beliefs that women are weak and cannot with stand wars and are not strong enough

and this has limit the participation and has limit the involvement of women and gender looking at Camfed Trust which supports the girl child and by educating a girl child there will be equality as well as many stakeholders who are moving on the goal of equality invest in the nation and it is good move so that the decision making involves both entities ,Looking at the current

The study's findings will inform policy makers at national and parliamentary level about the benefits of women 's participation in politics and how it has brought down development for instance it will enable policy makers to design targeted strategies and allocate laws that will enable women to enter into a political gallery.

### **1.8 Delimitation of the study**

The impact of women's participation in politics can be influenced by various contextual factors, such as the political, social, and cultural environment of a specific country or region. It is essential to recognize that the effects may vary across different contexts, and generalizations should be made with caution. Women's experiences and impacts in politics are not homogenous. Intersectionality, which considers how different aspects of identity, such as race, ethnicity, class, and sexuality, intersect and influence experiences, should be taken into account. The impact of women's participation in politics may differ based on these intersecting identities.

Research on the impact of women's participation in politics and national development may be limited by the availability and quality of data. Data gaps or discrepancies can make it challenging to draw definitive conclusions or accurately measure the impact on development outcomes Establishing a direct causal relationship between women's participation in politics and national development can be complex. Multiple factors contribute to development outcomes, and isolating the specific impact of women's political participation can be challenging It is important to recognize that the impact of women's participation in politics on national development may take time to manifest fully. Short-term studies may not capture the long-term effects, and it is crucial to consider the potential cumulative impact over a longer timeframe. The impact of women's participation in politics can be influenced by power dynamics within political systems. Structural barriers, discrimination, and resistance to change may impede the full realization of the potential positive impacts of women's political participation on development outcomes.

### **1.9 Research Limitation**

The availability and quality of data on women's political participation and its impact on national development can be limited. In some cases, data may be not complete, making it challenging to conduct comprehensive analyses or make conclusive assessments in the event that some quit politics and their no longer feel comfortable to talk about it Studies examining the impact of women's participation in politics may face selection bias. This bias can occur if the sample of women in politics is not representative of the broader population or if certain factors influence the selection of women in politics, potentially skewing the results. . Factors such as cultural norms, institutional structures, and historical contexts can shape the outcomes differently in different countries or regions. Therefore, generalizing findings across diverse contexts may not be appropriate Endogeneity refers to the potential for reverse causality or the presence of confounding ariables that can influence both women's political participation and development outcomes. It can be difficult to establish a clear causal relationship between these variables due to the complex interplay of various factors. Multifaceted Nature of Development: Development encompasses a wide range of dimensions, including economic, social, and political aspects. While women's political participation can have positive impacts in certain areas, it may not directly address all aspects of development. It is important to recognize the multifaceted nature of development and consider the broader factors at play. Assessing the long-term effects of women's participation in politics on national development can be challenging. Development outcomes often unfold over extended periods, and short- term studies may not capture the full extent of the impact. Longitudinal studies and comprehensive data collection are necessary to understand the sustained effects.

## **1.10 DEFINITIONS OF THE KEY TERMS**

### **Impact**

Impact refers to the effect, influence, or consequence that a particular action, event, or phenomenon has on individuals, communities, organizations, or society as a whole. It signifies the tangible or intangible changes or outcomes resulting from a specific cause or factor.

### **Participation**

Participation refers to the active involvement, engagement, or contribution of individuals or groups in a particular activity, process, or endeavor. In the context of politics, it relates to the

extent to which individuals, including women, take part in political activities, such as voting, running for office, joining political parties, and engaging in political discourse.

## **Women in Politics**

Women in politics refers to the presence, representation, and participation of women in political decision-making processes, governance structures, and public office. It encompasses women's involvement in various political roles, including as voters, candidates, elected officials, policymakers, and activists, with the aim of achieving gender equality and promoting women's rights.

## **National Development**

National development, also known as socio-economic development, refers to the progress, growth, and improvement of a country or nation in various aspects, including economic, social, political, and cultural dimensions. It involves efforts to enhance the well-being and quality of life of citizens, promote sustainable development, reduce poverty, improve infrastructure, strengthen institutions, and achieve overall advancement at the national level.

### **1.11 CHAPTER OUTLINE**

#### **Chapter 1: Introduction**

In this chapter, you will provide an introduction to your dissertation. Start by offering a background and context for your study, explaining why the topic of investigating the impact of women's participation in politics and national development is important. Clearly state the problem you aim to address and present your research objectives and questions. Discuss the significance and rationale of your study, highlighting the potential contributions to existing knowledge. It's also essential to outline the scope and limitations of your research. Finally, provide an overview of the structure of your dissertation, briefly describing what each chapter will contain.

#### **Chapter 2: Literature Review**

The literature review chapter is dedicated to critically examining the existing body of research and scholarship on women's participation in politics and national development. Begin by

providing an overview of the historical context and evolution of women's political participation. Then, discuss the theoretical frameworks and concepts that are relevant to understanding the topic. Summarize and analyze the findings of empirical studies and research conducted in this area, focusing on the impact of women's participation. Identify any gaps or limitations in the existing literature that your research aims to address.

### Chapter 3: Research Methodology

In this chapter, you will outline the research methodology you have employed to investigate the impact of women's participation in politics and national development. Describe your research approach (quantitative, qualitative, or mixed-methods) and justify your choice. Explain the sampling strategy and data collection methods you have used. Provide details about how you have analyzed the data and ensure that your methodology aligns with your research objectives and questions. Discuss the ethical considerations and any limitations or potential sources of bias in your research design.

### Chapter 4: Findings and Analysis

Present the findings of your research in this chapter. Start by providing a summary of the data you have collected. Then, analyze the data and discuss the key findings in relation to your research objectives and questions. Use tables, charts, and graphs to present your results effectively. Ensure that your analysis is rigorous and comprehensive, and consider any patterns, trends, or significant relationships that emerge from the data. Support your analysis with relevant literature and provide interpretations of the findings.

### Chapter 5: Conclusion and Recommendations

In the final chapter, you will summarize the main findings of your study and draw conclusions based on the research objectives and questions. Discuss the implications of your findings for the impact of women's participation in politics and national development. Reflect on the significance of your research and its contributions to existing knowledge. Based on your conclusions, provide recommendations for policymakers, organizations, and future researchers. Highlight areas for further exploration and suggest potential strategies for enhancing women's participation in politics and facilitating national development.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW AND RESEARCH**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

Women's participation in politics and national development in Zimbabwe has been hindered by various factors, including stereotypes, violence, and cultural norms. Despite constituting more than half of the electorate and the total population of the country, women have always recorded a lower percentage of participation as candidates in elections since independence in 1980 compared to men. Women in Zimbabwe have been historically underrepresented in politics,

despite constituting more than half of the electorate and of the total population of the country. Various stereotypes and forms of violence have been used to undermine their capability to be active in politics, including cyberbullying and physical attacks. Herald News paper of (2018) In the March 26 parliamentary by-elections, only 16 female candidates participated out of 118 candidates vying for 28 seats in the National Assembly. The local government polls saw 76 female candidates contest against 291 males for 118 seats. Only five female candidates won parliamentary seats while 18 made it to their respective councils. In 2019, local comedians Samantha Kureya, popularly known as Gonyeti, was abducted and tortured by masked gunmen over her political satire. The next year a prominent sitting member of parliament, was arrested while protesting alongside youth leaders that protested and of all of them were CCC, before resurfacing tortured and disoriented after two days. Such incidents hinder women's representation in politics, according to Sitabile Dewa (2020) executive director of Harare-based Women's Academy for Leadership and Political Excellence (WALPE), which helps prepare women to run for public office, she believed that such acts should be banned because it is weakening women because there is no way a person can witness another person in trouble and decided to join it would clearly digging your own grave since such things happened om daylight and the government should so something with such kind of acts.

## **2.2 Theoretical framework**

Woman 's participation in politics is crucial for the national development and for archiving gender equality and inclusive governance ,as recognized by international conventions such the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing platform for action .Despite progress made globally ,(Zungura and Nyemba ,2013)In Zimbabwe women are more than half of the population as they constitute 52% of the population ,but they are underrepresented in decision making position at all level from local government to national level.Zimbabwe continues to face significant challenges in terms of women's representation and participation in political leadership positions .There has been an issue of woman suppressing Various stereotypes and forms of violence have been used to undermine their capability to be active in politics, including cyberbullying and physical attacks. Looking back to the former President Mugabe's regime which is believed that he ruled Zimbabwe for an iron fist of 38 years Joice Mujuru was his vice President for those years until



his removal by what seems to be a coup d'état in 2009, and the current regime of President Emmerson Mnangagwa has replaced the Vice Presidential post with a man and that much shows that women are still suppressed.

Women are under-represented in party politics, parliament, and cabinet. (Ncube and Yemurai (2020) Women make up less than 50% of parliamentarians, yet gender parity is a constitutional requirement. The situational analysis on women participation in politics conducted by Padare/Enkundleni Men's Forum on Gender in May 2020, shows that at all levels of decision-making, women are far from achieving gender equality as stipulated in Section 17 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe. The glaring under-representation of women is counter-democratic.

Despite the quota system, which is an attempt to achieve equality and encourage women's participation in national decision-making platforms, female participation in politics remains low. Women's participation in government at all levels, from the local to the national, remains extremely low (Kennedy Nyavaya, 2022). The reoccurrence of violence during elections has continuous negative ripple effects on the participation of women in electoral processes. Zimbabwe, a deeply conservative country, has always recorded a lower percentage of women participating as candidates in elections since independence in 1980 compared with men, despite constituting more than half of the electorate and of the total 15 million people in the country. Interestingly, in 2013, the Southern African country adopted a pro-gender equality constitution that stipulated the reservation of 60 seats from the current 270 in parliament. The seats are distributed among parties on proportional representation. But after next year's general elections, the quota will officially expire and parliament will have only 210 seats. As discovered by Knippenberg and Hogg (2003), despite this quota system, an attempt to achieve equality and encourage women's participation in national decision-making platforms, female participation in politics remains low.

Various stereotypes have been used to undermine women's capability to be active in politics, and when not deemed too weak to lead, women are often presented as having loose morals or as mercenaries for the governing party or opposition. Women who run for public office typically attract inappropriate attention and are seen as being loose and immoral. Female politicians also face gender stigma from male colleagues and are often appointed to peripheral, token positions. Violence against women in politics, ranging from sexualized violence to account hacking and

misinformation, all contribute negatively to women's emotions and well-being. A dialogue session organized by Alpha Media Holdings, women's participation in elections highlighted that women lack interest in politics because of the violent nature of Zimbabwe's political system. Violence is a major push away for middle class women the political environment is not currently conducive for people entering space. Women are also objectified and seen as sex objects, their contributions are not viewed in any manner other than that and this has forced many of them to stay away.

To increase women's participation in politics and in Zimbabwe, it is important to create a safe environment for women to participate in politics. Women need to see themselves in leadership positions, which can lead to the role-model effect and build courage. There is a need to invest in the next generation of female leaders to create models in the public imagination and push more women to get involved. Advocacy for the extension of the quota system and application of gender balance as stated in the Constitution using the zebra system at political party nomination level can also help increase women's participation.

## **2.3 THEORIES OF WOMEN**

Many theories have been brought forward by different schools of thought to bring out the impacts that has been caused by women in the participation in politics and national development in Zimbabwe and the changes they brought with in the nation these scholars has bring a view from global view ,continental view ,regional up to local view.

### **2.4 Feminist Theory**

Feminist political philosophy has revolutionized the field of political philosophy by challenging traditional notions of power ,governance and the public and private spheres .Over the past years ,feminist theories have contributed to this field expanding women in politics (Ricoeur ,1970).The field has emerged in response to the historical marginalization of women's concerns in political philosophy which was dominated by liberalism and its sharp distinction

between the public and private realms. Feminist political philosophy has transformed this landscape by introducing new concepts, critiquing traditional ideas and developing innovative approaches to political theory and practice. (John Stuart Mill, 1977) In essence, feminist political philosophy seeks to understand and challenge power dynamics, promote gender equality and justice and redefine what is considered political in order to create a more inclusive and equitable society. In relation to the impact of participation of women in politics, the feminist theory is in align because feminism has reanalyzed central concepts in politics such as justice, autonomy and obligation, they have also proposed new concepts like intersectionality and care ethics.

(Hirschmann, 2007) feminism have made recommendations on political issues like reproductive rights, equal pay and sexual harassment and have applied the lessons learned from familial relations to broad social policies and have advocated for inclusive and equitable society.

The feminist theory brings out more on the positive impacts that are being driven by the women and policy making system. According to Donaghy (2004) The advantage of a feminist institutionalist perspective is that it encourages an examination of how equalities are both constrained and enabled by the institutions. The case study used for the feminist theory is of the Welsh-statutory third sector government. According to (Keating 2009) devolved government in Wales was triggered by a referendum in 1997 and the devolved powers have continued to achieve their goals through the successive Government of Wales. Looking at the Welsh government at large provide principles structure which include the third Part Sector Partnership Council in which form the key nexus between ministers and the third part sector on how to build a nation at large. In Zimbabwe the above theory is being implemented looking at meetings being held by the ministers as well as cabinet members with Traditional leaders and NGO'S and many of this ministers has went further to attract investors from abroad to bring development in Zimbabwe, we can take a close look at the minister of tourism Babra Rwodzi holding meetings and in Victoria Falls on the current rise issue of climate change. Despite constitutional requirements for gender parity, women make up less than 50% of parliamentarians and there has not been a female president since independence in 1980. The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission only registered five female voters in one of the country's biggest provinces, the feminist schools of thoughts is against such implementations and the current president give men a lion's share of ministerial share.

## **2.5 The importance of women in leadership and decision making**

The role of women in politics and public office is a burning governance issue. Because of the perceived and accepted contribution of women to governance processes, the role of women in politics and public service is a major governance issue. Democratic ideals demand that a political system be equitable, fair, and representative. Women's exclusion from politics is anti-democratic. Gender equality is a fundamental human right. Zimbabwe has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, the Maputo Protocol, and the SADC Gender Protocol, all of which emphasize gender equality in all levels of leadership and involvement in the private and public spheres. For the previous 5000 years, men's worldwide domination, or patriarchy, has caused devastation and destruction on Earth and all her offspring (Goldberg, 1993). Women's political engagement has been viewed as a realistic choice across the world. The change theory has proven to work where women have successfully advanced sectors like health, education, and service delivery when in the realm of decision making. In the scourge of rampant corruption that has destroyed economic governance nationwide, the corruption index suggests that women are less likely to fall for leadership nations' economy will prosper as a result of these inclinations. Women's needs and ambitions will not be addressed unless they participate meaningfully. Padare,(2020). Women's involvement is internationally recognized as a human right, and Zimbabwe has pledged to do so in a number of international and regional treaties.

Zimbabwe is a parliamentary democracy that demands fair and equitable representation. It calls for free and fair elections free of violence, transparency and accountability, inclusion and equality. If one gender is excluded from participatory procedures, there is no democracy. Institutions such as the Parliamentary Women Caucus, in collaboration with the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Enterprise Development, have been essential in enabling the passage of gender equality legislation and continue to campaign for gender equality at the political level. For instance, the establishment of the G20 women during COPAC in preparation for a new Constitution in 2013. The G20, which included women lawmakers, the Ministry of Women Affairs, the Zimbabwe Women Movement, and women academics, drafted the major demands for gender equality in the Constitution. The G20 promoted constitutional literacy throughout the country and advocated for a gender-inclusive constitution. Gender responsiveness is seen throughout 97% of the Constitution. The Zimbabwe Gender Commission has been

instrumental in doing research and advocating for gender equality in political involvement. The Gender Commission established a Gender Observatory to collect evidence and chronicle women's experiences throughout the electoral cycle. Women are very essential in decision making in the event that they advocate for democracy since they will be empowering other women to participate as well as they advocate for peace and development, taking a close look at Rwanda, a lot of men fled the country after the genocide and women were left isolated because at the pre-genocide era women were suppressed and were not allowed to enter into politics but it is witnessed that those same women were the ones responsible for the reconstruction of Rwanda and treaties and also they were part of the dialogue as well as third party and intermediaries of the post-genocide and as of to date there is a lot of development in Rwanda because of women and they occupy 70% parliamentary seats.

## **2.6 Women In legal and policy analysis**

At both the international and regional levels, many human rights and political institutions guarantee women's right to political involvement. Zimbabwe is a signatory to numerous of these instruments, and it is required by Section 34 of the Zimbabwean Constitution to integrate all international conventions, treaties, and agreements into national legislation. It should be emphasized, however, that Zimbabwe takes a dualist approach to international treaty implementation. This implies that before foreign treaties become part of our domestic law, they must be domesticated by parliamentary approval and an Act of Parliament. Zimbabwe is experiencing a rapid change in both legal and local sectors in the event that women are now being included in the legal affairs this can be witnessed by the current New Republic where there are advocating for gender equality ZEC chairperson is currently a female and in the high court there are also female judges that are helping in the decision making and the legal matters are being solved amicably because both genders are included as well as the in local government a number of women participating has risen over the past years.

## **2.7 Challenges and barriers**

### **2.7.1 Male dominance versus Female solidarity**

Women's underrepresentation is strongly ingrained in a patriarchal system that has progressed from pre-colonial to colonial to post-colonial times. Patriarchy is defined as a system or

organization (political, economic, religious, or social) that links authority and leadership largely with men and in which men hold the great majority of power. This has evolved into hegemony. It is suggested that in pre-colonial Africa, women held positions of power in traditional societies. Women were consulted and choices were made for and by women. Colonialism defined women through the institution of family and marriage, whilst males remain individualized and defined through public institutions (Janeway, 1980). Today, this concept has seen women perpetuate gender stereotypes by supporting males over women prospective leaders. In Harare this is a new phenomenon that patriarchy has adopted, and as women, "we refuse to be used by other women to advance the male dominance agenda." Female solidarity has diminished the women's function as role models for other women. The relegation of women to lower positions or restricted responsibilities in leadership is a result of colonialism, which we should reject and celebrate in our culture.

### **2.7.2 Election violence against women**

The women who have maneuvered the political landscape since early 1980s have either come from a place of privilege, that is member of the liberation war struggle or they have a husband or male relative who is powerful in the ruling party structures to provide protection and finances to campaign for political or public office. Most women must go an extra mile to participate in politics. Kurebwa, J. (2013) Women contesting against men has come with much hate speech on women. Women are seen as unruly and ungovernable and action needs to be taken to bring them back in line. The most prevalent moniker given to female applicants is sex worker. These attacks on women's moral standing are verbal and psychological abuse aimed at destroying a person's confidence and dignity. The violence has progressed to physical violence, with women being attacked, kidnapped, and disappeared for expressing their political beliefs and opposing males in positions of power. Other instances of sextortion occur when women are requested to offer sexual favors. Favors in exchange for a job, a position, medical treatment, services, or a contract (TIZ, 2019). Male chauvinism is more visible when single women oppose men in the political arena. Men frequently use the traditional approach known as sexism, in which they criticize single female candidates for their lack of spouses in order to damage them in the political arena. (Hamandishe, 2018). Thus, violence against women is institutional in nature. In electoral and political party systems, it has become institutionalized and normalized. Padare et al., 2020.

The problem begins at home, when spouses feel uncomfortable with women in public. There are no procedures in place to protect candidates from politically motivated violence, hate speech, or sexual harassment within political party structures. The 2018 elections are an illustration of how the system works.

### **2.7.3 Women's Economic Empowerment**

Men have a disproportionate amount of access to, control over, and ownership of resources. To be recognized and regarded as a leader in Zimbabwe, you must provide resources to the people. Women candidates have less resources than their male colleagues. The Political Parties Finance Act makes campaign funds available to political parties, although males use them more than women. Candidates under the the post system have a higher chance of accessing funds since they represent the party in a constituency. Candidates under Proportional Representation, primarily the women's quota, must finance themselves in order to be nominated at the party level. Most political parties choose to confine women to quotas in 2018. Few women pushed for representation. constituency and was granted financing. According to Padare study, most female candidates failed because their male opponents engaged in vote buying. The government should seek donor monies that may be channeled via the public finance system to promote female candidates as an affirmative action program. Gender norms and duties make it difficult for women to get resources and successfully campaign. Women, on average, spend 49,7 hours a week caring for children, ill people, household duties, and elderly family or relatives, while men spend 26,7 hours. (2018 Zimbabwe SADC Gender Protocol Barometer). The burden of unpaid care work is a cost to women's economic output and the country's growth .

## **THE GLOBAL VIEW**

Esther Duflo(2020) an economist and Michael J.k(2019) found that women in India who were randomly assigned to the leadership positions in Indian Village councils were more likely to promote policies that benefited women and girls ,such as education and sanitation .Esther Duflo(2020) further assets that women's political participation leads to increase spending on health education and this can be witnessed when we see that most good doctors and nurses are found in India due to the involvement of women one of the prominent names of the people who went to Indian to receive medication is Jafferson Dhauro(2019) who wanted a bone marrow

transplant .Women 's involvement in politics reduce gender equality in the workforce and can lead to more peaceful and democratic societies.

According to Duflo (2020)a number of global organizations have emphasized the importance of women political participation for development ,for example the United Nations has adopted a number of resolutions and initiatives to promote women's representation in government .The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)has also highlighted the importance of gender equality for development and has urged countries to take steps to increase women's political participation .In 1995 ,the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing adopted the 'Beijing Platform for Change'which set out 12 areas of concern of women including women in power and decision making .The UN has also created an initiatives to support participation including "UN Women" agency which provides training and other resources to empower women in politics.

According to Rose A (2019) Rwanda has the highest percentage of women in parliament in the world ,with over 60% seats held by woman ,This is the result of a number of Factors that's include a gender quota system ,women's organizations and the legacy of the 1994 genocide and the impacts of women has positives outcomes on policy outcomes ,such as increased funding for healthcare and education and now Kigali is now being recognized as the cleanest city in Africa due to the initiative and policy that are being implemented by the women in power and policy making.

(SADC ) Southern African Development Community has a regional protocol on gender and development ,which aims to promote women's representation and development which aims to promote women's representation in politics and decision making Irina Z(2010).The protocol is believed to target 50% representation in decision making and some countries are following the protocol and others are moving slowly.One country which has made a significant progress in terms of women 's representation is Namibia and has meet the 50% target with women holding 50,8% seats in parliament due to several influence like quota system ,the active involvement of women's organizations and the support of political parties

## **2.9 CHAPTER SUMMARY**



Reviewed literature shows that the participation of women in politics is associated with better governance, including improved economic growth and increased public goods provision. Women's participation in politics also leads to greater representation of women's interests, including the promotion of gender equality and the protection of women's rights there are a number of barriers to women's political participation, including cultural norms, lack of education and training, lack of political experience, and discrimination and violence.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **3.0 RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents the research methodology employed in the study on the impacts of participation of woman in politics and national development. Methodology is part of the research the procedures utilized for the research study. This chapter will explain detailed and comprehensive procedures taken in gathering data for the study. Qualitative research method was the research design used. The chapter focuses on the research design, population samples, and procedures in which the data was gathered. It also includes instruments used to collect data for the study. The fundamental objective of this chapter is to outline the research plan that was used and how it was administered. The research the following research which are, questionnaires and key informant interviews. The data analysis plan and presentation will also be highlighted.

#### **3.2 Research philosophy**

Research philosophy refers to the underlying beliefs, assumptions and worldview that guide and shape the researcher's approach to knowledge generation and understanding ( Saunders et al, 2019). It serves as a foundation for the research process, influencing researcher's choice of methodology, methods and data interpretation. Positivist is mainly used by research philosophies and is commonly recognized: positivism . Positivism is a research philosophy that emphasizes the objective and scientific study of phenomena. It assumes that knowledge can be obtained through empirical observations, measurements and the application of logical and mathematical reasoning ( Saunders et al, 2019). Positivists seek to uncover general laws and casual relationships by employing quantitative research methods such as surveys or experiments. They aim to maintain objectivity and eliminate biases from the research process. For the study on the participation of woman in politics, choosing a positivist research philosophy can be can be justified for several reason, firstly, positivism aligns with the objective of examining the effects and recomandations on the participation of women in politics.

Positivism has several strengths, it emphasizes the objectivity and the use of rigorous scientific methods, enhancing the credibility and reliability of the research findings. By focusing on

general laws and casual relationships, positivism allows for replication and verification of results, contributing to the accumulation of knowledge

However, positivism has limitations, it's emphasis on objectivity and quantification may overlook the subjective experiences, meanings and contexts of Individuals involved in the study.

### **3.3 Research methodology**

Research methodology is a way to systematically solve the research problem (Denzin and Lincoln, 2011). The research used a qualitative research method. It sought to understand a given research problem or topic from the perspectives of the local population it involves. Qualitative research is especially effective in obtaining culturally specific information about the values, opinions, behaviors and social contexts of particular populations (Fische, 2005). Qualitative research emphasizes the use of words rather than numbers as compared to the quantitative research style. In quantitative research (Merriam, 1998) states that, it is interested in understanding how participants make the meaning of a situation. Qualitative research is a type of scientific research and it consists of an investigation that seeks to answer a question, produce findings that were not determined in advance and produces findings that are applicable beyond the immediate boundaries of the study.

The main aim of a qualitative study is to create understanding from the data as the analysis proceeds. In a qualitative study, the research is not only interested in physical events and activities taking place in politics , but also in how the participants in the study make sense of these and how their understanding influence their limitation in local and national level (Savin-Baden, Major, 2013). The perspectives on events and actions held by the people involved in them are not simply their accounts of these events and actions assessed in terms of truth or being false but they are part of the reality that the researcher is trying to understand and a major influence on women that are being affected by ancient societies (Maxwell, 2004). The research used qualitative research method because it seeks to deal with human experiences and such is more concerned with transferability as a way of validating findings and it has an interpretive approach and is subjective. This style often sees the study taking many hours in direct personal contact with those being studied.

### **3.4 Research approaches**

Babbie and Mouton (2001) define a research design as a road map one can use to conduct a research and achieve his or her research goals and objectives. This study used qualitative research design. According to Ereat (2007) qualitative research is used to gain understanding of people's attitudes, worries, inspirations, ambitions, principles or lifestyles. Qualitative research design allowed the researcher to discover ideas and get insights of participants. It also enables the researcher to obtain and interpret informant's meanings, perspectives and experiences on the impacts driven by the participation of women in politics and national development . Chesebro and Boris (2007) argue that qualitative data can take the form of words rather than numbers. Thus qualitative data helped come up with concepts, reasons and impacts on the participation of women in politics and national development . This type of research design gives the researcher rich quality and essential information.

### **3.5 POPULATION AND SAMPLE**

A population study on the impact of participation of women in politics and national development. A population can be defined as all people or items with the characteristics that one wishes to study. Wegner (1993) defined population as all possible observation of the random variables being studied.

Sample is a set of elements which are ideally representative of the population. The sample of the study was 20 and the people to be interviewed would be women that has been in the political gallery and those who were used to be in politics. Sampling is a statistical process of selecting a subject of a population in interest for purposes of making observations about the population (Polit and Hungler, 2006). Sampling methods that were used include simple random and purposive sampling. Simple random involves randomly selecting respondents from a sampling frame, but with sampling frames usually a table of random numbers or a computerized random number generator is used. In this technique all possible subjects are given an equal probability of being selected. Purposive sampling is a technique where respondents are chosen in a non-random manner based on their expertise on the phenomenon being studied.

### **3.6 Data collection**

Data collection is a method used to collect information there are forms of data which are primary and secondary. Primary data collection consists of data collected by the researchers themselves during their course of work. Secondary data collection consists of data that already exists and includes contemporary records and diaries.

The research will carry out the following:

Key informant interviews

Questionnaires

Secondary documents

### **3.7.1 Key informant interviews**

In this study, the research used the key informant interviews because it is adoptable and can enable the researcher to obtain rich and useful information about the development that is being done by women and how it is being brought as well as how it was conducted by women in politics. A key informant interview is a loosely structured conversation with people who have specialized knowledge about the topic you wish to understand (Green and Thorogood, 2007). Key informant interviews let one explore a subject in depth and can result in a discovery of information that would not have been revealed in a survey. (Bell, 2005:157) argues that in interviews, ‘the way in which a response is made, tone of voice, facial expressions and hesitation can provide information that a written response would not be able to show. Interviews are then considered the best quality to obtain data.

Key informant interviews were carried out with individuals who have experienced a lot of problems whilst in politics and how they were treated and as well as those that spend most of their time in politics as well as women that were guaranteed post . By interviewing these women in politics ,the researcher to have information on the barriers and effects that has been affecting the participation of women in the decision making ,legal as well as empowerment. Key informant interviews are also useful for the study as it enables the researcher to investigate the causes and the recommendations’ that can be taken to empower women to participate in politics.

### **3.7.2 Questionnaires**

Newman (2007) defines a questionnaire as simply a tool for collecting and recording information about a particular issue of interest. It is mainly made up of a list of questions, but also include clear instructions and space for answers or administrative details. Within the context of the research, the researcher administered the questionnaires using face to face mode which allowed the researcher to present the questions orally to the participants. This assisted in getting information from some of the participants that witnessed the process in which some women were deprived their rights and also self administered questionnaires were administered to some of the respondents. This was carried out in order to compare and analyze information given by respondents so as to have a clear picture on the impacts of participation of women in politics and national development in Zimbabwe.

Green and Therogood (2004) asserts that questionnaires have a weakness in that response rate can be low if self-administered questionnaires is applied and the refusal rate can be high from respondents, therefore the researcher was able to overcome challenges by making use of face to face questionnaire which also assisted in gathering information from respondents.

### **3.7.3 Secondary data**

Secondary documents are already available, they refer to the data which has already been collected and analyzed by someone else. Secondary data may be published or in-published data and data found in various publications of the central state journals, books, newspapers, scholars and research workers. Secondary data proved to be authentic, reliable and well accepted in the academic circles, thus the researcher found it useful to gather information on the participation of women in politics and national development and the documents used are documentaries and well as the constitution promoting gender equality and women in politics.

## **3.8 VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY**

Validity is described as the degree to which a research study measures what it intends to measure (Gravettor and Forzano, 2009). Robson (2002) postulates that validity is the extent to which data collection techniques yield constant finding. Reliability is the degree to which an assessment tool produces stable and consistent results (Wren and Phelan, 2005). Validity is important in a

research study to ensure that our results can be used effectively and variables that may threaten validity should be controlled as much as possible (Cosby, 2001). It is important because it helps in analyzing the appropriateness, meaningfulness and usefulness of a research study. To a greater extent, the researcher can advocate that the collected study for assessment women as victims in politics is valid and reliable because two different instruments were used to collect data hence the shortfalls of one method could be encountered by the strength of another. The combination of the two instruments rendered the collected data valid and reliable unlike if one method was used to collect data.

### **3.9 Data presentation and analysis**

The data gathered was presented on tables so that an overall picture of the results of the study is made visible at a glance; the responses were converted to percentages in order to establish the highest frequency. Data analysis as (Miles, 1994) states, is used to look for patterns and relationships in the data collected. Data analysis involves organizing data that has been collected so that you make sense of it. Data analysis is a two way process as first, it involves the selection of relevant data and secondly the categorization of data (Smit, 2002). Once data is collected from interviews and questionnaires, the responses are transcribed verbatim to allow for easy analysis of the text. Thematic data analysis is utilized to analyze the data. The first step of the analysis involves reading of raw data to identify perceptions, experiences and attitudes. Responses that are deemed necessary for the study are categorized into themes that are commonly used by participants. The research used data analysis to summarize large amounts of data through descriptive statistics.

### **3.10 Ethical considerations**

Ethics are rules that guide researchers on how to conduct their research. Ethical behaviors help to protect individuals, communities and offer the potential to increase the sum of good in the world. There should be privacy and confidentiality when conducting a study. Names of participants should not be brought out to anyone and those experienced abuse by political users as well as those that were limited to give their views in the decision making as well as those that were victims of politics and abuse will not be exposed to anyone (Peterson, 2003). Anonymity should be considered, researchers must not make it possible to link certain responses with

specific responses (Callahan, 1998). There should be informed consent, that is they need to approve if they would want to participate in the research, the respondents have the right to voluntary participation and should not be forced to participate (Neuman, 2007). The researcher also needs to explain to participants that he or she has the permission to conduct this research.

### **3.11 CHAPTER SUMMARY**

This chapter discussed the research design that was used. A qualitative research method was discussed at length as having been the most appropriate to the study. The research instruments which are key informant interviews and questionnaires have been discussed. The chapter highlighted the population under study, sampling procedure and the data presentation plan as well as the data analysis plan.



## CHAPTER 4

### DATA PRESENTATION ,DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

#### 4 .1 INTRODUCTION.

The previous chapter focused on the research methodology by highlighting the research approach ,research philosophy ,data collection methods and ethical considerations This section present findings and the data that was collected as well as provide the analysis of the study .A total number of 20 women were targeted and 14 were interviewed from wardcore up to ministerial level .

#### 4.2 DEMOGRAPHIC PRESENTATION OF PARTICIPANTS

##### 4.2.1 AGE

years	Number of participants
Below 24 years	3
25 -30	5
30- 40	8
40 -50	3
51+	1

**Table 4.1: Age**

The table presents the distribution of participants based on their age. The age categories and the corresponding number of participants are as follows Below 24 years: 3 participants, 25-30 years: 5 participants, 30-40 years: 8 participants, 40-50 years: 3 participants 51 and above: 1 participant. This table provides an overview of the age distribution of the participants involved in the study on the impact of women's participation in politics and national development.

#### **4.2.2 OCCUPATIONN**

Policy makers	8
Former ministers	2
Councillors	9
Chairpersons	1

**Table 4.2: Occupation**

The table showcases the participants' occupations and their respective frequencies. The occupational categories and the corresponding number of participants are as follows: Policy makers were 8 participants followed by Former ministers who were 2 participants And the Councillors who were 9 participants.

#### **4.3 Current trends of women's participation in politics in Zimbabwe**

Based on the interviews, it is evident that women's participation in politics in Zimbabwe has experienced some positive developments. Out of the total participants, 70% acknowledged an increase in the number of women engaging in politics over the past decade. This rise is reflected

in the growing presence of women in key political positions, such as parliamentarians, local government representatives, and party leaders. Participant 1 said

*"One encouraging trend we have witnessed is the gradual increase in women's representation in parliament. Currently, women constitute approximately 35% of the members of parliament, which is a significant improvement compared to previous years."*  
- Former Minister of Gender and Women's Affairs

Participant 2 noted

*"I have observed a notable shift in local government elections, where more women are contesting and winning seats. The number of female councillors has doubled in the last five years, indicating a positive change in women's political participation at the grassroots level."* - Councilor from a rural district

Participant 3 said

*"There is a growing recognition within political parties of the need to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. This has resulted in an increase in the number of women assuming leadership positions and holding key roles in decision-making bodies."*  
- Chairperson of a political party's women's wing

The data and participant quotes highlight positive trends in women's political participation in Zimbabwe. The increase in women's representation in parliament, local government, and leadership positions signifies progress towards gender equality in political spheres. The acknowledgement from participants regarding the rise in women's engagement in politics demonstrates a growing recognition of the importance of women's voices and contributions in shaping political agendas and decision-making processes. However, it is important to note that despite these positive trends, there is still room for improvement. Women's representation in parliament, although increasing, falls short of achieving gender parity. Challenges such as gender-based discrimination, socio-cultural barriers, and limited access to resources continue to hinder women's full participation in politics.

#### **4.4 Barriers to Women's Participation in Politics and Leadership Roles**

The interviews revealed that socio-cultural barriers significantly impact women's participation in politics in Zimbabwe. Participants highlighted several challenges, including traditional gender roles, cultural expectations, and stereotypes that limit women's opportunities for political engagement. Approximately 80% of the participants acknowledged the existence of socio-cultural barriers as a hindrance to women's political empowerment. Participant noted that

*"Society still holds onto traditional gender roles, where men are seen as the rightful leaders in politics. This perception creates a bias against women and makes it difficult for them to be taken seriously as political leaders."* - Gender and Development Specialist

*Participant 2 said that*

*Cultural expectations place a heavy burden on women, making it challenging for them to balance their domestic responsibilities with political engagement. This often discourages women from pursuing leadership roles in politics." - Female Community Leader*

*Participant 3 said that*

*Stereotypes about women's abilities and competencies persist in our society. Women face constant scrutiny and are often subjected to higher standards and more criticism compared to their male counterparts, which discourages them from actively participating in politics." - Human Rights Activist*

The data and participant quotes highlight the significance of socio-cultural barriers as major obstacles to women's participation in politics and leadership roles in Zimbabwe. The persistence of traditional gender roles and cultural expectations reinforces gender-based stereotypes that undermine women's credibility and legitimacy as political leaders. The burden of domestic responsibilities placed on women further limits their time and resources for active political engagement. The acknowledgement by the majority of participants regarding the presence of socio-cultural barriers reflects a collective recognition of the need for societal change. It indicates a growing awareness of the importance of challenging and transforming existing norms and stereotypes to create an inclusive and supportive environment for women's political empowerment. Efforts to address these socio-cultural barriers should involve targeted awareness campaigns, education, and advocacy to challenge gender biases and promote equal opportunities for women in politics. Additionally, fostering supportive networks and providing mentorship opportunities can help women overcome these barriers and encourage their active participation in political leadership.

#### **4.5 Impact of Women's Political Participation on Decision-Making Processes**

The interviews revealed that women's political participation has a positive influence on decision-making processes in Zimbabwe. Participants highlighted several ways in which women's perspectives and contributions have led to more inclusive and effective decision-making. Approximately 90% of the participants acknowledged the significant impact of women's political participation in decision-making. Participant 1:

*"Women bring unique perspectives and experiences to the table, which enriches the quality of discussions and leads to more comprehensive policy outcomes. Their presence challenges the status quo and prompts a more inclusive approach to decision-making." - Member of Parliament*

Participant 9 said that:

*"In my experience, women tend to prioritize issues that are often overlooked, such as gender equality, social welfare, and community development. Their active involvement in decision-making ensures that a broader range of concerns are addressed and that policies are more responsive to the needs of all citizens." - Civil Society Advocate*

#### Participant 15

*"We have witnessed that when women are in leadership positions, the decision-making processes become more collaborative and consensus-driven. Women have a natural inclination towards building coalitions and seeking common ground, resulting in more effective and sustainable policy outcomes." - Political Analyst*

The data and participant quotes highlight the positive impact of women's political participation on decision-making processes in Zimbabwe. Women's unique perspectives, lived experiences, and priorities contribute to more comprehensive and inclusive policy outcomes. Their presence challenges traditional power dynamics and encourages a broader consideration of societal needs and concerns. Furthermore, the collaborative and consensus-driven approach often demonstrated by women in leadership positions fosters more effective decision-making. Women's ability to build coalitions and seek common ground promotes cooperation and increases the likelihood of sustainable policy solutions. The overwhelming acknowledgment by the majority of participants regarding the influence of women's political participation on decision-making affirms the importance of women's voices in shaping political agendas and policies that reflect the diverse needs of society. Efforts should be made to further enhance women's participation in decision-making processes by creating supportive environments, providing leadership training, and advocating for gender-responsive governance structures. These measures can help ensure that women's perspectives continue to contribute to more inclusive and effective decision-making in Zimbabwe.

### **4.6 Effectiveness of Legal Frameworks, Policies, and Initiatives**

The interviews revealed that legal frameworks, policies, and initiatives have played a significant role in advancing women's political participation in Zimbabwe. Participants highlighted several key areas where these measures have had a positive impact, including electoral reforms, gender quotas, and affirmative action policies. Approximately 85% of the participants acknowledged the effectiveness of legal frameworks and policies in promoting women's political empowerment. Participant 5 said

*"The introduction of gender quotas in our electoral system has been instrumental in increasing women's representation in parliament. It ensures a minimum level of women's participation and helps address historical gender imbalances in political decision-making." - Electoral Commissioner*

#### *Participant 5"*

*Affirmative action policies have provided opportunities for women to assume leadership positions within political parties. These measures have helped break down barriers and create a more level playing field for women in political spheres." - Women's Rights Advocate*

#### *Participants 7*

*"Legal frameworks that prohibit gender-based discrimination in politics have created an enabling environment for women's participation. These laws serve as a deterrent against discriminatory practices and provide avenues for redress, empowering women to assert their rights in political spaces." - Legal Expert*

The data and participant quotes highlight the effectiveness of legal frameworks, policies, and initiatives in promoting women's political participation in Zimbabwe. The implementation of gender quotas and affirmative action policies has led to an increase in women's representation in parliament and leadership positions within political parties. Furthermore, legal frameworks that prohibit gender-based discrimination create a supportive environment for women's political empowerment. These laws not only act as deterrents against discriminatory practices but also provide mechanisms for addressing grievances and asserting women's rights in political spaces. The acknowledgment by the majority of participants regarding the effectiveness of legal frameworks and policies demonstrates the importance of these measures in addressing historical gender imbalances and promoting women's political empowerment. To further enhance the effectiveness of these initiatives, continuous monitoring, evaluation, and capacity-building efforts are necessary. Regular assessments of the implementation and impact of legal frameworks and policies can help identify areas for improvement and ensure their continued relevance in promoting women's political participation in Zimbabwe.

#### **4.6 Chapter summary**

As shown above the impact of women's participation in the politics and national development in Zimbabwe looking at the above interviews and questionnaires that were used to gather data one would witness the suppression of women in decision making as well as sexual abuse as it was mentioned by Dr Theresa and many women are being regarded as weak in the event that they cannot fight and also balances politics and family that is why many women are failing in marriages especially the young ones furthermore they are more

developments that are being brought by women so both the society and national level like the contruction of the Zambezi Escapement road into a four way along Marongora and the Great Dyke of Mashonaland ,so women need to be included I the decision making as well as given the right to chose and be heard so that there would be development and the government should enforce laws to those that do sexual harrasement and the abuse of women and providing more education to women about issues that has to do with governance and politics

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY , CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

This chapter gives a summary of what has been discussed in the research. It will also provide recommendations in relation to some of the issues that have been discussed in the study.

#### **5.2 Summary**

The research sought to investigate the impact of women 's participation in politics and national development .It was conducted using qualitative research and interviews .20 people were asked and conducted from different political spheres .The responded compromised of policy makers, councilors ,members of the parliament and ministers and the questions were used to assist the reason behind the low participation of women in politics and national development

Chapter two mainly focuses on literature review and different sectors on the participation of women in politics and national development.Feminist theory on women participation was used to show the reasons and challenges being faces by women in both society and national level .and the information from different scholars who wrote about women in politics from the global level,

international level, regional level and up to local level were used by the researcher in carrying out the research

Chapter three mainly focus on the research methodology which included the research design , research approach , population and sample size sampling techniques .Qualitative research methods like key informative interviews and questionnaires were used as data collection instruments on the levels and causes of low participation of women in politics and national development

Chapter four was centered on data collection that was collected by the questionnaire in carrying out the data presentation ,analysis and interpretation of the research findings on the low participation of women in politics and national development in Zimbabwe

Chapter five will give a brief of the whole research project and conclusions and recommendations will be discussed on the participation of women in politics and national development

### 5.3 Conclusions

Conclusions can be drafted from the findings of the research of the women's participation in politics and national development in Zimbabwe is still improving and has been witnessed by the clean up campaigns drilling of boreholes as well as construction of roads country wide and some of the constituencies represented by women like Mashonaland West there is good developments

One might see that Women still have fear in entering politics due to lack of confidence as well as transparent in terms of meetings and these meetings attended one would see that there would be few women and those who will be present will not have a voice to raise in the decision making and also there is lack of knowledge ,the government still need to educate women on how important it is when it comes to decision making in both home and society. Some respondents from the research stated that they are afraid of being harassed by those in power and that is why they are still have fear to be involved in politics ,last but not least women are failing to support each other politically ,(Zungura and Nyemba ,2013),focus group discussion with women have shown that women when they are in politics do not support each other hence very few women remain at the highest decision making positions



## **5.4 Recommendations**

- Women should be motivated to participate in politics and should be allocated certain post from local up to national level so that they will motivate others to participate in politics
- There must be a total change of regime that discriminates women to participate in electoral systems because the systems seems to be in favour of men not women and this is because of the ancient regimes and socio-cultural myths that women are only supposed to be domestic workers must be removed and the gender equality that was voted to gender equality must be put to work with immediate effect .
- Ministerial post must be also allocated to women in the cabinet and educationa forums on the participation of women in politics should be attended and empowering women to stand firm and be independent not dependent as well as they should be taught on how to generate money and this can be done through awareness campaigns ,farming and pottery,this will generate money for them to be able to campaign and won't have a challeng of funds when one wishes to join politics

## **5.5 Areas for Further Study**

While it is important to understand the immediate impact of women's participation in politics on national development, further study can explore the long-term effects of women's political empowerment. This could involve examining the sustained influence of women in key decision-making roles, their contributions to policy formulation and implementation, and the lasting changes they bring to society and institutions. Understanding the enduring impact of women's political participation can provide insights into the transformative potential of gender equality in politics.

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## **LIST OF APPENDICES**

### **Consent form**

Dear Christine Shambakumanja

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this interview. My name is Passion P Mketiwa and I am conducting research on the current trends of women's participation in politics and leadership roles in Zimbabwe. The purpose of this interview is to gather valuable insights and perspectives on the various aspects of women's political empowerment in Zimbabwe.

Before we begin, I want to assure you that all information shared during this interview will be treated with strict confidentiality and used solely for research purposes. Your participation is entirely voluntary, and you have the right to withdraw at any point during the interview without any consequences.

### **The objectives of this research interview are as follows:**

1. To assess the current trends of women's participation in politics in Zimbabwe, including their representation in parliament, local government, and political leadership positions.

2. To examine the underlying barriers that hinder women's participation in politics and leadership roles, including socio-cultural norms, discriminatory practices, and structural challenges.
3. To explore the impact of women's political participation on decision-making processes, both at the policy level and within political institutions.
4. To investigate the effectiveness of existing policies, legal frameworks, and initiatives aimed at promoting women's political empowerment, and to analyze any implementation gaps and challenges they may face.

Your insights and experiences are crucial in helping us gain a comprehensive understanding of the topic. Your honest and thoughtful responses will contribute to the advancement of knowledge in the field of women's political participation and empowerment.

Please feel free to share your thoughts, opinions, and experiences openly. There are no right or wrong answers, and your perspective is vital in shaping the outcomes of this research. Once again, I would like to express my gratitude for your participation. Your contribution will be invaluable in shedding light on the current state of women's political participation in Zimbabwe and identifying areas for improvement. If you have any questions or concerns at any point during the interview, please do not hesitate to let me know. Your comfort and satisfaction are of utmost importance.

Thank you for your time and willingness to share your insights. Let us now proceed with the interview.

## **Interview Questions**

### **Section 1: Current Trends of Women's Participation in Politics in Zimbabwe**

1. How would you describe the current level of women's participation in politics in Zimbabwe?
2. In terms of representation, what is the extent of women's presence in parliament, local government, and political leadership positions?
3. Are there any recent changes or trends in women's political participation that you have observed? If yes, could you provide some examples?

### **Section 2: Barriers to Women's Participation in Politics and Leadership Roles**

1. What are some of the underlying factors or barriers that hinder women's participation in politics and leadership roles in Zimbabwe?



2. How do socio-cultural norms and practices impact women's ability to engage in politics and assume leadership positions?
3. Are there any specific discriminatory practices or challenges that women face in the political sphere? If yes, could you elaborate on them?
4. Are there any structural challenges or systemic issues that contribute to the underrepresentation of women in politics? If so, what are they?

### **Section 3: Impact of Women's Political Participation on Decision-Making Processes**

1. In your opinion, what impact does women's political participation have on decision-making processes?
2. Can you provide examples of how women's involvement in politics has influenced policy development or decision-making outcomes?
3. How do you perceive the overall contribution of women in political decision-making spheres?

### **Section 4: Effectiveness of Policies, Legal Frameworks, and Initiatives**

1. What are your views on the existing policies, legal frameworks, and initiatives aimed at promoting women's political empowerment in Zimbabwe?
2. In your experience, have these policies and initiatives been effective in increasing women's participation in politics? Why or why not?
3. Are there any implementation gaps or challenges that you have observed in these initiatives? If yes, what are they?

Thank the participant for their time and valuable insights.

