



DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

**THE EFFECTS OF RAMPANT INCREASE OF INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IN
HARARE. A CASE STUDY OF HOPLEY AND AMSTERDAM SETTLEMENTS.**

BY

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**SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT OF
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(HBSc.DG)**

APPROVAL FORM

I certify that I supervised Henry T Mukundu (B202343B) in carrying out this research titled ‘The effect of rampant increase of informal settlement in Harare. A case study of Hopley and Amsterdam. In partial fulfillment of the requirements of the Bachelor of Science, Honours Degree in Development Studies and recommend that it proceeds for examination.

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DECLARATION

I, Henry T. Mukundu, registration number B202343B, solemnly declare that this research project is the result of my independent investigation and original work. It has not been submitted, either wholly or in part, for academic evaluation elsewhere. I have duly acknowledged all sources of information used in this study through proper citation and referencing, recognizing the contributions of other scholars and researchers to my work.

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Date 12/05/25

DEDICATION

This research is dedicated to my family, whose unwavering support, encouragement, and belief in my potential have been the foundation of my academic journey. I also dedicate this work to the resilient communities of Hopley and Amsterdam, whose experiences and stories inspired this study and whose strength in the face of adversity continues to be a source of motivation.

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the effects of the rampant increase of informal settlements in Harare, with a specific focus on Hopley and Amsterdam settlements. The research investigates the social, economic, and environmental impacts of these unregulated developments, which have proliferated due to rapid urbanization, population growth, and inadequate housing policies. Data was collected through interviews, field observations, and secondary sources to assess the living conditions, access to basic services, and challenges faced by residents. Findings reveal that these settlements are characterized by poor infrastructure, lack of sanitation, insecure land tenure, and limited access to health and education services. The study also highlights the environmental degradation and strain on municipal resources caused by the informal expansion. The paper concludes with policy recommendations aimed at improving urban planning, strengthening housing delivery systems, and integrating informal settlements into the formal urban framework for sustainable development

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CHAPTER 1 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

1.1 Introduction

Urbanization is a global trend that brings about rapid changes in cityscapes, often leading to the expansion of informal settlements in urban areas. Harare, the capital city of Zimbabwe, has witnessed a dramatic increase in informal settlements over the past two decades due to factors such as population growth, rural-to-urban migration, economic hardship, and inadequate housing policies. These informal settlements are characterized by poor living conditions, lack of basic services, and informal land tenure systems. This research seeks to investigate the effects of the rapid growth of informal settlements in Harare, with particular focus on the socio-economic and environmental implications, and to explore possible interventions.

1.2 Background, Purpose, and Scope of the Research

Harare, like many cities in developing countries, is grappling with the challenges posed by urban informality. Informal settlements commonly referred to as slums or squatter camps, have been on the rise as formal housing developments fail to keep up with the population demand. This growth is often unchecked, leading to negative effects on urban planning, public health, infrastructure, and overall quality of life. Many citizens unable to afford formal housing have resorted to illegal construction in both peri-urban and urban zones. Harare was originally designed to accommodate 300 000 people, currently, the city is home to at least 2, 1 million people (16.3% of Zimbabwe's population) (City of Harare, 2012; ZimStat, 2013). The average rate of natural increase is 2.56% per annum (ZimStat, 2013). From the pre-independence time, Harare like most of the urban centers in Zimbabwe was characterised by an insufficient supply of housing (Chirisa and Matamanda, 2016). Despite the rapid rise of the population in the city, there was no space created in terms of housing, economic occupation and facilities to accommodate the immigrants. This rise in the urban poor serves as one of the reasons which led to the creation and the consequent proliferation of slums with sources such as the World Bank (1980) noting that by the end of 1980 more than half of the people will be living in the urban areas. More so, land in Harare was privately owned which starved the urban newly immigrants to public land. Irrespectively the city of Harare became

populated by small scale traders who used streets, back lanes and pavements to erect their stalls and sell their goods. This shows that slum dwellers were not only newly arrived migrants who have moved to the city to seek their fortunes and return home if conditions are rough enough, but however they were committed urban dwellers who were forced to endure this life style because they had nowhere else to go and no other option. However this resulted in the evolution of slums in the city peripheries and deserted farms which were Churu farm, Kilanry farm, Mbare trading stalls, Epworth, Chitungwiza and Hatcliffie among others. . The unregulated nature of these settlements leads to challenges in providing basic services such as water, electricity, sanitation, and healthcare. Moreover, these areas are often highly vulnerable to natural disasters and health crises. Epworth is one of the towns that grew informally on an unplanned incremental and the population, mostly consisted of job seekers and self-employed individuals. It is estimated that the population of Epworth is around 161 900, (ZimStat 2012). Epworth, a sprawling peri-urban settlement has about 300 000 people are poor residents and more than 70% of the residents have no access to basic services like tap water and more importantly to industry as there is no visible viable sector to provide formal and industrial employment.

The purpose of this research is to understand the drivers behind the increase of these informal settlements, the impact on the residents and the broader urban system, and to propose sustainable solutions.

This research is scoped to examine informal settlements in Harare, focusing on areas like Epworth, Hatcliffe, and Caledonia, where the informal population has surged. The study will involve both qualitative and quantitative methods, including surveys with residents, interviews with policymakers, and analysis of environmental and economic data related to these areas.

1.3 Justification of the Study

The investigation into the effects of informal settlements is crucial given their role in shaping Harare's future development. The study is necessary for several reasons:

Urban Planning and Policy Formulation: The findings will inform urban planners and policymakers on how to manage urban growth in a sustainable way, incorporating the needs of low-income populations while preserving urban spaces.

Public Health and Environmental Concerns: Informal settlements often lack basic amenities such as clean water, sanitation, and waste management, which pose significant health risks. Understanding these risks and their scope will help in formulating appropriate interventions.

Social and Economic Impact: Informal settlements impact the social fabric of the city and present economic challenges such as the strain on public services. Exploring the socio-economic effects will assist in framing appropriate economic policies for inclusive growth.

This study addresses the gap in research on informal settlements in Harare, as most studies have primarily focused on larger African cities. With the city's population continuing to grow, there is an urgent need to assess the current state and future implications of this trend.

1.4 Problem Definition and Statement of Purpose

The rapid increase in informal settlements in Harare is leading to severe urban dysfunction, including overcrowding, poor infrastructure, environmental degradation, and unregulated land use. The problem is exacerbated by the city's inability to provide adequate services, affordable housing, and employment opportunities to its expanding population. The investigation will seek to address how these settlements affect urban management, service provision, and the quality of life of residents.

- **Statement of Purpose:** This research aims to investigate the causes, impacts, and potential solutions to the rampant increase of informal settlements in Harare, with a particular focus on socio-economic, environmental, and infrastructural challenges.

1.5 General Objectives (Aims)

The primary aim of this study is to explore the effects of the rapid expansion of informal settlements in Harare, in order to understand the social, economic, and environmental consequences and to propose effective solutions.

1.5.1 Specific Objectives

- i. To examine the socio-economic conditions of residents living in informal settlements in Harare.
- ii. To assess the environmental impacts of the increase in informal settlements on Harare's urban ecosystem.

- iii. To investigate the adequacy of urban planning policies and governance in addressing the informal settlement crisis.
- iv. To explore the challenges and opportunities in integrating informal settlements into the formal urban system.
- v. To propose sustainable strategies to mitigate the negative impacts of informal settlements in Harare.

1.6 Research Questions

- i. What are the socio-economic conditions of the residents of informal settlements in Harare?
- ii. How have informal settlements affected the environmental sustainability of Harare's urban areas?
- iii. What are the key challenges in managing the growth of informal settlements in Harare from a policy and governance perspective?
- iv. What interventions can be applied to mitigate the negative effects of informal settlements while promoting inclusive urban development?

1.7 Definition of Terms

The researcher will define key terms of the research such informal settlements, Urbanization, squatter camps, socio-economic conditions, urban ecosystem, urban town planning.

1.7.1 Informal Settlements

These are residential areas where housing has been constructed without formal approval from authorities, often lacking basic infrastructure like water, sanitation, and electricity. Informal settlements arise due to rapid urbanization, poverty, and inadequate housing policies, particularly in developing countries (UN-Habitat 2003). They are characterized by insecure tenure and poor living conditions.

1.7.2 Urbanization

According to Cohen (2006), urbanization refers to the process by which rural areas transform into urban areas, leading to a growing proportion of people living in cities. It is driven by industrialization, economic development, and migration from rural to urban regions. Urbanization shapes the economic, social, and environmental landscapes of societies, often leading to challenges like overcrowding, pollution, and inadequate infrastructure.

1.7.3 Squatter Camps

Payne (2002) defines squatter camps as settlements where people live on land to which they have no legal claim, typically in makeshift housing constructed from salvaged materials. Squatter camps often form due to a lack of affordable housing and are usually found on the peripheries of cities or in undesirable locations like floodplains. These settlements generally lack access to basic services and are prone to eviction.

1.7.4 Socio-Economic Conditions

Wilkinson and Marmot (2003) assert that this term refers to the social and economic factors that characterize the living standards, employment opportunities, education, income levels, and health of a population. Socio-economic conditions play a critical role in determining quality of life, access to resources, and overall well-being. Poor socio-economic conditions are often linked to inequality, unemployment, and limited access to essential services.

1.7.5 Urban Ecosystem

An urban ecosystem refers to the ecological system in urban areas, comprising both natural elements like plants, animals, water bodies and human-made structures like buildings, roads (Pickett, Cadenasso and Grove 2004). It emphasizes the interaction between living organisms and their urban environment, considering how urbanization impacts biodiversity, water, air quality, and resource flows.

1.7.6 Urban Planning

Urban planning is the process by which authorities design and regulate the use of land in urban areas to ensure sustainable development, efficient infrastructure, and organized growth. It involves managing the spatial distribution of buildings, transport systems, green spaces, and utilities (Hall 2014). Urban planning aims to balance social, economic, and environmental factors while addressing issues like housing, transportation, and public services.

1.8 Organization of Study

This study will be organized into five main chapters:

- i. Chapter 1: Introduction – This chapter will provide an overview of the research, including the background, justification, and objectives of the study.

- ii. Chapter 2: Literature Review – A review of existing literature on informal settlements, urbanization, and their effects will be presented.
- iii. Chapter 3: Methodology – The research design, data collection methods, and analysis techniques will be outlined.
- iv. Chapter 4: Data Analysis and Findings – This chapter will present the results of the research, including analysis of the data collected.
- v. Chapter 5: Conclusion and Recommendations – The final chapter will summarize the key findings and offer recommendations for policymakers and urban planners to address the challenges posed by informal settlements.

This structure ensures a coherent flow of information from problem identification to potential solutions.

1.9 Conclusion

In conclusion, this chapter has outlined the background, significance, and objectives of study on the effects of rampant increase of informal settlements in Harare. The overview provided lays the foundation for further inquiry into the specific effects, stakeholders involved, and potential policy interventions that will be addressed in subsequent chapters

CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This literature review aims to provide an extensive exploration of the scholarly work surrounding the increase of informal settlements in Harare, with a focus on the socioeconomic, environmental, and policy-related impacts. Furthermore, it seeks to identify gaps in the literature and define the theoretical framework for this study.

2.2 Theoretical framework

Theories regarding informal settlements primarily focus on the concept of housing as a response to need, suggesting that people create informal settlements due to a lack of affordable legal housing options, driven by factors like rapid urbanization, rural-urban migration, poverty, and weak governance, leading them to occupy marginal land and build their own shelters with limited resources, often adapting to their surroundings and building upon existing infrastructure; prominent theories include: famous culture of poverty by Oscar Lewis, "The Housing Ladder" by Charles Abrams, "The Self-Help Housing Approach" by John F.C Turner, and the "Social Production of Space" theory by Henry Lefebvre which emphasize the agency of residents in shaping their living environments within constraints.

2.2.1 Culture of poverty theory

Oscar Lewis' idea of the culture of poverty is based on fatalistic presumptions about urban poor people, who are portrayed as resigned to their situation and naturally unable to start or maintain better living conditions. Lewis made the case against funding the modernisation of informal settlements in Puerto Rico, citing anecdotal and scant observations, and in favour of allocating public funds to industrial development and nation-building instead. Lewis said it would be pointless to invest in slum redevelopment. As a result, the needs of the urban poor were neglected when designing public infrastructure, such as transport, to serve industrial and middle-class areas. In the end, his theory was used as justification to divert housing and service funding from underserved communities, resulting in the disregard of measures meant to enhance informal settlements (Fegue, 2007).

2.2.2 Housing Ladder theory

The Housing Ladder Theory, introduced by Charles Abrams in the mid-20th century, outlines the typical progression of individuals or families through various housing stages, beginning with informal or inadequate housing and advancing to more stable, permanent residences as their economic situation improves. Abrams strongly challenged Lewis' assertion that the urban poor lack the motivation to seek better housing conditions. Drawing from his experiences in several developing countries such as Ghana, Turkey, Pakistan, the Philippines, Nigeria, India, Jamaica, and Bolivia, Abrams (1964) argued that it is beneficial to support the poor. He believed that the ladder metaphor illustrates housing as a continuum, where lower-income families start in informal settlements or slums and progressively enhance their living conditions as they ascend the socio-economic ladder. Abrams stressed that access to improved housing is tightly linked to income and economic advancement, viewing the informal sector as an initial step for many low-income families, with the goal of achieving formal housing as their financial situation improves.

2.2.3 Self-Help Theory by John F. C. Turner

John F. C. Turner, a prominent urban theorist, emphasized the concept of self-help in housing in his work during the 1960s. Turner argued that people living in informal settlements should be seen as active agents in their own housing process rather than passive recipients of state aid. According to Turner, individuals and families in these areas typically build, expand, and improve their own homes based on their needs and resources. Rather than relying on government-provided housing, Turner proposed that self-help housing, where people contribute to the construction and upgrading of their dwellings, is an effective way to address housing shortages. The theory highlights the importance of community participation, informal building practices, and the recognition of people's ability to shape their own living conditions.

2.2.4 Social Production of Space theory

Henry Lefebvre's theory of the Social Production of Space (1974) posits that space is not a neutral, pre-existing entity but is created through human interactions, social relationships, and political-economic structures. He contended that space is significantly shaped by the power dynamics influencing its usage, interpretation, and occupancy. Within this perspective, informal settlements are viewed as outcomes of social struggles and reactions to insufficient planning, often

representing the needs and aspirations of marginalized groups. Lefebvre identified three types of space: perceived space (the physical environment), conceived space (the planned and conceptualized space), and lived space (people's everyday experiences of space). He argued that informal settlements are not merely illegal or poorly designed areas but are actively formed and influenced by individuals' actions and their resistance to the prevailing social order.

2.3 Literature review of the study of informal settlements

Globally, informal settlements have become a prominent issue in many rapidly urbanizing cities, particularly in developing countries. According to UN-Habitat (2016), approximately one-quarter of the world's urban population lives in slums, characterized by poor infrastructure, inadequate access to basic services, and insecure land tenure. In Latin America, Asia, and Africa, informal settlements proliferate as migration from rural areas to urban centers increases. In places such as Mumbai (India), São Paulo (Brazil), and Lagos (Nigeria), informal settlements, commonly referred to as slums, have grown due to the inability of formal urban planning to keep pace with urban population growth (Cohen, 2018; Satterthwaite, 2004). These global examples underline several key challenges associated with informal settlements: housing shortages, inadequate access to basic services like water, sanitation, and healthcare, as well as the vulnerability to environmental disasters (Davis, 2006). For instance, in Mumbai, the informal settlement of Dharavi has been a focal point for discussions on urban poverty, with overcrowding, poor infrastructure, and limited social services, reflecting global patterns in informal settlement dynamics (Graham and Marvin, 2001).

In Africa, the expansion of informal settlements has been particularly pronounced in countries experiencing rapid urban growth but lacking sufficient public investment in urban infrastructure. In cities such as Nairobi, Nairobi, and Accra, informal settlements are a direct response to population growth, rural-to-urban migration, and limited affordable housing options (Adelekan, 2018; Fox, 2014). The African Union (2015) acknowledges the growth of informal settlements as a key challenge to the continent's urban development, as they strain social services and contribute to environmental degradation. Informal settlements in Africa are often marked by weak governance structures, insecurity of land tenure, and inadequate housing policies (Olima, 2013). In particular, the inability of local governments to regulate and control urban growth has allowed

informal settlements to proliferate unchecked (Tacoli, 2013). For example, in Kenya, the informal settlement of Kibera has become emblematic of the challenges posed by informal urbanization, with residents facing extreme poverty, limited access to clean water and sanitation, and frequent eviction threats (Aldasoro and Hughes, 2018).

Zimbabwe is no exception to this broader African trend. Harare, the capital city, has experienced rapid urbanization, exacerbated by rural-urban migration, economic instability, and a lack of adequate urban planning. Chatiza and Gatora (2021) highlighted that the city has witnessed a surge in informal settlements, with neighborhoods such as Hopely and Amsterdam emerging as focal points for informal housing. These settlements are a direct consequence of increasing landlessness, unemployment, and the inability of formal housing markets to meet demand. According to the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT), Harare's population grew from approximately 1.5 million in 1982 to over 2.4 million by 2022. In Zimbabwe, the growth of informal settlements is linked to the legacy of colonial urban planning, which did not cater to the majority black population, and the subsequent post-independence failure to provide adequate housing (Zimunya and Mutambira, 2016). As formal housing options remain scarce, informal settlements like Hopely and Amsterdam have emerged on illegally occupied land or areas without proper zoning and infrastructure. These areas often lack basic services, such as clean water, sanitation, and electricity, resulting in unsanitary and unsafe living conditions.

2.4 Conceptualisation of informal settlements in Harare

One of the most significant issues highlighted in the literature is the socioeconomic deprivation associated with informal settlements. Residents in these areas often lack access to formal employment, education, healthcare, and basic infrastructure. Huchzermeyer (2011) notes that informal settlements perpetuate a cycle of poverty, where the lack of basic services and infrastructure inhibits the potential for economic development. This is consistent with findings in Harare, where residents of informal settlements experience higher rates of poverty, food insecurity, and social exclusion compared to residents in formal urban areas (Kamete, 2012).

The literature also points to the informal economy as a critical component of survival for residents of informal settlements. Chirisa and Dumba (2012) explain that informal settlements in Harare are

typically characterized by a thriving informal economy, where residents engage in small-scale trade, vending, and artisanal work. However, this economy remains precarious, often lacking legal protection or support from municipal authorities.

2.5 Socioeconomic Effects of informal settlements in Harare

2.5.1 Absence of Essential Services

In addition to receiving minimal assistance from local authorities, many informal communities are disconnected from major supplies of potable water. Most of the houses in these areas are constructed with substandard materials and lack proper planning. The overcrowded nature of these settlements leads to poor living conditions, with limited access to clean water, sanitation, and electricity (Muzondiwa, 2018). Increased household sizes, putting additional pressure on scarce clean water sources, like boreholes, and exacerbating garbage accumulation due to inadequate waste disposal, thus posing significant health risks. High population densities, inadequate water supplies, poor housing, and insufficient sewage and drainage systems are common problems in informal settlements, where people frequently rely on dangerous pit latrines for sanitation (Manase and Fawcett, 2010). According to MoHCW (2012), the population growth in both older and newly established informal settlements indicates these areas are likely to experience outbreaks of diarrheal diseases, as evidenced by the cholera and typhoid outbreaks in urban areas in 2008, which were linked to poor sanitation and contaminated waste disposal.

2.5.2 Water and Sanitation

Regarding water and sanitation, the City Council did not acknowledge informal settlements but fails to provide necessary services, despite local authorities being obligated to ensure residents have access to water and sanitation that meets health standards according to Public Health Act 15:9. Many residents rely on unsafe wells, often dug in backyards, which pose a high contamination risk. A study by Mulega on the Farmagrida informal settlement in Gutu found that 80% of respondents relied on unprotected, polluted water sources. Mukonoweshure (2014) noted that governmental and local authority officials were concerned that granting informal settlers access to piped water and sanitation services would entrench their presence and complicate potential evictions. Manase and Fawcett (2010) identified challenges in mobilizing financial

support to improve sanitation in underprivileged urban areas and cited poor cost recovery as contributing factors to inadequate sanitation in informal settlements.

2.5.3 HIV and AIDS within the settlements

Informal settlements have socioeconomic challenges, especially the incidence of STIs and HIV/AIDS, even though they have become permanent features of metropolitan landscapes in many places. The disease affects 16.2% of people living in these settlements (Ambert and Thomas, 2006). Urban populations' mobility, which frequently results in more options for sexual networking and higher rates of partner turnover, is the reason behind the high incidence of these infections in informal settlements (Ambert, 2006). There is also a connection between urbanisation and HIV/AIDS infections. The range of potential solutions is frequently limited when the pandemic is addressed exclusively through human behaviour and attitudes (Ambert et al., 2007). People who live in informal settlements are more vulnerable to opportunistic infections because they usually do not have access to land or basic amenities. "Fragmented and sprawling cities are environments where infected and affected individuals face significant barriers to the healthcare system" (Ambert, 2006). This is evident in areas like Hopely, where sex workers operate at more affordable rates, exacerbating the risk of unprotected sex and the transmission of HIV and AIDS.

2.5.4 Investment attraction

The presence of informal settlements has deterred potential investors and disrupted local development plans. Many reserved lands for future projects have been occupied by settlers constructing unauthorized structures. Mhlanga E (2015) reported that a 2015 Olympic Africa project intended to build a state-of-the-art sports center was stalled due to land invasions by individuals linked to the MDC political party, countering similar actions by ZANU PF in adjacent areas. Numerous parcels of land designated for schools, social facilities, and urban expansion have faced similar invasions. Chirisa (2011) noted that Epworth has over 18,000 illegal settlers, some encroaching on sites planned for schools and hospitals, halting development efforts as necessary land has been overtaken by informal settlers.

2.5.5 Vulnerable to natural disasters

Informal settlements are also particularly vulnerable to natural disasters. As noted by Small (2007), both man-made and natural disasters, including droughts, floods, and disease outbreaks, have disproportionately affected these areas. In Epworth's wards six and seven, many informal dwellings are situated on unsuitable sites, like riverbanks and wetlands, or near dump sites, which increases their susceptibility to disasters like flooding and the subsequent spread of waterborne diseases, as well as damage to poorly constructed homes.

2.5.6 Insecure tenure

Secure tenure is a critical aspect of the right to housing, fundamental for creating sustainable human settlements that satisfy housing needs, livelihoods, and infrastructure. Given that human activity is tied to land, it is essential to protect various tenure options, such as ownership and tenancy. According to McCallin et al. (2014), settlers should have a level of security that shields them from forced evictions or harassment, regardless of their housing status. To address this, the Epworth local board conducted a headcount of informal settlers and issued cards to serve as a temporary form of ownership proof. However, according to council minutes from 2015, efforts to formalize and upgrade these settlements have led to the eviction of some families

2.5.7 Impact on Employment and Income

Informal settlements also have an effect on employment and income levels. Chatiza and Gotora (2021) articulate that many residents in these areas are employed in the informal economy, which typically includes street vending, small-scale manufacturing, and other forms of precarious employment. While this offers some economic relief to individuals, the informal nature of these jobs often means they lack job security, social benefits, and protection from labor laws. This instability contributes to a cycle of poverty and economic inequality. Moreover, the lack of formal

jobs and the challenge of accessing formal financial services make it difficult for residents to accumulate wealth or improve their living standards (Muzondiwa, 2018).

2.6 Environmental effects of informal settlements

Environmental degradation is another major concern associated with informal settlements. Studies by Kombe and Kreibich (2006) and Chirisa (2013) highlight the unsustainable land use practices that occur in informal settlements, including deforestation, soil erosion, and pollution. In Harare, informal settlements often emerge in environmentally sensitive areas, such as wetlands, where residents construct makeshift shelters without proper sanitation facilities. This contributes to the contamination of water sources and the spread of waterborne diseases such as cholera and typhoid (Tibaijuka, 2005).

The environmental consequences of informal settlements are further compounded by poor waste management practices. Residents often lack access to formal waste collection services, leading to the indiscriminate dumping of solid waste. Mudzengerere and Chigwenya (2012) argue that such environmental degradation undermines efforts to promote sustainable urban development and contributes to the vulnerability of residents to natural disasters such as flooding.

2.6.1 Deforestation

Informal settlements are marked by the reckless clearing of trees for firewood and building materials. This harmful deforestation leads to soil erosion and a reduction in biodiversity, adversely affecting ecosystem stability and agricultural output (Ncube et al., 2020). This situation is particularly noticeable in peri-urban areas like Ushewekunze and Churu, where residents move into nearby farms and council paddocks in search of firewood, resulting in further deforestation.

2.6.2 Wetlands Destruction

The expansion of informal settlements into ecologically delicate regions, such as wetlands, disrupts natural drainage systems, heightening the risk of floods and harming biodiversity. As highlighted by Dube and Chirisa (2012), these wetlands play a crucial role in water retention and

filtering pollutants from urban runoff, making their destruction a serious environmental issue. Many of these informal settlements are situated in previously abandoned wetland areas that were overlooked during the establishment of formal settlements, notably in former wetland zones within older suburbs like Budiro, Glenview, Glen Norah B, and Waterfalls.

2.6.3 Pollution

The expansion of informal settlements in wards six and seven has also contributed significantly to water pollution. Cole (1995) stated that the reduction of vegetation around water sources impairs water flow, while the disposal of liquid and solid wastes pollutes these sources. Streams that once flowed through these settlements are disappearing due to encroachment, with residents building structures very close to their banks. Informal settlements contribute to increased carbon emissions. Due to the lack of formal energy access, many residents rely on inefficient energy sources such as firewood and charcoal for cooking, which exacerbate air pollution and contribute to deforestation (Kachinge et al., 2020).

2.7 The role of planning and responsible authorities in managing the growth of informal settlements

The Epworth Local Board, established by the government to oversee the former Methodist mission area, is the only informal settlement accepted by the central government since independence. Local authorities are tasked with providing affordable housing for all citizens; however, they have struggled to fulfill this responsibility due to various challenges.

2.7.1 Regional Town and Country Planning Act and the Urban Councils Act

Relevant authorities are supported by legislation, such as the Regional Town and Country Planning Act and the Urban Councils Act, which gives them the authority to develop planning policies and manage infrastructure. Although these councils have master plans and reserve land for future development, they have often been slow to act, resulting in many open spaces being occupied by informal settlers, according to Mhlanga (2015). Poor land regulation and policies have contributed to the expansion of informal settlements on city peripheries. Many councils have delayed the

servicing of residential land due to economic difficulties, allowing illegal settlements to proliferate, which is exacerbated by a growing housing crisis, as noted by Chirisa et al. (2011). The structures built in these areas lack council approval, and local authorities have the power to demolish them. The legislative framework aims to guide local area planning to enhance the environment, promote health and safety, and ensure general welfare.

2.7.2 Regularising and upgrading settlements

Addressing informal settlements through regularisation and upgrading requires a thorough approach that considers socio-economic context and poverty reduction strategies, such as achieving Sustainable Development Goals. UN-Habitat (2010) states that problems in informal settlements stem from broader failures in welfare-oriented and market-based housing policies. Currently, settlers are negotiating in situ regularization, where they pay for servicing land while the Economic Commission for Europe Report (2008) suggests that in situ upgrading is preferable to resettlement, which requires more land. A collaborative and sustainable development approach is essential for the formalization of these settlements, involving local councils and community input to identify solutions, with costs managed through council offices. However, tensions can arise among local authorities, surveyors, and residents during implementation, leading to suspicions and accusations of political favoritism that can hinder participation in the regularization process.

2.7.3 Reallocation and resettlement

This may offer potential solutions to informal settlement challenges, particularly for vulnerable populations. UN-Habitat (2003) emphasizes that such efforts demand significant financial resources, limiting their feasibility. In regions with strong government-private sector partnerships, resettlement is often integrated into urban renewal initiatives, as noted by the Economic Commission for Europe Report (2008). However, Epworth has not pursued this option due to a lack of available land and resources for servicing before relocation. The local administrative and political frameworks often struggle to generate effective strategies, with no existing models in Zimbabwe to support vulnerable groups in accessing decent housing.

2.7.4 Housing Policies

Local authorities, in partnership with central government and other stakeholders, have a crucial role in providing housing solutions. While the significance of social policies for equal access to affordable housing is recognized, many governments and local authorities lack the financial and institutional resources needed to implement them, as pointed out by Abebe (2011). Recently, the government initiated Operation Garikai/Hlalani Kuhle to assist those affected by past clean-up campaigns and low-income earners, though it faced criticism for benefiting primarily those aligned with the ruling party, as noted by Muderere (2010). Local councils typically provide land, ensure infrastructure development, while stakeholders contribute financial, labor, and material resources. The establishment of the Glenwood area in Epworth targeted low-income residents and included adequate infrastructure before occupancy, benefiting many local individuals.

Policies tailored to assist informal settlers, particularly those socially vulnerable, are vital for community integration. However, in cases like Epworth, poverty and deprivation persist due to the cycle of urban poverty. Limited capacity, dwindling revenue, and increased reliance on central government support further complicate local authorities' ability to address these issues. The Constitution mandates that a minimum of five percent of national revenues be allocated to local authorities, yet economic challenges have hindered the government's ability to generate revenue, restricting these funds.

Local authorities now face increasing demands for planning, land management, and service provision but struggle with limited resources. The Economic Commission for Europe Report (2008) highlights that while local governments must address growing responsibilities, economic growth often overshadows social needs, leading to widening income disparities. Housing policies targeting the poor are constrained by the high costs in the private market. To effectively address these housing challenges, there is an urgent need for solutions rooted in social responsibility, public-private partnerships, and supportive legal frameworks.

2.7.5 Policy Responses and Governance

The literature on policy responses to informal settlements in Harare reveals a gap between policy formulation and implementation. Chirisa (2008) have documented the frequent evictions of informal settlement residents by the government, particularly under Operation Murambatsvina in 2005. This operation sought to "clean up" the city by demolishing informal structures, but it displaced hundreds of thousands of people without providing alternative housing solutions (Potts, 2006). The operation highlighted the lack of a comprehensive housing strategy and the state's failure to engage meaningfully with the root causes of informal settlement formation.

Furthermore, international literature has shown that informal settlement upgrading, rather than forced evictions, is a more sustainable solution to addressing the challenges of informal settlements (Huchzermeyer, 2011). However, in the case of Harare, there is limited empirical evidence on successful upgrading initiatives, with most studies focusing on the failures of eviction-based approaches (Kamete, 2012).

2.8 Policy and governance challenges in managing the growth of informal settlements in Harare, Zimbabwe

These challenges stem from both structural issues in urban planning and the socioeconomic dynamics of the city. Below are the key challenges, with relevant examples and references:

2.8.1 Inadequate Policy and Planning Framework

Harare's policy framework for urban development has often been inadequate in addressing the rapid growth of informal settlements. The lack of comprehensive urban planning leads to unregulated settlement expansion, as informal settlements often emerge without clear oversight or control. For example, the Epworth and Chitungwiza suburbs have experienced significant informal growth due to weak planning and the government's inability to provide affordable housing (Maphosa, 2019). Existing housing policies in Zimbabwe are often outdated or poorly enforced, making it difficult to regulate land use and development effectively (Chirisa, 2014). The government's failure to provide adequate housing alternatives to the growing population has led to the mushrooming of informal structures (Kanyenze et al., 2011).

2.8.2 Weak Institutional Capacity and Governance

The institutional framework responsible for managing informal settlements in Harare is often fragmented, with multiple actors involved at both the central and local levels. This lack of coordination hampers the implementation of effective policies. In many instances, local councils are unable to deliver on urban services like water, sanitation, or waste management, due to limited financial and technical capacity (Kabwe, 2019). Harare's Municipal Development Policy has been critiqued for its failure to coordinate between the city council, national government, and other stakeholders. As a result, informal settlements often grow without sufficient provision of basic services like electricity and sanitation (Zhou et al., 2016).

Furthermore, there is often a lack of political will to address informal settlements due to the short-term political gains that can be derived from providing support to informal settlers, who are frequently a significant voter base (Dzingirai, 2019).

2.8.3 Corruption and Land Management Issues

Corruption and mismanagement in land allocation are major obstacles to managing informal settlements. The abuse of power by public officials and land barons often leads to the illegal occupation of state or communal land, which is then subdivided and sold to informal settlers. These practices create uncertainty in land tenure and undermine formal housing development (Chirisa, 2014). In the Caledonia area, land barons have been accused of selling land without proper legal title, leading to disputes over land ownership and complicating the formalization process (Maphosa, 2019). As informal settlers lack secure tenure, they are vulnerable to eviction, which creates a cycle of instability in these communities.

2.8.4 Lack of Financial Resources for Infrastructure

Financing the necessary infrastructure improvements in informal settlements is another significant challenge. Harare's local authorities often lack the financial resources to provide essential services such as clean water, waste management, or public health infrastructure in informal settlements. Informal settlements, therefore, remain underserved, leading to overcrowded living conditions and poor health outcomes (Zhou et al., 2016). In areas like Highfield and Mbare, the inadequate provision of water and sanitation facilities has led to outbreaks of diseases like cholera and typhoid

(Kanyenze et al., 2011). These areas struggle to access basic public services due to the lack of financial and technical capacity to extend services to informal settlements.

2.8.5 Social and Economic Inequality

Informal settlements in Harare are often the result of deep social and economic inequalities. Many residents of informal settlements are poor and unable to afford formal housing, thus they resort to constructing homes on unserviced land. These settlements are often overcrowded and lack basic services, exacerbating inequality and poverty (Kabwe, 2019). The urban poor face challenges such as insecurity of tenure, poor housing conditions, and limited access to healthcare and education, all of which are compounded by the lack of adequate governance to address these issues. The Dzivarasekwa informal settlement has faced issues with housing quality and access to social services, where residents struggle to secure a better standard of living due to the persistent poverty and lack of financial resources to invest in formal housing (Dzingirai, 2019).

2.8.6 Political and Social Exclusion

Often, residents of informal settlements are excluded from formal decision-making processes, which leaves their needs unmet. Informal settlers may not have a voice in urban planning or policy formulation, which leads to solutions that do not address their specific challenges. Additionally, political patronage plays a role in shaping the way informal settlements are managed, with politicians sometimes offering temporary solutions in exchange for electoral support. During election periods, there have been instances where local authorities and political parties have provided temporary amenities or services to informal settlements to garner votes, without addressing long-term needs (Chirisa, 2014). This results in unsustainable growth and development.

2.8.7 Environmental Degradation

Informal settlements in Harare are often located in areas that are unsuitable for settlement, such as floodplains, wetlands, or hillsides. The absence of effective environmental planning and regulation has led to environmental degradation in these areas. Overcrowding, poor waste management, and the lack of green spaces contribute to poor living conditions and health hazards. Areas like Kuwadzana and Mbare face problems with flooding during the rainy season due to the poor

drainage systems and the encroachment on wetland areas (Maphosa, 2019). This increases vulnerability to climate change and exacerbates the challenges of informal settlement growth.

2.9 The Rampant Increase of Informal Settlements in Kenya

2.10 Background

Informal settlements in Kenya, often referred to as slums, are characterized by inadequate housing, lack of basic infrastructure, poor sanitation, and insufficient access to essential services such as healthcare, education, and clean water. These settlements have emerged as a response to the rapid urbanization and population growth experienced in the country, particularly in its major cities like Nairobi, Mombasa, and Kisumu. As of the last decade, informal settlements have become a significant urban phenomenon, with estimates indicating that over 60% of Nairobi's population resides in such areas (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics [KNBS], 2019). The rapid rise in informal settlements can be attributed to a variety of factors. The most prominent among them is rural-to-urban migration, where individuals and families leave rural areas in search of better economic opportunities in urban centers. The rural areas, often plagued by poverty, limited job prospects, and adverse climatic conditions, push people to urban areas that, unfortunately, are unable to accommodate the influx adequately (UN-Habitat, 2020). As a result, cities like Nairobi have witnessed the expansion of informal settlements on the peripheries of urban areas, where land is cheaper and more accessible, although often without official approval or urban planning.

The housing market in Kenya has been unable to keep up with the increasing demand for affordable housing. A 2019 report by the National Housing Corporation revealed that the country faces a shortfall of at least 200,000 housing units annually, with the majority of those affected being low-income earners. This shortfall contributes to the growth of informal settlements, as those who cannot afford formal housing resort to constructing temporary and often unsafe shelters on illegally occupied land (Housing Finance Group, 2017).

The consequences of the rampant increase in informal settlements are multifaceted. These settlements face significant challenges related to infrastructure deficits, including unreliable electricity, inadequate sewage systems, and poor roads. As a result, residents often live in squalid conditions, with high levels of environmental pollution, particularly in areas lacking solid waste

management (World Bank, 2018). Furthermore, the informal settlements are breeding grounds for diseases such as cholera, malaria, and tuberculosis, due to poor sanitation and limited access to healthcare services (UN-Habitat, 2020).

The rapid growth of informal settlements also poses serious challenges to urban planning and governance in Kenya. These settlements are often unplanned, leading to disorganized urban sprawl that makes it difficult for local authorities to provide essential services, enforce building codes, or implement land use policies. Additionally, these areas often lack security, with high levels of crime due to the absence of police presence or proper street lighting (Amnesty International, 2021).

Furthermore, informal settlements are often affected by land tenure insecurity, where residents live under constant fear of eviction by government authorities or private landowners. This uncertainty contributes to the marginalization of slum dwellers, who may lack access to formal credit systems and social protections (Kenya National Slum Upgrading Strategy, 2004).

2.11 Effects of rampant increase of informal settlements in Kenya

2.11.1 Increased Poverty and Inequality

Informal settlements exacerbate poverty, as many residents live in precarious conditions without access to basic services like clean water, sanitation, and electricity. For example, in Nairobi's Kibera, one of the largest informal settlements in Africa, poverty levels are extremely high, with over 50% of the population living below the poverty line (UN-Habitat, 2016). This lack of access to resources leads to persistent cycles of poverty, affecting both individuals and families, and widening the gap between the rich and the poor.

2.11. 2 Poor Health and Limited Access to Services

Informal settlements are often poorly equipped in terms of healthcare, leading to poor health outcomes. In areas like Mombasa's Kisauni, where informal settlements are widespread, residents face challenges such as overcrowding, inadequate sanitation, and lack of healthcare facilities. This leads to high rates of infectious diseases such as cholera, typhoid, and respiratory infections. The lack of sanitation facilities also contributes to environmental degradation, further compounding health problems (Njonjo, 2018).

2.11.3 Strain on Urban Infrastructure and Resources

The rapid growth of informal settlements puts immense pressure on urban infrastructure, which is often unable to meet the demands of a growing population. Nairobi, for example, experiences significant congestion, inadequate waste management, and frequent power outages in areas like Mathare, an informal settlement. These strains hinder economic productivity, limit access to education and healthcare, and create an overall deterioration in the quality of life (Satterthwaite, 2017).

2.11.4 Increased Crime and Insecurity

With limited law enforcement and overcrowded conditions, informal settlements are often hubs for criminal activity. In Nairobi's Korogocho, for instance, residents face high crime rates, including gang violence, theft, and drug abuse. The lack of adequate policing and social services makes these areas more vulnerable to crime, further affecting residents' quality of life and economic prospects (UN-Habitat, 2016).

2.11.5 Limited Access to Education and Employment Opportunities

In informal settlements, access to education is often limited, which perpetuates cycles of poverty. Schools in informal areas like Nairobi's Kibera and Mombasa's Bamburi are overcrowded and underfunded, resulting in poor education standards. This limits opportunities for upward mobility, as many young people from these areas are unable to acquire the skills and qualifications needed for formal employment (Teeuw, 2019).

2.11.6 Environmental Degradation

Unregulated construction and poor waste management in informal settlements often lead to environmental degradation. In Kisumu's Nyalenda, informal housing has led to the destruction of wetlands and natural ecosystems, contributing to flooding, pollution, and loss of biodiversity.

(Teeuw, 2019). This environmental damage not only affects health but also disrupts agriculture, which many residents rely on for their livelihoods.

2.12 Gaps in the Literature

While there is considerable literature on the socioeconomic and environmental challenges of informal settlements in Harare, there is a notable gap in research focused on long-term solutions for sustainable development. Most studies emphasize the failure of eviction-based approaches, but few offer comprehensive analyses of how informal settlements can be integrated into formal urban planning systems. While previous research has highlighted issues such as overcrowding, inadequate service delivery, and the strain on public resources (Chatiza and Gatora 2021), there is a lack of detailed studies that examine the integration of these settlements into broader urban development strategies, and how policy interventions may mitigate their negative effects. Additionally, the role of community-led initiatives in improving living conditions in informal settlements has not been sufficiently explored. This study seeks to address these gaps by examining both the failures and potential solutions for informal settlement management in Harare, with a focus on sustainable and participatory approaches.

2.13 Chapter Summary

The rapid increase of informal settlements in Harare has far-reaching implications for urban development, public health, and environmental sustainability. The literature provides a comprehensive overview of the socioeconomic and environmental challenges posed by these settlements, as well as the policy shortcomings in addressing the issue. However, there remains a significant gap in exploring sustainable, community-driven solutions. The next chapter will illuminate the methodology used by the researcher to conduct the research.

CHAPTER 3 RESEARCHER METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

Relevant literature on the socioeconomic and environmental effects of informal settlements, as well as the function of responsible authorities in managing and regulating their growth, was reviewed by the researcher in the previous chapter. The methodology used to gather and examine data pertinent to the research problem is described in this chapter. It provides specifics about the study's population, sampling strategies, research design, and data collection tools. Questionnaires and interviews are among the methods used to gather data. This chapter also covers the protocols put in place to guarantee the validity, accuracy, and dependability of the tools and data gathered. Additionally stressed is the importance of the research design as a tactical framework for inquiry.

3.2 Description of the study area

3.2.1 Geographic Characteristics and Location

Hopley Settlement, also referred to as Hopley Farm, is situated approximately 16 km from Harare's central business district (CBD) and lies to the south-west of the Grobbie Park and Waterfalls neighborhoods along Masvingo/Simon Mazorodze Road. The area is bordered by Simon Mazorodze Road on the west, Waterfalls suburb to the north and northeast, and Stone Ridge Road to the south. Most of Hopley Settlement is located east of Simon Mazorodze Road and south of Chitungwiza Road, with a small section lying to the north of Chitungwiza Road. The topography of Hopely and Amsterdam is generally flat, though there are some small hills in the surrounding areas. The drainage system is often inadequate, leading to frequent flooding, especially during the rainy season (Moyo, 2020). Poor drainage exacerbates living conditions, contributing to the spread of diseases such as cholera and typhoid.

Amsterdam is a neighborhood in Harare, Zimbabwe, founded around 2008. It is located approximately 20 kilometers southwest of the central business district (CBD) of Harare, along the Masvingo/Simon Mazorodze road. The area is bordered by Stoneridge Park, Southlea Park, the Southlea Park Industrial area, and the Granville (Mbudzi) cemetery.

3.2.2 Socio-Economic Characteristics

Hopely and Amsterdam are two informal settlements located on the outskirts of Harare, Zimbabwe. Both areas, like many informal settlements, face a combination of socio-economic challenges and opportunities.

The majority of residents in Hopely and Amsterdam engage in informal sector activities, such as vending, brick moulding and artisanal work. Many individuals lack stable formal employment, with a significant proportion of the population reliant on subsistence activities (Kang'ethe, 2015). Housing these two informal settlements is characterized by self-constructed homes using local materials such as bricks and iron sheets. The area lacks adequate infrastructure, including proper roads, sewage systems, and reliable water supply, leading to health and sanitation challenges (Mugumbate and Nyoni, 2020). Access to education and healthcare in Hopely and Amsterdam is limited. Although there are informal schools and clinics within the settlement, they are often overcrowded and under-resourced. As a result, residents face challenges in accessing quality services, contributing to low literacy and poor health outcomes (Chibanda et al., 2017). Despite the hardships, residents of Hopely rely heavily on social networks for support. Some informal schools and clinics have been established, often supported by NGOs and community-driven initiatives. These networks include extended family systems, neighborhood support groups, and community-based organizations. These networks often provide mutual assistance in times of need (Mutangadura, 1999). The residents of Amsterdam engage in mutual aid, with community-based organizations playing a key role in addressing local issues such as health, housing, and security. Informal social safety nets, such as savings clubs and rotating credit schemes, are also common (Mugumbate and Nyoni, 2020). Kang'ethe (2015) highlighted that the quality of services remains a concern, with many households unable to afford private healthcare.

Both communities also demonstrate resilience through strong social networks and informal economic activities. While the settlements are marked by deprivation, they also serve as examples of urban survival strategies in Harare's ever-growing informal sector.

3.2.3 Environmental Characteristics

Both Hopely and Amsterdam exhibit similar environmental challenges. These include poor infrastructure, inadequate sanitation, deforestation, and land degradation. The lack of proper urban planning and environmental management has resulted in adverse living conditions that impact both the physical and mental well-being of residents (Mudzengi, 2020; Chirisa et al., 2013). The settlement faces severe environmental challenges, including deforestation due to the cutting down of trees for firewood, improper waste disposal, and limited drainage systems, which result in waterlogging during the rainy season (Chirisa et al., 2013). This improper disposal of waste often contributes to environmental pollution and health risks, particularly during the rainy season when stagnant water mixes with waste. Moreover, due to its rapid urbanization, there has been significant land degradation and soil erosion in the surrounding areas (Chirisa et al., 2013).

3.3 Research Design

The methodical framework that directs the gathering, examination, and interpretation of data for a study is known as a research design. It offers a rational and methodical strategy for answering the research questions and achieving the goals of the study. According to Kumar (2011), it is an examination plan strategy designed to find answers to research questions and issues. In order to provide a thorough grasp of the socioeconomic and environmental effects of informal settlements as well as the efficiency of governance in managing them, this study used a mixed-methods design, which combines quantitative and qualitative techniques. In order to gather quantifiable information from a representative sample of people residing in informal settlements, the quantitative approach used structured questionnaires. According to Creswell (2014), this approach was appropriate for determining patterns, occurrences, and connections between variables like income levels, access to essential services, and opinions about government initiatives. Statistical analysis and generalisation of results to the target population were made possible by quantitative data.

Simultaneously, the qualitative approach used semi-structured interviews with key informants, such as local government officials, urban planners, and community leaders, to explore perceptions, lived experiences, and policy perspectives that cannot be captured through numerical data alone (Merriam & Tisdell, 2016). Qualitative data gave the issues surrounding the growth of informal settlements depth and context, which enhanced the interpretation of the quantitative findings. The rationale for using a mixed-methods design is its ability to triangulate, where the convergence of data from various sources increases the study's validity, reliability, and credibility (Patton, 2015).

This integrative approach also helps to overcome the limitations inherent in using a single method, such as the lack of generalisability in qualitative research or the absence of context in quantitative analysis. Furthermore, the design was exploratory as well as descriptive. While the exploratory component sought to examine the root causes of informal settlements' growth and evaluate the management responsibilities of responsible authorities, the descriptive component sought to methodically record the conditions that currently exist in these settlements (Yin, 2018). Using Hopely and Amsterdam as study areas, the main goal of the research was to determine the effects of Harare's rapidly growing informal settlements.

In conclusion, the researcher was able to collect both extensive quantitative data and deep qualitative insights thanks to the research design that was selected. This allowed for a more comprehensive understanding of the research problem and well-informed policy and practice recommendations.

3.4 Targeted Population

A population refers to a group of individuals who share certain characteristics that are relevant to the research. Identifying the specific target population is crucial to ensure that it includes individuals who possess the information needed by the researcher, as noted by Lincoln and Guba (1995). In this study, the target population included the residents of Hopely and Amsterdam, which encompasses men, women, and youth, as well as District Office staff and local officials, who have an effect on these informal settlements. Additionally, the local councillor for this area was included, as they serve as non-executive representatives in the council. All of these individuals have connections to or influence over the settlements of Hopely and Amsterdam, from which samples were drawn, providing insights into the implications of the expansion of informal settlements.

3.5 Sample Size

Fifteen participants, selected from diverse segments of the local population, will make up the sample size for this study. Three to five government representatives and urban planners who are directly involved in housing and urban development issues in Harare are included in this sample, along with residents from the Hopley and Amsterdam neighbourhoods and council officials. This sample size was chosen because it is recognised that it is not feasible for the researcher to include every member of the population in the study. For example, Hopley had a population of about 15,000 people, according to ZIMSTAT (2012), making full population coverage impossible due to time and resource constraints. Consequently, it was decided that a smaller, carefully chosen sample would be suitable to offer significant insights while still being controllable within the parameters of the research.

3.6 Sampling Techniques

A key element of research methodology was sampling, which chooses the subset of people or units from a larger population to take part in the study. For the research findings to be valid and generalisable, the sample chosen must be representative of the population (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). The researcher used convenience sampling, stratified random sampling, and purposive sampling to choose participants for the study's quantitative and qualitative components. Ward 1 participants, council officials, and other pertinent organisations were chosen from a larger randomly drawn sample using convenience random sampling.

3.6.1 Convenience sampling

Convenience sampling was employed for this study's quantitative component because of pragmatic factors like time restraints, accessibility issues, and resource limitations. According to Etikan, Musa, and Alkassim (2016), convenience sampling is a non-probability sampling technique in which study participants are chosen based on their availability and willingness to participate. Particularly in situations where establishing a comprehensive sampling frame is challenging or impossible, this approach enables the researcher to collect data rapidly and economically. Residents of informal settlements who were easily reachable and open to taking part in the study were asked to fill out the questionnaire. Convenience sampling was especially appropriate in

places with no official population records and restricted access to households due to security or infrastructure concerns. Convenience sampling was the main sampling technique used by the researcher.

3.6.2 Stratified random sampling

A stratified random sampling technique was applied to the quantitative questionnaire component. The population was separated into various strata according to particular attributes like gender, age, and place, for example various informal settlement areas. To guarantee that all significant subgroups within the population were fairly represented, a random sample was chosen from each stratum. By lowering sampling bias and guaranteeing that the sample represents the diversity of the population, stratified random sampling was selected to increase the precision and accuracy of the results (Taherdoost, 2016).

3.6.3 Purposive sampling

Purposive sampling was used to choose important informants for the qualitative component, including representatives of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), community leaders, municipal officials, and urban planners. The participants were specifically selected based on their role, level of expertise, or personal experience with urban development and informal settlements. A common non-probability sampling method in qualitative research is purposeful sampling, which gathers in-depth information from people who are particularly informed about the topic (Etikan, Musa, & Alkassim, 2016). This technique should be used with caution, though, as the researcher may receive inaccurate information if the wrong groups are sampled.

The use of multiple sampling techniques aligns with the study's mixed-methods design, allowing for both statistical generalization through the quantitative strand and in-depth understanding through the qualitative strand. This combination enhances the richness, credibility, and comprehensiveness of the data collected

3.7 Data Collection Instruments

Data collection involves the acquisition of information from various sources, which may be classified as either primary or secondary. As noted by Kumar (2011), primary data is defined as data gathered firsthand by the researcher specifically for a particular investigation. In this study,

primary data was intentionally collected using methods such as interviews, questionnaires, and observations. These methods were chosen to complement each other and mitigate the potential drawbacks associated with each individual approach. Aside from primary data, the researcher also incorporated secondary data, which consists of information initially collected for different purposes but deemed relevant for the current analysis (Kumar, 2011). The sources of secondary data included newspapers, council records, and minutes from council meetings. By integrating both primary and secondary data sources, the researcher sought to improve the reliability and thoroughness of the collected information.

3.7.1 Interviews

Interviews served as a key method of data collection in this research. According to Kumar (2011), interviews entail direct, face-to-face engagement between the researcher and the participants, facilitating an in-depth examination of their opinions, experiences, and insights pertinent to the subject matter. This approach allowed the researcher to gather detailed qualitative data that might not be captured through other methods like questionnaires. The interviews were semi-structured, featuring a mix of open-ended and closed-ended questions, which offered flexibility for the researcher to delve deeper based on the interviewees' responses, while ensuring consistency across all interviews. Participants were chosen for their relevance to the research goals and their capacity to provide valuable, informed insights. This technique was especially effective in clarifying ambiguous answers and exploring intricate issues more comprehensively. Additionally, it fostered rapport with the participants, promoting openness and honesty in their responses. For this study, the researcher conducted 20 interviews, including 10 participants from Hopley and 10 from Amsterdam, utilizing both structured and unstructured formats.

Interviews are linked to several benefits, including the following:

- Rich, in-depth information from interviews gave the researcher a deeper understanding of the viewpoints, experiences, and opinions of the participants.
- The researcher was able to ask follow-up questions and clarify unclear responses thanks to the semi-structured format, which produced more thorough and accurate data.

- It was easier to explore unexpected but pertinent themes during interviews because of the flexibility to modify questions according to the conversation's flow.
- Face-to-face communication promoted greater openness and honesty in responses by fostering rapport and trust.
- By observing nonverbal cues like body language and facial expressions, the researcher could contextualise the spoken responses.

Nonetheless, there were challenges associated with the interviews as well

- Compared to other data collection methods, conducting, transcribing, and analysing interviews took a substantial amount of time and effort.
- Through leading questions or socially acceptable answers, the interviewer's presence has affected the participants' responses.
- Only a few participants could be interviewed due to time and resource constraints, which might have limited how broadly the results can be applied.
- The effectiveness of the interviewer's questioning, listening, and probing techniques greatly influenced the calibre of the data gathered.
- There were scheduling and logistical challenges in setting up in-person interviews with participants from two different locations (Hopley and Amsterdam).

3.7.2 Questionnaires

Another important tool for gathering data for this study was the questionnaire. They made it possible for the researcher to collect data from more respondents in a comparatively short amount of time. According to Pnnum (2014), a questionnaire is a document that is methodically planned with a set of questions intended to elicit answers from research informants solely for data collection. In order to gather both quantitative and qualitative data, the questionnaires contained both closed-ended and open-ended questions. While open-ended questions allowed respondents to express their opinions in their own words, closed-ended questions offered structured answers that were simple to code and analyse.

This approach was especially helpful for gathering standardised data, which made it easier to compare data from various groups and places. Participants in Hopley and Amsterdam were given questionnaires, guaranteeing a varied representation of viewpoints pertinent to the study's goals. The research questions and objectives served as a guide for the questionnaire's design, guaranteeing that the data gathered was pertinent and in line with the study's goals. Before being distributed widely, the questionnaire was pre-tested with a small sample of respondents to improve its clarity and reliability.

Advantages of using questionnaires

- Compared to interviews, questionnaires allowed the researcher to gather data from a large number of participants quickly and at a relatively low cost.
- It was easier to compare responses from various groups because all participants provided the same answers to the same set of questions, ensuring consistency in the data gathered.
- the questionnaires could be filled out anonymously, respondents might have been more forthcoming and truthful, particularly when discussing delicate subjects.
- More objective data was obtained because there was less opportunity for an interviewer to sway participants' answers.
- Quantifiable data from closed-ended questions was readily coded and subjected to statistical analysis.

Disadvantage using questionnaires

- In contrast to interviews, questionnaires—particularly those that contain a large number of closed-ended questions—do not permit in-depth, thorough answers or follow-up enquiries.
- Low return rates were frequently a possibility, particularly if participants lacked motivation or if the questionnaire was long or ambiguous.
- Participants were misinterpreting some questions in the absence of an interviewer to clarify them, which resulted in incorrect answers.
- The reliability of the data may be impacted by respondents who omit questions or give socially acceptable answers rather than the truth.

- Respondents with low levels of education or language proficiency may find it difficult to meet the literacy and comprehension requirements of questionnaires.

3.7.3 Observations

Another important technique for gathering data for this study was observation. Kawulich (2005) states that observation entails methodically observing and documenting conditions, interactions, and behaviours as they arise in the wild. The researcher was able to collect environmental, contextual, and nonverbal data using this method that was not possible with questionnaires or interviews. By observing the subjects without actively participating in their activities, the researcher employed non-participant observation. This method reduced the impact of the researcher's presence on the participants' behaviour while preserving objectivity. In order to comprehend daily routines, living circumstances, and social dynamics within the communities, observations were made in both Hopley and Amsterdam. Real-time notes were made and subsequently examined to find trends, actions, or occurrences pertinent to the study's goals. This approach provided a more comprehensive grasp of the research context and was especially useful for validating and enhancing data gathered using other instruments.

Advantages of observations

- Observations allowed the researcher to collect first-hand, real-time data about behaviors and settings, providing a realistic picture of the research context.
- This method captured non-verbal cues, social interactions, and environmental details that are often missed in interviews or questionnaires.
- Observations provided insights into the setting and conditions under which behaviors occur, enriching the overall understanding of the research topic.
- It served as a useful tool to cross-check or validate information gathered from interviews and questionnaires.
- Non-participant observation reduced the likelihood of participants modifying their behavior, especially if the observation was discreet.

Disadvantages of observations

- The findings may not be as broadly applicable as they could be because observation was time-consuming and typically involves a small sample size.
- What is observed and how it is documented may be influenced by the researcher's interpretations or preconceptions.
- Although behaviours can be seen, further investigation is necessary to fully understand the underlying motivations or ideas that underlie them.
- Concerns about privacy and consent in particular may arise from secretly observing people. The Hawthorne effect is the phenomenon whereby the presence of an observer, even in a non-participant role, can occasionally change participants' natural behaviour.

3.8 Secondary Data Sources

In research, secondary sources are essential because they validate and bolster data gathered from primary sources (Gay, 1987). Understanding secondary sources, according to Livesey (2006), entails the researcher using data that has previously been gathered and examined by other researchers. The researcher used a variety of secondary sources for this study, including scholarly journals, current and historical newspapers, official reports, and council minutes. These resources included pertinent data that helped develop concepts, analyses, and suggestions when compared and examined. The researcher was better able to contextualise and interpret the primary data by incorporating secondary data. Furthermore, secondary data is frequently easier to obtain and more affordable; it is usually available on frequently updated websites or in institutions like libraries and councils.

3.9 Pretesting

Before the primary study, a pretest was carried out to guarantee the validity and dependability of the data collection tool. Pretesting is a crucial part of research design because it enables the researcher to find and fix possible problems with the flow, structure, and clarity of the questions (Presser et al., 2004). A small sample of ten participants, five from Hopley and five from

Amsterdam who represent the target population were chosen to fill out the questionnaire for this study. Feedback regarding the questions' clarity, the amount of time needed to finish the tool, and any areas of ambiguity or confusion was requested from the participants. Minor problems were identified by the feedback gathered, such as the use of technical terms that some respondents were not familiar with and the requirement for better question logical sequencing. Prior to the instrument's full rollout, these problems were resolved. By assisting researchers in honing and improving their methodology, pilot testing increases the efficacy of research instruments, claim van Teijlingen and Hundley (2001). As a result, the pretest was essential to raising the calibre of the final data collection procedure. The benefits of Pretesting :

- Increases validity and reliability of the research instrument.
- Reduces errors and misinterpretation.
- Saves time and resources by minimizing the chance of failure in the main study.
- Improves participant experience and response rates.

3.10 Data Processing and Presentation

Errors, inconsistencies, and incomplete responses were first removed from the raw data that was gathered in the field. Following that, the information was categorised and arranged based on common traits, like answers from respondents that were similar. This data organisation procedure is necessary to turn unstructured field data into information that can be analysed and found useful (Kumar, 2014). The data were coded after classification to facilitate quantitative analysis and interpretation. By giving responses numerical or symbolic values, coding makes data entry and analysis easier (Kothari, 2004). Following processing, pie charts, percentages, and graphs were used to display the data. These visual aids are essential for condensing complicated information in a way that improves comprehension and makes comparison and interpretation easier. The development of precise descriptions and conclusions that are in line with the goals of the study is aided by the use of such graphical representations.

3.11 Ethical Consideration

The term "ethics" refers to a collection of rules, guidelines, and conventions that regulate proper and morally upright conduct. To maintain the validity, reliability, and credibility of the study, the researcher must adhere to ethical principles when conducting research. Throughout the research process, the researcher in this study pledged to uphold honesty, integrity, respect, fairness, loyalty, and dependability. All information sources were appropriately cited in order to maintain academic integrity and prevent problems like copyright infringement. Following ethical guidelines aided in achieving the main goals of the study, which were to find the truth, create knowledge, and avoid mistakes. Practices like data fabrication, falsification, and misrepresentation are discouraged by these standards. Additionally, by encouraging behaviours like confidentiality and adherence to institutional policies and copyright laws, they promoted accountability, trust, equity, and respect for one another.

3.12 Chapter summary

This chapter covered research methodologies, sample size, research design, and sampling techniques to be used in the study. The benefits and drawbacks of three distinct data collection techniques were also thoroughly examined. The rationale behind using more than two techniques was to compensate for any shortcomings or flaws in the other techniques, resulting in objective data. Purposive sampling and other methods were carefully considered. As one of the crucial elements that must be observed during the research process, ethics in conducting the study were also covered. The results of the research methodology, presented in the form of charts, graphs, and other visual aids, will be the main topic of the following chapter.

CHAPTER 4 RESULTS/ RESEARCH FINDINGS

4.1 INTRODUCTON

This chapter focuses on presenting the results from a study investigating the effects of the rapid growth of informal settlements in Harare, specifically examining the areas of Hopely and Amsterdam. The objective is to clearly interpret the data, which will be displayed through tables, graphs, images, pie charts, themes, and direct quotes from interviews, observations, and questionnaires. The findings presented reflect the feelings and experiences of the participants. The chapter will begin with a summary of the collected information and highlight important concerns and findings related to the research objectives, which include the socio-economic conditions of residents in informal settlements, the environmental effects of growing informal settlements on Harare's urban ecosystem, the effectiveness of urban planning policies and governance in addressing the informal settlement issue, as well as the challenges and opportunities for integrating informal settlements into the formal urban framework. Lastly, the chapter will propose sustainable strategies to address the negative impacts of these informal settlements in Harare.

4.2 Overview of the research findings

The findings from the field survey reveal significant socio-economic challenges faced by residents, including poverty, poor living conditions, and lack of basic services. The rapid growth of these settlements has also had a profound negative impact on the environment, contributing to waste management issues, land degradation, and water pollution. Furthermore, governance and policy challenges hinder effective management of the settlements, with limited urban planning, weak law enforcement, and a lack of adequate resources. Based on the findings, interventions are proposed to address these issues and promote sustainable, inclusive urban development in Harare.

4.3 Socio-Economic Conditions of Residents in Informal Settlement

Income and Employment

The field survey revealed that informal employment is the primary livelihood source for the majority of residents. About 78% of respondents from both Hopely and Amsterdam reported engaging in informal sector activities, including street vending, casual labor, and small-scale businesses. Only 18% of residents held formal jobs, and 4% relied on remittances or other non-

labor income. The average monthly income for most households was below the national poverty line.

Table 4.1 Sources of Income in Hopley and Amsterdam

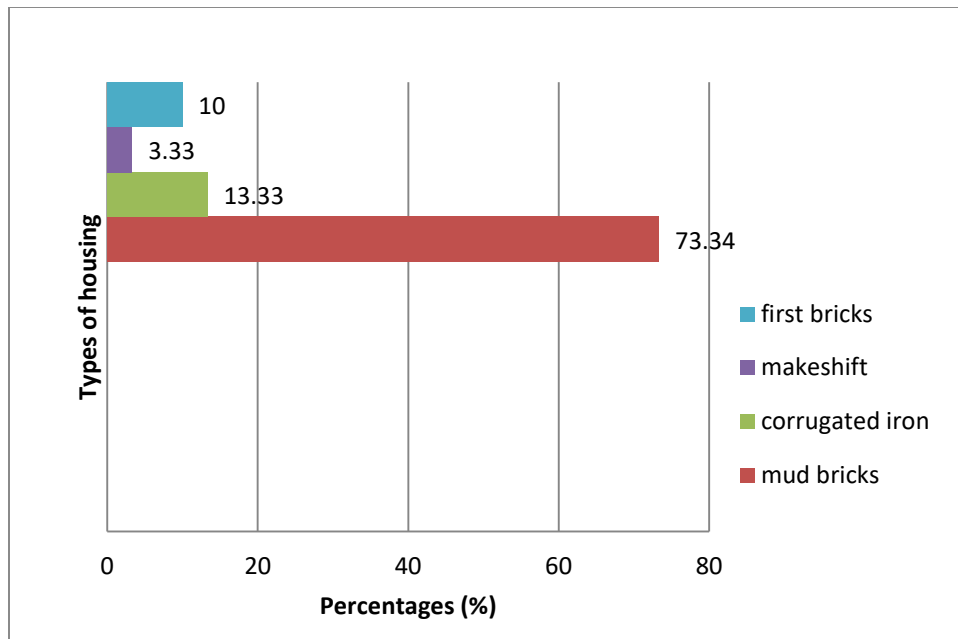
Income Source	Percentage of respondents
Street Vending	40%
Casual Labour	30%
Small Scale Business	8%
Formal Employment	18%
Remittances or Other	4%

Living Conditions and Housing

Housing quality is poor, with most homes built using makeshift materials like mud bricks, corrugated iron sheets, and plastic this was observed by the researcher. He randomly selected 15 houses from Hopley and 15 from Amsterdam side. 73.34% of the responded lived in mud bricks houses, 13.33% in corrugated iron sheets and 3.33% in makeshift houses. Only 10% of the population sample lived in first brick houses where the council issued the title deeds.

Drawn from interviews, 70% of respondents reported overcrowded conditions, with up to 8 people living in a single room in some cases for example from zone 1 to 5 areas. Additionally, 55% of households have limited access to adequate sanitation and clean water, relying on communal taps or shallow wells.

Fig 4.1 Types of materials used to build houses in Hopley and Amsterdam



Access to Basic Services

Access to essential services is severely limited. From interviews and questionnaires drawn from 30 people responded, 25 people responded from both Hopely and Amsterdam that they did not have piped water they depended on open water sources such as wells and community initiated boreholes installed by Non-Governmental Organisation. Only 5 with are 16 % people in Zone 6 Hopely responded that they have piped council water in their homes. 90% do not have access to a proper sewer system, with some in hopely zone one are using pit toilets and some using pour and flash toilets with septic tanks. Only 8 % have the access to electricity those settled in Zone 6 Hopely. Over 90% of the respondents indicated that poor waste management in these areas. The lack of waste management systems leads to widespread open dumping, posing environmental and health risks.

Table 4.2 Access to basic services in both settlement

Basic Services	Percentage of Respondents with Access
Piped Water	16%
Electricity	8%
Waste management	1%

4.4 Environmental Impact of Informal Settlements

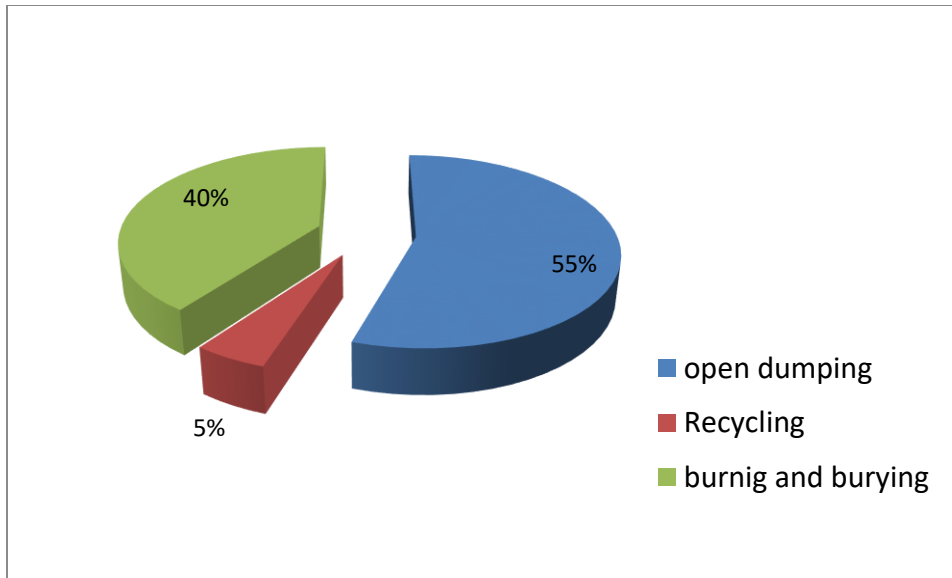
Land Degradation and Encroachment on Green Spaces

The survey found that the rapid expansion of informal settlements has led to the encroachment on wetlands. Drawn from 18 participants, 60% of respondents reported that they live in areas that were once wetlands or green spaces, which have now been converted into densely populated settlements. This has contributed to soil erosion, land degradation, and increased flooding the during rain seasons.

Waste Management and Water Pollution

Informal settlements like Hopley and Amsterdam suffer from poor waste management. From the data collected by the researcher, the respondents reporting that waste are often disposed in open spaces, illegal dumps, burning and burring methods. Indicated that 55% used open spaces as dumpsites, 45% used to burn and burry solid waste, only 5% was collected to be recycled. Waste such as plastics was collected by some who earn a living through selling plastics to recycling companies. The lack of proper drainage systems leads to regular flooding during the rainy season, exacerbating pollution in local water bodies. 55% of households indicated that they use contaminated water sources, raising concerns about the spread of waterborne diseases.

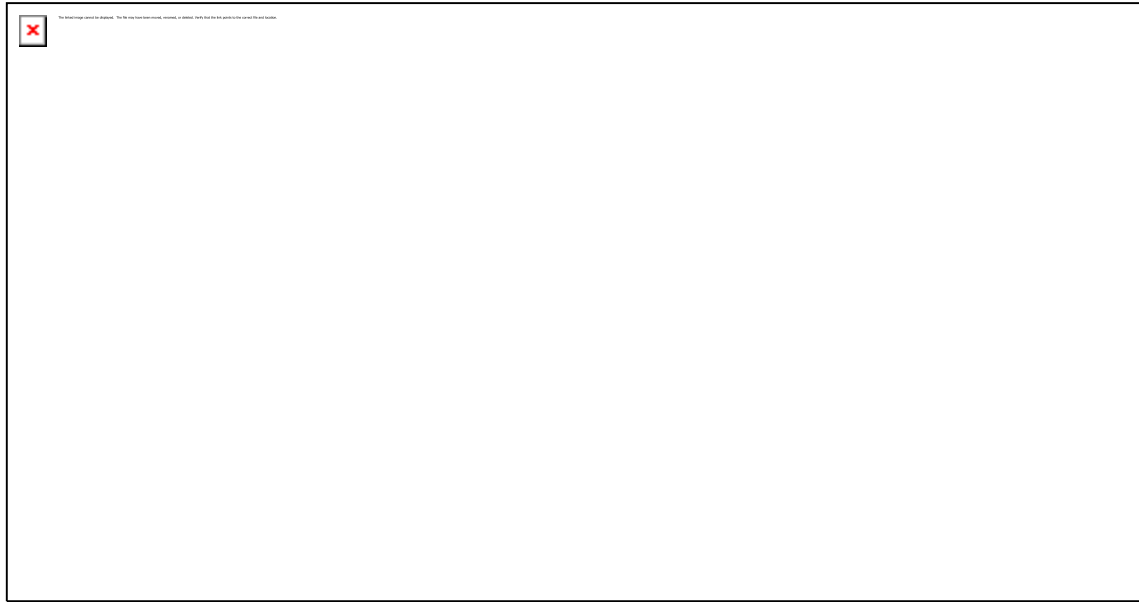
Fig 4.1 Waste disposal methods in Hopley and Amsterdam



Land and Air Pollution

The survey revealed that 95 % of respondents in both Hopley and Amsterdam use open spaces to dump garbage and burning leading to land pollution in nearby areas. The practice of burning the garbage contributes to air pollution, with of respondents indicating that smoke from burning waste affects their health, particularly children and the elderly.

Figure 4.2 Showing Land pollution in Hopely (Primary Source)



4.5 Governance and Policy Challenges in Managing Informal Settlements

Urban Planning and Zoning Issues: Both Hopley and Amsterdam have developed largely outside formal urban planning processes. 80% of residents reported that their settlements were not included in city planning documents, and construction has occurred without proper land-use zoning or building permits. The absence of planning has led to overcrowded, unsafe living conditions and difficulties in providing essential services.

Land and Security

Tenure

The lack of formal land tenure is a major issue in both settlements. 85% of respondents reported that they do not have legal ownership or secure tenure of the land they occupy, making them vulnerable to forced evictions. This insecurity prevents residents from investing in improving their homes or accessing loans for development.

Responding to an open ended interview one men of the residence in Amsterdam says, *Tinogara mudzimba dzakavakwa nefarm brick uye muma cartage nekuti aya ma temporary shelter tichazovata ma main house kana kanzuru yauya, nekuti takangogarawo pamwe togona kuzoputirwa dzimba idzodzi*. Translated as “I lived in farm bricked hall small corteges because

these are temporary houses and we are waiting for the council for regularization for us to build main houses, for this period we are only living temporarily suddenly we may face demolitions.”

Weak Enforcement of Regulations

The field survey revealed that 75% of respondents believed there was a lack of effective enforcement of building codes and urban regulations in the settlements. This has led to the proliferation of substandard housing and the absence of necessary infrastructure, such as proper roads, drainage, and waste management.

Mr Muchemwa, one of the respondent of an open ended interview says “ They do not have formal enforcement and regulations governing their areas but power is hold by only ZANU-Pf leaders ,the so called ‘chairmans’. They usually sell the open spaces like roads and spaces for left shops to form seekers resulting in overcrowding and hurpzard settlement patterns.” He also said that they do not have even informal laws to control waste management.

4.6 Interventions to Mitigate Negative Effects and Promote Inclusive Urban Development

Infrastructure Improvement

The survey indicates a strong need for improvements in infrastructure, with 70% of respondents calling for better water supply systems, reliable electricity, and improved waste management services. Investing in these areas would improve the quality of life in informal settlements.

Affordable Housing Programs

There is a consensus among residents that affordable housing should be prioritized. 80% of respondents suggested that the government should provide subsidies or support for low-income households to access affordable, permanent housing, thus reducing overcrowding and promoting security of tenure.

Sustainable Waste Management Practices

65% of respondents called for the introduction of regular waste collection services, as well as community-based recycling programs. This would help reduce environmental pollution and improve sanitation in informal settlements.

Land Regularization and Security of Tenure

Legalizing informal settlements and providing secure land tenure would allow residents to invest in their homes and businesses. 90% of respondents expressed support for land tenure reforms that would grant them legal ownership or long-term leases, thus enhancing security and stability.

Community Engagement in Urban Planning

The field survey suggests that involving residents in urban planning decisions is essential for effective settlement management. 75% of respondents emphasized the need for local authorities to consult with community members and include them in the planning and development of informal settlements.

One of the respondent said, *Kanzuru paichauya ichiongorora kugara kwatakaita muno vanofanira ukutivhunzwa isu zvatinoda kuti zviitwe munzvimbo ino nekuti tisu vagari vemuno tinoziva zvatinoda*. “As translated in English, When council came in with development planning they must involve us as residents in decision making because we are the inhabitance of this area we know what we need .”

Summary

The findings from the field survey in Hopley and Amsterdam settlements provide clear insights into the socio-economic, environmental, and governance challenges posed by informal settlements in Harare. These settlements face significant issues, including poverty, overcrowding, environmental degradation, and inadequate services. There are also critical governance and policy challenges that hinder effective management and planning. However, with targeted interventions, such as infrastructure improvement, affordable housing programs, waste management initiatives, land regularization, and enhanced community involvement in planning, these negative effects can be mitigated, promoting inclusive and sustainable urban development in Harare.

CHAPTER 5: DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Discussion

The research on the effects of rampant increases in informal settlements in Harare, with a case study focusing on Hopley and Amsterdam settlements has provided valuable insights into the socio-economic conditions of the residents, the environmental sustainability challenges, and governance issues surrounding these settlements.

The research effectively addresses the posed questions. The socio-economic conditions of the residents were explored, revealing poverty, unemployment, lack of access to basic services and a general sense of insecurity. Informal settlements' impact on environmental sustainability was evident through overcrowding, land pollution, and inadequate waste management. The research also highlighted key challenges in managing the growth of informal settlements, such as insufficient policy frameworks and lack of political will. Finally, the research offered potential interventions to mitigate the negative effects, emphasizing inclusive urban planning, improved governance, and provision of basic services.

While the results provide significant insights, there may be concerns regarding the representativeness of the sample size and the generalization of the findings to other informal settlements in Harare. Additionally, the methodology may have been limited by the availability of data, especially in terms of policy analysis and governance perspectives. The study might also be constrained by biases in self-reported data from residents, especially when it comes to socio-economic conditions.

The methodology primarily relied on qualitative interviews, surveys, and observational data. While this provided rich insights, a mixed-method approach incorporating quantitative data (such as demographic surveys, census data, and economic analyses) could strengthen the findings. Furthermore, a broader sampling that includes diverse informal settlements in Harare would make the results more generalizable. Additionally, incorporating a longitudinal study could help track the evolution of these settlements and their impact over time.

The research objectives were largely met. The socio-economic conditions, environmental impacts, and governance challenges were all thoroughly explored. The research also provided meaningful recommendations for mitigating the effects of informal settlements. However, there could have been more in-depth analysis of policy responses to these challenges, especially regarding the enforcement of urban planning laws.

The results align with similar studies conducted on informal settlements in other parts of Africa, such as Nairobi and Lagos, which report similar socio-economic challenges and environmental degradation. The study also echoes global concerns about urbanization and the failure of formal governance structures to address the needs of informal settlers. However, Harare's context, with its specific political and economic challenges, presents unique factors that differentiate it from other urban centers in sub-Saharan Africa.

One possible area of disagreement could be the role of the government in informal settlement growth. Some studies may argue that the lack of urban planning is a result of political mismanagement, while others could place more emphasis on broader economic and infrastructural constraints. This disagreement can be explained by the complex interplay between governance, political will, and resource limitations in Zimbabwe.

The findings suggest that more research is needed to explore long-term sustainable solutions for informal settlements in Harare. Future work could focus on analyzing the effectiveness of current interventions and policy implementations. Additionally, there is a need for comparative studies between different African cities to explore the broader dynamics of informal urbanization and policy responses.

5.2 Recommendations

Inclusive Urban Planning

It is crucial to integrate informal settlements into the broader urban development framework. This includes the provision of basic services such as water, sanitation, and electricity, and ensuring that new settlements are planned with access to roads and healthcare.

Strengthening Governance and Policy Enforcement

Local authorities need to improve governance mechanisms and enforce urban planning laws. This includes better regulation of land use, building codes, and environmental standards, ensuring that informal settlements are not developed haphazardly.

Environmental Sustainability Initiatives

Immediate action should be taken to address the environmental impact of informal settlements. This could involve reforestation programs, waste management systems, and the development of green spaces to reduce pollution and improve living conditions.

Community Participation

Engaging residents in decision-making processes is critical. Local communities should be part of urban planning efforts to ensure that interventions are tailored to their needs and that they are committed to maintaining improvements.

Longitudinal Studies on Informal Settlements

Future research should focus on longitudinal studies that track the development of informal settlements over time. This would provide insights into the long-term effectiveness of interventions and policies implemented by the government and NGOs.

Comparative Analysis with Other African Cities

A comparative analysis of informal settlements in other African cities could provide valuable lessons for Harare. This would allow for the development of more tailored, region-specific solutions to the challenges posed by informal settlements.

Policy Evaluation Studies

More in-depth studies are needed to evaluate the effectiveness of specific policy measures, such as land tenure regularization, upgrading of informal settlements, and the provision of infrastructure. These studies could focus on the direct impact on residents' quality of life and on urban growth patterns.

By addressing these areas, future research and interventions can contribute to more sustainable and equitable urban development in Harare and similar urban contexts across the continent.

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APPENDIX I: QUESTIONNAIRE

My name is Henry T Mukundu. I am a student of Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Development Studies from Bindura University of Science Education. I am carrying out a research of **The Effects of rampant increase of informal settlement in Harare using Hopley and Amsterdam as areas of study**. I am kindly asking you to provide relevant information. The information you are going to give us is going to be used in academic purposes only.

Confidentiality

No name is going to be published. The information that you will be giving is strictly private and confidential. Therefore do not hesitate to say what you are experiencing or what you have experienced.

Section A: Demographic Information

Tick in appropriate box

1. Age:

Under 18	☐
18–25	☐
26–35	☐
36–50	☐
Over 50	☐

2. Gender:

Male	☐
Female	☐
Prefer not to say	☐

3. Marital Status:

Single	☐
married	☐

widowed	☐
Divorced	☐

4. Educational Level:

No formal education

☐

Secondary

☐

Tertiary

☐

5. Occupation: _____

Section B: Housing and Settlement Conditions

6. How long have you lived in this settlement?

Less than 1 year

☐

1–3 years

☐

4–7 years

☐

More than 7 years

☐

7. What type of housing structure do you live in?

Temporary (e.g. makeshift, shack)	
Semi-permanent	
Permanent	

8. Do you own or rent your dwelling?

Own

☐☐

Rent

Other (please specify): _____

9. What basic services do you have access to? (Select all that apply)

Clean water	
Electricity	
Toilets	
Waste disposal	
Roads	

Section C: Socioeconomic Impacts

10. What is your average monthly household income?

Below USD 50	☐
USD 51–100	☐
USD 101–200	☐
Above USD 200	☐

11. How has living in this settlement affected your access to employment opportunities?

a) Improved	☐	(b) No change	☐	(c) Worsened	☐
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12. Are there schools and clinics easily accessible in your area? (a) ☐ OR (b) NO ☐

13. Has crime increased in the area over time?

Yes	
No	
Not sure	

Section D: Environmental and Health Effects

14. How would you describe the sanitation conditions in your area?

(a) Good ☐ (b) Average ☐ (c) Poor ☐

15. Have you or anyone in your household experienced health problems due to poor sanitation or pollution? (a) Yes ☐ or (b) No ☐

16. What are the main environmental problems in the settlement? (Select all that apply)

Poor waste disposal	
Air pollution	
Water pollution	
Flooding	
Deforestation	

Section E: Community Perception and Solutions

17. What do you think are the causes of rapid growth in informal settlements in Harare?

18. Do you think the government is doing enough to address issues in informal settlements?

☐
☐

(a) Yes

OR

(b) No

19. What kind of support or services would improve your living conditions?

20. Any additional comments or suggestions?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION

APPENDIX II: Interview Guide Questions

“The Effects of Rampant Increase of Informal Settlements in Harare: A Case Study of Hopley and Amsterdam Settlements.”

1. How long have you been living in this settlement (Hopley/Amsterdam)?

2. What led you to settle in this area?
3. What basic services are available in your area for e.g., water, electricity, toilets, waste disposal?
4. Are these services reliable? If not, what challenges do you face?
5. How do you access healthcare, education, and transport services?
6. How has living in this settlement affected your livelihood or employment opportunities?
7. Are there any income-generating activities common in the area?
8. Have you noticed any environmental problems in the area for instance, pollution, flooding, poor sanitation?
9. What health-related challenges are common in this settlement?
10. How do residents usually deal with waste disposal and sewage?
11. Are there any local organizations, NGOs, or community groups active in this settlement?
12. How do residents resolve disputes or handle issues such as crime?
13. Have government officials or local authorities engaged with the community on service delivery or upgrading?
14. What do you think should be done by the government to improve life in Hopley/Amsterdam?
15. In your opinion, what solutions could help reduce the problems associated with informal settlements in Harare?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME

