

BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK



**A MODEL TOWARDS THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CRISIS BEING FACED BY TEEN
MOTHERS IN ZIMBABWE. A CASE STUDY OF MUREHWA DISTRICT**

BY

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE HONOURS DEGREE IN
SOCIAL WORK**

JUNE 2025

APPROVAL FORM

I certify that I supervised **Melody Chimuzimu (B210681B)** in carrying out this research titled: **A model towards the socio-economic crisis being faced by teen mothers in Zimbabwe. A case study of Murehwa district;** in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the Bachelor of Science, Honours Degree in Social Work and recommend that it proceeds for examination.

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Chairperson of the Department Board of Examiners

The departmental board of examiners is satisfied that this dissertation report meets the examination requirements and therefore I recommend to Bindura University of Science Education to accept this research project by Chimuzimu Melody titled: **A model towards the socio-economic crisis being faced by teen mothers in Zimbabwe. A case study of Murehwa district;** in partial fulfilment of the Bachelor of Science, Honours Degree in Social work.

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DECLARATION RELEASE FORM

I, B210681B studying for a Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Social Work, aware of the fact that plagiarism is an academic offense and that falsifying information is a breach of the ethics of Social Work research, I truthfully declare that:

1. The dissertation report titled **A MODEL TOWARDS THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CRISIS BEING FACED BY TEEN MOTHERS IN ZIMBABWE.A CASE STUDY OF MUREHWA DISTRICT**

2. The research was crafted within the confines of the research ethics and the ethics of the profession.

3. Bindura University of Science Education can use this dissertation for academic purposes.

Student's namesSignature..... Date.....

DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to to my beloved family, whose unwavering love, sacrifices and encouragement have been my greatest source of strength. Your endless support both emotionally and financially has guided me through every challenge and triumph in this journey. Your faith in me even the moments I doubted myself, has been a beacon of inspiration. May this work contribute to the advancement of knowledge in the department of Social Work and inspire future generations of scholars and researchers.

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To everyone who contributed in any way in the competition of this work, I extend my heartfelt thanks to you.

Marking guide

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Name:

Registration No:

MARKING GUIDE: UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROJECT

Chapter 1 INTRODUCTION	Possible Mark	Actual Mark
Abstract	10	
Background to the study- what is it that has made you choose this particular topic? Include objectives or purpose of the study	20	
Statement of the problem	10	
Research questions	15	
Assumptions	5	
Significance of the study	15	
Limitations of the study	5	
Delimitations of the study	5	
Definition of terms	10	
Summary	5	

Total	100	
Weighted Mark	15	

Comments.....
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Chapter 2 LITERATURE REVIEW

Introduction- what do you want to write about in this chapter?	5	
Conceptual or theoretical framework	10	
Identification, interpretations and evaluation of relevant literature and citations	40	
Contextualisation of the literature to the problem	10	
Establishing gaps in knowledge and how the research will try to bridge these gaps	10	
Structuring and logical sequencing of ideas	10	
Discursive skills	10	
Summary	5	
Total	100	
Weighted Mark	20	

Comments.....
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Chapter 3 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Introduction	5	
Research design	10	
What instruments are you using to collect data?	30	

Population, sample and sampling techniques to be used in the study	25	
Procedures for collecting data	15	
Data presentation and analysis procedures	10	
Summary	5	
Total	100	
Weighted Mark	25	

Comments.....

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Chapter 4 DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Introduction	5	
Data presentation	50	
Is there any attempt to link literature review with new findings	10	
How is the new knowledge trying to fill the gaps identified earlier	10	
Discursive and analytical skills	20	
Summary	5	
Total	100	
Weighted Mark	30	

Comments

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Chapter 5 SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction- focus of the chapter	5	
Summary of the whole project including constraints	25	
Conclusions- have you come up with answers to the problem under study	30	
Recommendations (should be based on findings) Be precise	30	
References	5	
Appendices i.e. copies of instruments used and any other relevant material	5	
Total	100	
Weighted mark	10	

Comments

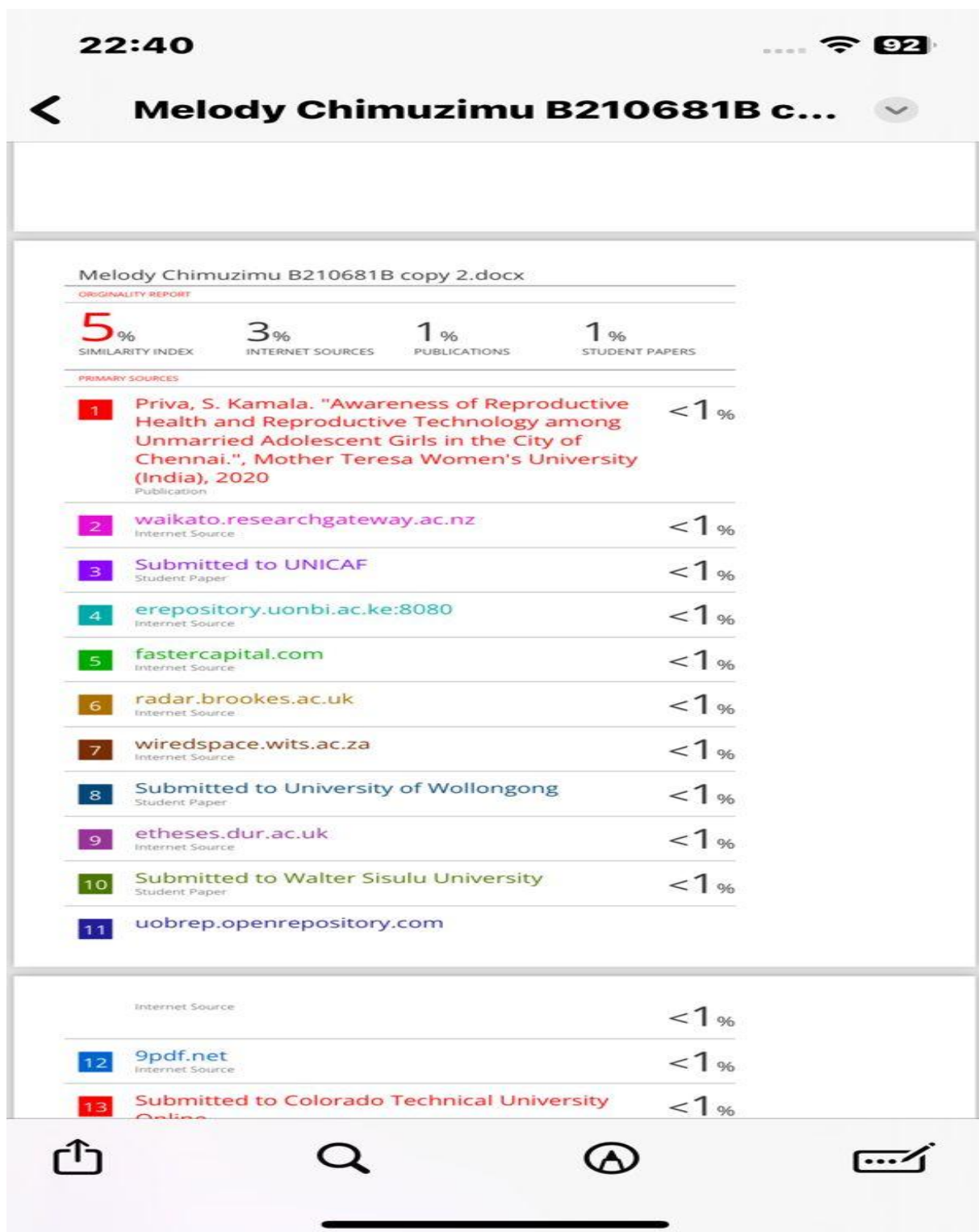
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SUMMARY: -

	Actual	Total
<u>Chapter 1</u>		
<u>Chapter 2</u>		
<u>Chapter 3</u>		
<u>Chapter 4</u>		
<u>Chapter 5</u>		
Total	_____	_____

PLAGIARISM REPORT



ABSTRACT

This study aimed to investigate the socio-economic crisis faced by teen mothers in Murehwa district, Zimbabwe, with the goal of proposing a model to support them in achieving economic independence and social integration. Using a qualitative research approach, the study investigated the factors contributing to teenage motherhood, assessed the impact of teenage motherhood on educational attainment and economic prospects, and proposed a model to support teen mothers. The study's findings revealed that lack of access to sexual and reproductive health information, poverty, and cultural and social norms are significant factors contributing to teenage motherhood, which in turn negatively impacts educational attainment and economic prospects. Based on the findings, the study proposes a model framework that includes economic empowerment programs, psychosocial support programs, and education and skills development programs to support teen mothers. The study concludes that addressing the socio-economic crisis faced by teen mothers requires a comprehensive approach that targets the underlying factors contributing to teenage motherhood and provides support services to promote economic empowerment and social integration. The study recommends that policymakers and practitioners develop and implement programs that provide teen mothers with access to economic opportunities, education, and skills development, as well as psychosocial support services. The proposed model framework offers a promising approach to supporting teen mothers in Murehwa district and potentially in other similar contexts, and highlights the need for further research to explore its effectiveness and scalability.

ACRONYMS

AIDS:	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
HIV:	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
NGO:	Non-Governmental Organization
SRH:	Sexual and Reproductive Health
STI:	Sexually Transmitted Infection
UNFPA:	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF:	United Nations Children's Fund
WHO:	World Health Organization
ZSE	: Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (not relevant to this study, but was mentioned earlier)

Contents

APPROVAL FORM.....	ii
DECLARATION RELEASE FORM.....	iv
DEDICATION	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	vi
Marking guide.....	vii
PLAGIARISM REPORT	xi
ABSTRACT	xii
ACRONYMS	xiii
CHAPTER ONE	1
1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	3
1.3 Aim of the Study.....	3
1.4 Objectives of the Study.....	3
1.5 Research Questions	4
1.6 Significance of the Study/ Justification of the Study.....	4
1.7 Assumptions	5
1.8 Delimitations of the Study	6
1.9 Limitations of the Study	6
1.10 Definition of Key Terms.....	6
1.11 Dissertation Outline.....	7
LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK	9
2.3 Educational Challenges	10
2.3.1 Barriers to Education.....	10
2.3.2 Impact on Educational Attainment.....	10
2.4 Health Implications	11
2.5 Financial Strain	12
2.5.1 Economic Independence.....	12
2.5.2 Financial Support Systems.....	13

2.6.1 Societal Prejudices.....	13
2.7 Parenting Challenges	14
2.7.1 Parenting Skills	14
2.7.2 Support Networks	15
2.8 Policy Interventions.....	16
2.8.1 Government Policies	16
2.8.2 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).....	17
2.15 Chapter Summary.....	17
CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	18
3.1 Introduction	18
3.2 Research Philosophy	18
3.3 Research Methodology	18
3.4 Research Design	18
3.5 Target Population	19
3.6 Sample Size.....	19
CHAPTER FOUR.....	23
DATA PRESENTATION INTERPRETATION ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS	23
Chapter 4: Findings.....	23
4.2.3 Cultural and Social Norms.....	25
4.4 Impact of Teenage Motherhood on Educational Attainment and Economic Prospects	26
4.4.3 Social Isolation	28
4.5 Proposed Model to Support Teen Mothers	29
4.5.1 Economic Empowerment	29
4.5.2 Psychosocial Support.....	30
4.5.3 Education and Skills Development.....	31
CHAPTER 5: SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS	33
5.1 Introduction	33
5.2 Summary of findings	33
5.3 Conclusions of the Study	34

5.4 Implications to Social Work.....	35
5.5 Recommendations.....	37
5.6 Model Framework.....	39
5.7 Areas for Further Study.....	41
References.....	42
LIST OF APPENDICES.....	47

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This is the opening chapter, and it establishes the parameters for the discussion of the entire study. It examines the study's background, assesses the problem statement, and determines the study's objectives and research questions. The chapter assesses the study's importance. It dives into the assumptions and chapter outline for the entire study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Globally, the issue of adolescent pregnancy poses a considerable concern for public health, with an estimated 21 million girls aged 15 to 19 experiencing pregnancy each year (World Health Organization, 2020). The repercussions of early pregnancy can be grave, leading to heightened risks of maternal and infant mortality, along with enduring socio-economic consequences for young mothers and their offspring (United Nations Children's Fund, 2021). Recent data suggests that complications arising from pregnancy and childbirth stand as the primary cause of death among teenage girls globally (United Nations Population Fund, 2022). Tackling teenage pregnancy necessitates nuanced and comprehensive strategies that delve into the fundamental factors contributing to this issue. The international community has underscored the urgency of combating adolescent pregnancy, as evidenced by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) emphasizing the imperative of ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, encompassing family planning, for all individuals (United Nations, 2020). Numerous countries have been actively working to diminish rates of teenage pregnancy through endeavors aimed at enhancing educational, healthcare, and social provisions for adolescents (World Health Organization, 2020). Despite these initiatives, adolescent pregnancy persists as a significant obstacle, particularly in nations with lower and moderate incomes.

In this region, teenage pregnancy rates are among the highest in the world, with an estimated 19% of girls aged 15-19 having begun childbearing (UNFPA, 2022). The consequences of teenage pregnancy in Africa can be particularly severe, with young mothers facing significant barriers to education, employment, and healthcare (African Union, 2020).

The repercussions of teenage motherhood in Zimbabwe, particularly in rural areas like Murehwa, are profound and multifaceted, impacting not only individual lives but also the broader community

and national development. Studies have shown that teenage mothers in Zimbabwe face heightened risks of maternal mortality, limited economic prospects, and social isolation (Mutowo & Mungati, 2015). Factors such as early marriage, lack of comprehensive sexual education, and socio-cultural norms contribute to the problem being studied (Chikuvire & Mudyahoto, 2018). However, despite the growing body of research on teenage motherhood in Zimbabwe, there are notable gaps in literature that require further exploration. Specifically, few studies have examined the intersection of poverty, education, healthcare, and social norms in the context of Murehwa district, and there is a need for targeted interventions to support the socio-economic well-being of teen mothers in this region. This study seeks to address these gaps by exploring the socio-economic crisis experienced by teen mothers in Murehwa district and identifying context-specific solutions to empower young mothers and promote social equity.

The socio-economic crisis experienced by teen mothers in Murehwa district necessitates a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the underlying factors contributing to this phenomenon. By examining the intersection of poverty, education, healthcare, and social norms within the specific context of Murehwa, this study seeks to shed light on the challenges faced by teen mothers and identify targeted interventions to support their socio-economic well-being. In light of the unique socio-cultural context of Zimbabwe and the Murehwa district, it is imperative to recognize the interconnected nature of factors influencing teenage motherhood. Addressing the socio-economic crisis faced by teen mothers in Murehwa requires a holistic approach that considers the intersections of poverty, education, healthcare, and social norms to create sustainable solutions that empower young mothers and promote social equity in the region.

The prevalence of teenage motherhood in Murehwa district underscores the urgency of addressing the underlying socio-economic factors that perpetuate this phenomenon. Moreover, the major effects of adolescent pregnancy also go beyond individual experiences to affect families. The studies that have been conducted in the past indicate that teenage mothers experience economic hardship due to interrupted education and limited employment opportunities (Gupta et al., 2018). In the context of Murehwa, where access to quality education and economic resources is already constrained, the consequences of teenage motherhood can exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and hinder the overall development of young mothers and their children.

Thus, the Murehwa district presents a unique setting for studying the socio-economic crisis of teenage motherhood, given its rural landscape, socio-cultural norms, and existing infrastructure challenges. Understanding the specific contextual factors that shape the experiences of teen mothers in Murehwa is essential for designing targeted interventions that address their needs and promote sustainable development in the region.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The socio-economic crisis faced by teen mothers in Zimbabwe, particularly in Murehwa district, presents a pressing concern requiring research attention. Statistical evidence underscores the urgency of addressing this issue, highlighting the need for targeted solutions to alleviate the socio-economic burdens on teen mothers. The problem at hand is the vulnerability and hardship experienced by teen mothers within the socio-economic landscape of Murehwa district. This issue is critical for several reasons: first, it directly impacts the well-being and future prospects of young mothers in the community. Second, the prevalence of teen pregnancies and the resulting socio-economic challenges have far-reaching implications for the overall development and stability of the district.

The effects of this problem ripple through various aspects of these young mothers' lives, including limited educational opportunities, reduced employment prospects, and heightened economic instability. Additionally, the socio-economic crisis faced by teen mothers can perpetuate cycles of poverty and marginalization, impacting not only the individuals involved but also the broader community and future generations.

1.3 Aim of the Study

Through the study the researcher aimed to develop a comprehensive model that addresses the socio-economic crisis faced by teen mothers in Zimbabwe.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

1. To investigate the factors contributing to teenage motherhood in Zimbabwe's Murehwa district.
2. To assess the impact of teenage motherhood on the educational attainment and economic prospects of young mothers in the region.

3. To propose a model to support teen mothers in achieving economic independence and social integration.

1.5 Research Questions

1. What are the primary factors that lead to an increase in teenage motherhood rates in the Murehwa district of Zimbabwe?

2. How does teenage motherhood impact the educational attainment and economic prospects of young mothers in the region?

3. What specific interventions and support mechanisms can be implemented to assist teen mothers in achieving economic independence and social integration?

1.6 Significance of the Study/ Justification of the Study

This study holds significant implications for various stakeholders such as Social Workers, Government Ministries, members of the academia and NGOs who are involved in addressing the socio-economic crisis of teenage motherhood in Zimbabwe's Murehwa district.

Policy Makers

Firstly, policymakers, social workers and government officials stand to benefit from the findings as they can use the research insights to develop evidence-based policies and programs that cater to the specific needs of teen mothers. By understanding the socio-economic factors contributing to teenage motherhood and its impact on education and economic prospects, policymakers can tailor interventions that promote educational opportunities, healthcare access, and economic empowerment for young mothers. This can lead to the creation of sustainable support systems that address the root causes of teenage pregnancy and empower teen mothers to break the cycle of poverty.

Health Care providers

Healthcare professionals and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) operating within the maternal and child health sector will find significance in this research as it highlights the distinct obstacles confronted by teenage mothers in the Murehwa district. By attaining a deeper comprehension of the socio-economic factors influencing adolescent pregnancy and its effects,

healthcare providers can enhance the provision of reproductive health services, education on family planning, and maternal healthcare for young mothers. NGOs can leverage the suggestions from this study to develop focused interventions that offer comprehensive assistance to adolescent mothers, including access to healthcare, education, and economic prospects, ultimately advancing the welfare of both the mothers and their offspring.

Local Community

Community leaders, educators, and grassroots organizations can collaborate to create initiatives that empower teen mothers, reduce stigma, and promote social inclusion. Through community-driven efforts, the study can contribute to building a more supportive and inclusive environment that enables teen mothers to thrive and contribute positively to society.

Students and Academic Institutions

It also provides valuable insights into the complexities of teenage motherhood in Zimbabwe and highlights the need for interdisciplinary approaches to addressing this issue. Students and academic institutions can use the study's findings to inform their research, teaching, and community engagement activities, ultimately contributing to the development of evidence-based solutions to support teenage mothers.

NGOs and Community-Based Organizations

NGOs and community-based organizations working with teenage mothers in Zimbabwe can also benefit from the study's findings and recommendations. The study highlights the importance of providing holistic support to teenage mothers, including access to healthcare, education, and economic opportunities. NGOs and community-based organizations can use the study's recommendations to inform their program design and implementation, ultimately improving the effectiveness of their interventions and promoting better outcomes for teenage mothers.

1.7 Assumptions

In investigating the socio-economic crisis confronting teen mothers in Murehwa district, the research operates under several key assumptions:

1. The research assumes that data sources may not always be entirely accurate is acknowledged. Strategies will be implemented to verify the reliability of the information gathered, especially concerning the economic circumstances and challenges faced by teen mothers.

1.8 Delimitations of the Study

This study is centered on examining the socio-economic crisis confronting teen mothers specifically within the confines of Murehwa district, Zimbabwe. Geographically, the research is confined solely to Murehwa district, omitting analysis of teen motherhood issues in other regions of the country. While the research delves deeply into the socio-economic factors affecting teen mothers, it does not extensively address other dimensions of their experiences, such as cultural influences or healthcare access. It remains delimited to exploring the socio-economic aspects impacting teen mothers, without extensive coverage of policy formulation and implementation related to teen motherhood issues. The study covers a specific timeframe which is from 2022 to 2024.

1.9 Limitations of the Study

Data constraints pose limitation, as access to comprehensive data on teen motherhood in the district may be restricted. Despite these limitations, the research is essential as it endeavors to shed light on the socio-economic challenges faced by teen mothers in Murehwa district, offering insights for tailored interventions and policy enhancements. By addressing these limitations, the study aims to contribute valuable knowledge to the existing literature, advocating for improved support systems for vulnerable populations in Zimbabwe.

1.10 Definition of Key Terms

Teen Mothers

Teen mothers are young women typically aged between 13 and 19 years old who have given birth to a child (UNFPA, 2020). These individuals often face unique challenges related to parenting, education, and socio-economic well-being due to their age and life stage (Herrman, 2008; Kearney & Levine, 2012).

Socio-economic Challenges

Socio-economic challenges refer to obstacles and difficulties arising from the interaction of social and economic factors (Bourdieu, 1986). In the context of this study, these challenges encompass issues such as poverty, limited access to education and healthcare, unemployment, and financial instability faced by teen mothers in Murehwa district (Chigwenya, 2017; Muchena, 2018).

Crisis Intervention

Crisis intervention involves immediate and targeted efforts to address and mitigate the impact of a crisis situation (James & Gilliland, 2017). In the context of this research, crisis intervention strategies may include providing support services, counseling, and resources to assist teen mothers in managing their socio-economic difficulties (Higgins et al., 2016).

1.11 Dissertation Outline

Chapter 1: Introduction

The introductory section will concentrate on laying the groundwork for the study by introducing the socio-economic challenges faced by teenage mothers in the Murehwa district. This chapter will offer a comprehensive overview of the research topic, highlighting the importance of investigating this issue and specifying the objectives that the study seeks to accomplish. Moreover, it will introduce the research inquiries that will steer the investigation and delineate the structure of the thesis. Delimitations and constraints will be deliberated upon to provide a clear picture of the study's scope. Essential terms related to the subject matter will be defined to ensure readers have a precise understanding of the terminology utilized throughout the thesis.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

The literature examination segment will delve into existing academic works concerning adolescent motherhood, the socio-economic hurdles confronted by young mothers, theories regarding socio-economic crises, and interventions crafted to support this vulnerable demographic. It will scrutinize and amalgamate crucial discoveries, concepts, and theories from prior studies to establish a theoretical framework for the ongoing research. By thoroughly reviewing the literature, this chapter aims to lay a solid foundation for comprehending the

intricacies surrounding the socio-economic challenges among teenage mothers in the Murehwa district.

Chapter 3: Methodology

The methodology section will delineate the research strategy, design, data collection techniques, sampling methods, and data analysis procedures utilized in the study. It will expound on how data concerning the socio-economic obstacles faced by teenage mothers in the Murehwa district will be amassed, interpreted, and scrutinized. Ethical considerations in research will also be addressed to safeguard the integrity and credibility of the study. This chapter is pivotal as it outlines the roadmap for how the research will be executed and how the data will be leveraged to effectively tackle the research questions.

Chapter 4: Data Presentation and Discussions

This section will pivot towards presenting the findings of the study based on the data amassed during the research endeavor. The chapter will dissect the socio-economic challenges encountered by teenage mothers in the Murehwa district, pinpoint key themes and trends within the data, and elucidate the outcomes in light of the research inquiries and objectives. Through an exhaustive analysis of the findings, this chapter seeks to offer insights into the real-life experiences of teenage mothers amidst socio-economic adversity.

Chapter 5: Conclusion and Recommendations

The ultimate chapter will embark on an in-depth discussion of the research findings, drawing connections between the results and the existing literature. It will explore the implications of the research findings, propose strategies for addressing the socio-economic crisis among teenage mothers in the Murehwa district, and suggest potential avenues for future research in this domain. By furnishing a critical evaluation of the data and presenting practical recommendations, this chapter endeavors to enrich the knowledge base on adolescent motherhood and guide policy and practices to better support this vulnerable segment of the population.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Introduction

This section offers an outline of the current body of literature concerning the obstacles encountered by adolescent mothers. It examines the conceptual framework, theoretical viewpoints, and empirical research linked to the subject. It also pinpoints the deficiencies in existing literature and rationalizes the need for the study. Additionally, the chapter introduces the theoretical framework directing the study, emphasizing the fundamental ideas, presumptions, and connections that form the basis of the research.

2.2 Theoretical Foundations

The Ecological Systems Theory, recognized as the Bioecological Model, was formulated by Urie Bronfenbrenner (1979). This theory asserts that human development is shaped by various environmental levels that interact and impact each other. Key figures supporting this theory include Bronfenbrenner (1979, 2005) and Tudge et al. (2016). The Ecological Systems Theory operates on the belief that human development is influenced by the interplay between individuals and their surroundings (Bronfenbrenner, 1979). It assumes that these interactions occur at multiple levels, including the microsystem, mesosystem, exosystem, and macrosystem (Bronfenbrenner, 2005). Furthermore, the theory assumes that these levels are interconnected and influence one another, resulting in a complex system that shapes human development (Tudge et al., 2016).

One of the strengths of the Ecological Systems Theory is its ability to explain the complex interactions between individuals and their environment (Bronfenbrenner, 2005). The theory also recognizes the importance of context in shaping human development, which is supported by empirical evidence (Tudge et al., 2016). Additionally, the theory provides a framework for understanding the interconnections between different levels of the environment, which can inform interventions and policies aimed at promoting human development (Bronfenbrenner, 1979). One of the weaknesses of the Ecological Systems Theory is its complexity, which can make it difficult to operationalize and test (Tudge et al., 2016). The theory also assumes that the different levels of

the environment are interconnected, which may not always be the case (Bronfenbrenner, 2005). Furthermore, the theory has been criticized for being too broad and lacking specificity, which can make it difficult to apply in practice (Hwang, 2019).

2.3 Educational Challenges

2.3.1 Barriers to Education

Adolescent mothers face a myriad of obstacles in accessing and continuing their education, which hinders their socio-economic advancement and perpetuates cycles of disadvantage. Barriers to education for teenage mothers may include lack of affordable childcare, limited access to flexible learning options, financial constraints, social stigma, and inadequate support systems (Brown & Johnson, 2020). These challenges create significant hurdles for young mothers who aspire to pursue their education while balancing the responsibilities of parenthood. The intersection of early motherhood and educational barriers can exacerbate existing socio-economic disparities and limit the opportunities for adolescent mothers to break free from cycles of poverty and dependency. Without adequate support and resources, teenage mothers may face difficulties in completing their education, obtaining employment, and achieving financial stability, leading to long-term implications for their well-being and that of their children (Davis & Garcia, 2019).

Research focusing on the effectiveness of holistic interventions that provide childcare support, academic assistance, mentorship, and mental health services can offer insights into best practices for overcoming educational barriers and promoting the educational success of teenage mothers (Garcia & Gomez, 2020). By bridging this gap, stakeholders can develop tailored interventions that empower adolescent mothers to overcome educational challenges and pursue their academic and socio-economic goals.

2.3.2 Impact on Educational Attainment

The influence of early motherhood on the educational pursuits of teenage mothers is profound and has significant implications for their economic opportunities. Research indicates that teenage mothers are at a higher risk of experiencing disrupted educational trajectories, with many facing challenges in completing their education due to the demands of parenting responsibilities and societal stigmas (Gomez et al., 2019). The intersection of early motherhood and educational attainment can limit the academic achievements and long-term career prospects of adolescent

mothers, impacting not only their individual well-being but also the economic stability of their families. The consequences of lower educational attainment among teenage mothers extend beyond personal fulfillment to economic implications, as limited educational qualifications can restrict their access to higher-paying employment opportunities and economic independence (Jones et al., 2020).

2.4 Health Implications

2.4.1 Maternal Health

The health consequences of adolescent motherhood go beyond immediate parenting challenges, affecting the well-being of both young mothers and their children. Factors such as inadequate prenatal care, higher risks of pregnancy-related complications, and susceptibility to postpartum depression increase physical and mental health risks for teenage mothers (Gavin et al., 2019). These health issues not only impact the immediate well-being of adolescent mothers but also have long-term implications for their health and economic stability. It is crucial to address maternal health needs among teenage mothers to mitigate the negative effects of early childbearing on their health and socio-economic prospects. Access to comprehensive healthcare services, including prenatal care, mental health support, and reproductive health education, is vital in promoting the well-being of adolescent mothers and their children (Scott et al., 2020). By addressing maternal health needs early, healthcare providers and policymakers can reduce health complications and enhance the quality of life for teenage mothers. Despite efforts to improve maternal health outcomes for adolescent mothers, there are research gaps, particularly in understanding how factors like race, ethnicity, and socio-economic status intersect to shape the maternal health experiences of teenage mothers. Disparities in access to healthcare services and quality of care contribute to health inequities among adolescent mothers from marginalized communities (Jones & Smith, 2021). Examining these intersectional dynamics is crucial for developing targeted interventions that cater to the specific health needs of diverse groups of teenage mothers.

2.4.2 Reproductive Health Services

The availability and accessibility of reproductive health services significantly influence the health outcomes of adolescent mothers. Quality reproductive health services, including contraception,

family planning resources, and sexual health education, are essential for empowering teenage mothers to make informed decisions about their reproductive and sexual health (Gomez et al., 2020). However, barriers such as stigma, lack of confidentiality, and limited-service availability can impede adolescent mothers' access to necessary reproductive health services. Enhancing the delivery of reproductive health services for teenage mothers is crucial for promoting their health and well-being. Comprehensive reproductive health services not only assist teenage mothers in preventing unintended pregnancies but also enhance their reproductive autonomy and empowerment (Davis et al., 2020). By addressing the unique needs and obstacles faced by adolescent mothers in accessing reproductive health services, healthcare providers and policymakers can improve health outcomes and socio-economic prospects for this vulnerable group.

An area warranting further exploration in the field of reproductive health services for adolescent mothers is the assessment of integrated care models that address maternal and child health needs concurrently. Integrated care approaches that combine maternal health services with child health interventions have the potential to enhance health outcomes for both teenage mothers and their children (Brown et al., 2019). Research focusing on the impact of such integrated care models on the health and socio-economic well-being of adolescent mothers can offer valuable insights for designing holistic and sustainable healthcare interventions tailored to the needs of this population.

2.5 Financial Strain

2.5.1 Economic Independence

The quest for economic independence poses significant challenges for teenage mothers, impacting their ability to provide for themselves and their children. Adolescent mothers often face obstacles in securing stable employment opportunities due to factors such as limited education, lack of work experience, and childcare responsibilities that impede their participation in the workforce (Jones et al., 2020). The financial strain resulting from these challenges can exacerbate the socio-economic crisis faced by teenage mothers, affecting their capacity to meet basic needs and ensure the well-being of their families.

Programs that focus on educational attainment, vocational training, and access to childcare services can enhance the economic prospects of teenage mothers, enabling them to build

sustainable livelihoods for themselves and their children (Garcia & Gomez, 2020). By addressing the barriers to economic independence faced by adolescent mothers, policymakers and stakeholders can help to solve the situation. Despite efforts to support the economic independence of teenage mothers, there exist gaps in the literature that merit further investigation. One critical gap is the limited exploration of the intersectionality of factors such as age, race, and geographic location in shaping the economic experiences of adolescent mothers. Studies suggest that disparities in access to economic opportunities and resources contribute to widening socio-economic inequalities among teenage mothers from diverse backgrounds (Smith & Davis, 2021).

2.5.2 Financial Support Systems

Efforts to strengthen financial support systems for adolescent mothers are crucial for fostering their socio-economic empowerment and improving their quality of life. Policies that enhance access to financial assistance, housing support, and job training programs can equip teenage mothers with the tools they need to achieve economic self-sufficiency and break free from cycles of poverty (Gomez et al., 2019). By bolstering financial support systems tailored to the needs of adolescent mothers, policymakers can create a more supportive environment that enables young mothers to thrive economically and provide a better future for themselves and their children.

An area requiring further exploration in the realm of financial support systems for adolescent mothers is the evaluation of the effectiveness of integrated support services that address both financial and social needs concurrently. Research focusing on the impact of integrated support systems on the socio-economic outcomes of adolescent mothers can offer valuable insights for designing holistic interventions that address the multifaceted needs of this vulnerable population.

2.6 Social Stigma

2.6.1 Societal Prejudices

Teenage mothers often encounter discrimination and social stigma that can have profound implications for their access to resources and opportunities. Societal prejudices surrounding adolescent motherhood contribute to negative stereotypes and biases that marginalize young mothers, limiting their educational and employment prospects and perpetuating cycles of poverty (Jones et al., 2020). The stigma attached to teenage pregnancy can lead to social exclusion, victim-blaming, and a lack of support from communities and institutions, exacerbating the socio-

economic challenges faced by adolescent mothers. Research on societal prejudices against teenage mothers highlights the need to address stigma and discrimination through education, awareness campaigns, and policy interventions. By challenging misconceptions and stereotypes surrounding adolescent motherhood, stakeholders can promote a more inclusive and supportive environment that empowers young mothers to overcome barriers and achieve socio-economic stability (Garcia & Brown, 2020).

2.6.2 Community Support

Fostering community support systems plays a crucial role in combating social stigma and empowering adolescent mothers towards socio-economic stability. Strong community networks, including family, friends, schools, and local organizations, can provide vital emotional, practical, and social support to teenage mothers, helping them navigate the challenges of early motherhood and overcome societal barriers (Davis et al., 2020). Community support systems not only offer a sense of belonging and acceptance but also contribute to the resilience and well-being of adolescent mothers and their families. Efforts to enhance community support for adolescent mothers can have a transformative impact on their socio-economic outcomes and overall quality of life. Programs that promote community engagement, peer mentoring, and grassroots initiatives can create a supportive environment that empowers young mothers to access resources, build social connections, and develop skills necessary for economic independence (Gomez et al., 2019). By strengthening community support systems tailored to the needs of adolescent mothers, stakeholders can help reduce the effects of social stigma and create a more inclusive and nurturing environment that fosters the well-being and success of young mothers and their children.

An area requiring further exploration in the realm of community support for adolescent mothers is the evaluation of the effectiveness of peer support networks and mentorship programs in enhancing socio-economic outcomes. Research on the impact of peer support interventions in empowering adolescent mothers to overcome stigma, build resilience, and access resources can offer valuable insights for designing community-based initiatives that address the social and emotional needs of this vulnerable population (Brown & Johnson, 2020).

2.7 Parenting Challenges

2.7.1 Parenting Skills

The development of parenting skills among teenage mothers is a critical aspect that significantly impacts their children's well-being and future prospects. Adolescent mothers often face unique challenges in learning how to effectively parent while still navigating their own developmental stages (Jones et al., 2020). Research suggests that investing in parenting education and support programs for teenage mothers can enhance their parenting abilities, promote positive parent-child relationships, and improve outcomes for both the mothers and their children (Gomez et al., 2019). The acquisition of parenting skills is essential for adolescent mothers to provide a nurturing and supportive environment for their children. Effective parenting interventions tailored to the needs of young mothers can help enhance their knowledge of child development, improve communication with their children, and build positive discipline strategies (Davis & Garcia, 2019). By equipping teenage mothers with the necessary parenting skills and resources, stakeholders can empower them to create stable and nurturing environments that foster the healthy development and well-being of their children.

Despite the recognition of the importance of parenting skills for adolescent mothers, there are gaps in the literature that warrant further exploration. Research that examines the intergenerational effects of parenting education programs can provide valuable insights into the lasting benefits of supporting young mothers in developing effective parenting practices (Smith & Brown, 2021). Understanding the sustained impact of parenting skills on the well-being of children in adolescent mother-headed households is crucial for designing comprehensive interventions that promote positive outcomes across generations.

2.7.2 Support Networks

The significance of support networks in assisting adolescent mothers in navigating the challenges of parenthood and socio-economic adversity cannot be overstated. These networks offer a sense of belonging, guidance, and encouragement, helping young mothers build resilience, access resources, and overcome the obstacles they face. Efforts to strengthen support networks for adolescent mothers are essential for promoting positive parenting outcomes and enhancing the well-being of both mothers and their children. Peer support groups, mentorship programs, and community-based services can offer valuable assistance to young mothers, empowering them to develop their parenting skills, access essential resources, and build social connections (Garcia & Gomez, 2020). By fostering supportive relationships and networks, stakeholders can create a

nurturing environment that enables adolescent mothers to thrive as parents and overcome the challenges associated with early motherhood.

An area requiring further exploration in the realm of support networks for adolescent mothers is the evaluation of culturally responsive and trauma-informed support services. Research on the effectiveness of support interventions that take into account the cultural backgrounds and experiences of young mothers can provide insights into how to tailor services to meet their unique needs (Davis et al., 2020). Additionally, understanding the impact of trauma-informed care on the well-being and resilience of adolescent mothers can inform the development of more holistic and effective support networks that address the complex challenges they face in parenting and socio-economic adversity.

2.8 Policy Interventions

2.8.1 Government Policies

Government policies play a vital role in tackling the socio-economic challenges faced by teenage mothers and fostering their empowerment. Policy measures aimed at aiding young mothers cover a broad spectrum, including education, healthcare, social services, and employment opportunities (Jones et al., 2020). Through the implementation of targeted policies that cater to the specific needs of adolescent mothers, governments can establish a supportive atmosphere that enables them to access resources, pursue education and skills training, and establish sustainable livelihoods for themselves and their children. Governmental policies focusing on teenage mothers generally strive to eliminate barriers to education, enhance access to healthcare services, and offer social support programs that address the distinct hurdles faced by this vulnerable group (Gomez et al., 2019).

For instance, policies supporting the reintegration of teenage mothers into the education system through flexible learning options and childcare assistance can help alleviate the impact of early motherhood on their educational achievements and future opportunities (Davis & Garcia, 2019). Moreover, initiatives promoting affordable healthcare access, reproductive health services, and parenting assistance can boost the well-being and empowerment of adolescent mothers.

Despite the significance of government policies in aiding teenage mothers, there are deficiencies in implementing and evaluating these interventions that necessitate further consideration. A

notable gap lies in the limited attention given to the intersectionality of policies addressing the intricate needs of adolescent mothers from varied backgrounds and marginalized communities (Smith & Brown, 2021). Research exploring how policies can be customized to tackle the interplay of factors such as race, socio-economic status, and geographical location can offer insights into designing more inclusive and effective interventions that enhance the empowerment of all young mothers.

2.8.2 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

NGOs often fill gaps in government services by providing targeted support, advocacy, and resources to young mothers facing socio-economic challenges (Brown & Johnson, 2020). These organizations offer a range of services, including mentoring programs, skills training, childcare support, and access to healthcare and social services, that help adolescent mothers navigate the complexities of early motherhood and build a foundation for their future success. NGOs contribute to the empowerment of adolescent mothers by delivering holistic support that addresses their diverse needs and fosters their resilience and self-sufficiency. Programs implemented by NGOs focus on building the capacity of young mothers, promoting their education and skills development, and creating opportunities for economic empowerment (Garcia & Gomez, 2020).

2.15 Chapter Summary

This chapter has delved into the literature surrounding the socio-economic crisis faced by teenage mothers, shedding light on theoretical frameworks, key themes, and potential strategies to address their challenges and enhance their socio-economic well-being. By amalgamating theoretical perspectives with empirical evidence, a comprehensive model can be formulated to steer interventions and policies targeted at empowering adolescent mothers towards a more secure and prosperous future. The exploration of parenting challenges, parenting skills development, support networks, governmental policies, and the role of non-governmental organizations has underscored the multifaceted nature of the issues faced by teenage mothers.

CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter moves on to look at the research methodology employed to investigate the socio-economic crisis faced by teenage mothers in Zimbabwe, with a specific focus on the Murehwa district. The research aims to delve into the socio-economic factors contributing to teenage motherhood, assess its impact on educational attainment and economic prospects, and propose a model to support teen mothers in achieving economic independence and social integration.

3.2 Research Philosophy

The research used the interpretivist Philosophy. Such philosophical stance was chosen to explore the complex multifaceted crisis faced by teenage mothers in Zimbabwe's Murehwa district, aiming to uncover the subjective realities and lived experiences of these young mothers. By embracing interpretivism, the study sought to delve deeply into the nuanced factors contributing to teenage motherhood, recognizing the importance of subjective interpretations and social constructions in comprehending the socio-economic challenges these individuals face, thereby providing a rich and contextualized understanding of the phenomenon at hand.

3.3 Research Methodology

Research methodology encompasses the systematic framework and techniques utilized to conduct a research study. In this investigation, a qualitative Methodology approach was adopted. This approach was chosen to delve into the socio-economic crisis experienced by teenage mothers in Zimbabwe's Murehwa district. Qualitative methods such as interviews were employed to capture the experiences and perspectives of teenage mothers. By employing a qualitative Methodology, this study aimed to offer a holistic analysis of teenage motherhood.

3.4 Research Design

In this research project, the research design outlines the overall strategy and structure for conducting the study. A case study design was utilized for this investigation. As per Yin (2018), a case study design involves a thorough examination of a specific phenomenon within its real-world context, providing detailed insights and a comprehensive understanding of the subject under investigation. This particular approach was selected to delve into the obstacles faced by teenage

mothers in Zimbabwe's Murehwa district within the authentic and contextualized backdrop of their realities. By employing a case study design, the aim of this study was to offer an in-depth and comprehensive exploration of the socio-economic factors influencing teenage motherhood, with a focus on the unique circumstances and dynamics within the Murehwa district. This design facilitated a thorough analysis of the intricacies surrounding teenage motherhood, delivering a detailed and contextual comprehension of the pertinent issues.

3.5 Target Population

In this study focusing on the socio-economic crisis faced by teenage mothers in Zimbabwe's Murehwa district, the target population comprises adolescent girls who have experienced early motherhood and are encountering socio-economic challenges related to education, employment, and social integration. These teenage mothers in the Murehwa district represent a diverse group facing unique circumstances and obstacles, making them the focal point of the research investigation aimed at understanding and addressing the socio-economic issues surrounding teenage motherhood in this particular region.

3.6 Sample Size

In this research focusing on the socio-economic challenges of teenage mothers in Zimbabwe's Murehwa district, the sample size is set at 20 participants. These participants consist of 10 teenage mothers, 5 members of the intellectual community, 2 Social Workers and 3 NGO officials residing in the Murehwa district who have firsthand experience with the socio-economic difficulties associated with early motherhood. The sample size of 20 was determined to ensure adequate representation of the target population and to facilitate a detailed exploration of the research objectives within the constraints of available resources and time.

3.7.1 Purposeful Sampling

Purposeful sampling is a method of non-probability sampling where researchers select participants based on specific criteria relevant to the research objectives. It involves intentionally choosing individuals who possess characteristics or experiences that are pertinent to the study. In the exploration of the socio-economic challenges faced by teenage mothers in Zimbabwe's Murehwa

district, purposeful sampling was employed to select participants based on criteria such as age, motherhood status, and socio-economic background. By using purposeful sampling, the aim was to gather a focused and relevant sample of teenage mothers who could offer valuable insights into the specific socio-economic issues being investigated, ensuring alignment with the research objectives.

3.7.2 Snowball Sampling

Snowball sampling is another non-probability sampling technique where existing participants refer other potential participants for inclusion in the study. It is particularly useful when studying hard-to-reach or marginalized populations. In the research on teenage mothers in Zimbabwe's Murehwa district, snowball sampling was used to access individuals such as intellectuals, NGO members, and social workers. This method facilitated the recruitment of additional teenage mothers through the social networks of initial participants, ensuring a broader representation of the community and enabling a more thorough exploration of the research topic.

3.8 Data Collection Methods

3.8.1 Unstructured Interviews

Unstructured interviews involve direct interactions between the researcher and participants to gather qualitative information. Interviews offer a detailed understanding of participants' perspectives, experiences, and emotions. In the study on teenage mothers in Zimbabwe's Murehwa district, unstructured interviews were conducted with key informants such as social workers, intellectuals, and NGO officials. The goal was to explore subjective experiences, challenges, and aspirations to capture nuanced narratives regarding socio-economic struggles and the impact of early motherhood.

3.9 Data Analysis and Presentation

Data analysis and presentation involve the systematic examination and interpretation of collected data to derive meaningful insights. In the research on teenage mothers, qualitative data from interviews were thematically analyzed to uncover underlying themes and narratives. The results were presented through thematic analysis and narrative summaries to effectively communicate findings and contribute to the existing knowledge base.

3.10 Validity and Reliability

Validity and reliability are essential in research to ensure credibility and trustworthiness of study findings. Validity refers to the accuracy of measurements, while reliability pertains to the consistency of results. In the study on teenage mothers, measures were taken to enhance validity and reliability, such as using multiple data collection methods, pilot-testing research instruments, and conducting inter-rater reliability checks for qualitative data analysis. By prioritizing these aspects, the study aimed to produce robust and trustworthy findings reflecting the socio-economic realities of teenage mothers in the Murehwa district.

3.11 Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations in research involve principles and guidelines to protect participants' rights, well-being, and confidentiality. These considerations include obtaining informed consent, maintaining data confidentiality, minimizing harm, and ensuring voluntary participation. In the study on the socio-economic challenges of teenage mothers in Zimbabwe's Murehwa district, ethical standards were carefully observed. Informed consent was obtained from all participants, outlining the study's purpose, procedures, and their right to withdraw at any point.

Participants were provided with a detailed explanation of the study, its potential risks and benefits, and their rights through a consent form. This form was presented in clear language, allowing participants to understand and agree voluntarily. Confidentiality was maintained by using unique codes instead of personal information and storing data securely. Measures were taken to prevent emotional distress during data collection, with participants having the option to skip questions or withdraw if uncomfortable. They were also informed about available support services.

3.12 Chapter Summary

In summary, this chapter has detailed the methodology for data collection and analysis in the study. A mixed-methods approach was employed, combining qualitative and quantitative methods. The study focused on teenage mothers in Murehwa, Zimbabwe, selected through purposive and random sampling. Data collection methods included surveys, interviews, and focus group discussions, offering a comprehensive view of the challenges faced by teenage mothers. Analysis techniques

such as descriptive statistics, thematic analysis, and content analysis were utilized to identify patterns and themes. With this methodology, the following chapter will present the study's finding

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION INTERPRETATION ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Chapter 4: Findings

This chapter unveils the discoveries from the research on the socio-economic challenges confronted by teenage mothers in Murehwa district, Zimbabwe. The chapter is structured into segments that correspond to each of the study's aims.

4.2 Factors Influencing Teenage Motherhood

This section delves into the influencers of teenage motherhood in Murehwa district, Zimbabwe. The objective at hand is to scrutinize the determinants of teenage motherhood in the district. To address this goal, the study posed the following inquiry: What are the primary obstacles encountered by teenage mothers in the Murehwa district, and what factors do you believe underlie teenage pregnancy in your community?

4.2.1 Insufficient Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Information

The research inquired about the participants' familiarity with and availability of sexual and reproductive health information. A considerable number of participants acknowledged that the lack of access to such information significantly contributed to teenage motherhood in Murehwa district. Many respondents expressed their limited knowledge concerning contraception and safe sexual practices.

The responses are recorded below

*"I didn't know much about contraception, and I didn't know where to get information about it."
(P10)*

"I wish I had known more about safe sex practices before I got pregnant. Maybe I wouldn't be in this situation today." (P5)

"Our teachers didn't teach us much about sex education in school. We only learned about it briefly in biology class." (P14)

Qualitative data from the study highlights that the lack of access to sexual and reproductive health information is a key factor leading to teenage motherhood in Murehwa district. Participants expressed a lack of knowledge regarding contraception, safe sex practices, and where to access related services. These findings align with existing literature on teenage pregnancy. The World Health Organization (2018) identifies the absence of sexual and reproductive health information as a significant driver of teenage pregnancy. Furthermore, supporting the notion that education and information access are pivotal in preventing teenage pregnancy, the study's results are in line with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA, 2019).

The implications of the study findings extend to policy and practice. Advocating for comprehensive sexuality education programs becomes imperative to equip adolescents with accurate information on contraception and safe sex practices. Additionally, healthcare providers need to ensure the availability of youth-friendly services, including contraception and reproductive health services, for adolescents.

4.2.2 Poverty and Economic Hardship

The study delved into the economic struggles faced by teenage mothers and the underlying factors contributing to teenage motherhood in the community. Participants were asked about the main challenges they encountered as teenage mothers in Murehwa district and the drivers of teenage pregnancy in their locality. The majority of respondents concurred that poverty and economic challenges played significant roles in the prevalence of teenage motherhood in Murehwa district. Many respondents reported that they came from poor backgrounds and had limited access to resources.

"My family is poor, and we struggle to make ends meet. I had to drop out of school to take care of my siblings." (P20)

"I'm from a poor family, and I didn't have the opportunity to continue my education. I had to work to support my family." (P12)

"Poverty is a big challenge in our community. Many girls are forced to engage in transactional sex or early marriage due to financial difficulties." (P15)

Qualitative data indicates that poverty and economic hardship play significant roles in the prevalence of teenage motherhood in Murehwa district. Respondents highlighted their struggles with accessing basic necessities like food, clothing, and shelter, along with limited educational and employment opportunities.

These findings align with existing literature on teenage pregnancy. The World Health Organization (2018) identifies poverty as a major risk factor for teenage pregnancy. Supporting this, the study's results echo the notion that economic challenges can impede access to education and healthcare, thereby increasing the likelihood of teenage pregnancy (UNICEF, 2019).

The implications of the study findings extend to policy and practice. There is a call for economic empowerment initiatives that offer adolescents educational opportunities, employment prospects, and skill development. Moreover, implementing social protection programs such as cash transfers and school feeding schemes can help alleviate poverty and economic struggles in communities.

4.2.3 Cultural and Social Norms

The study explored the cultural and social norms that may contribute to teenage motherhood in Murehwa district. Respondents were asked about the challenges they face as teenage mothers and the factors influencing teenage pregnancy in their community. The majority of participants acknowledged the significant impact of cultural and social norms in fostering teenage motherhood in Murehwa district. Many highlighted early marriage and childbearing as prevalent practices in their community.

"In our community, girls are expected to get married early and start having children. It's a cultural thing." (P15)

"Girls are seen as a source of income through lobola (bride price), so parents encourage early marriage." (P7)

"Our culture expects girls to be mothers and caregivers, so many girls don't have a choice but to get pregnant and start a family early." (P12)

Qualitative data points to cultural and social norms as significant contributors to teenage motherhood in Murehwa district. Respondents highlighted how community expectations and norms surrounding marriage and childbearing influence the high prevalence of teenage pregnancy. These findings are in alignment with existing literature on teenage pregnancy. UNICEF (2019) notes that cultural and social norms can substantially contribute to teenage pregnancy, especially in areas where early marriage and childbearing are customary practices. Furthermore, echoing the idea that such norms can hinder girls' access to education and healthcare, the study's results support this view (WHO, 2018).

The implications of the study findings extend to policy and practice. Interventions at the community level are needed to challenge harmful cultural and social norms while advocating for girls' education and empowerment. Collaboration between policymakers and healthcare providers is crucial to develop and implement programs that grant adolescents access to reproductive health services and information.

4.4 Impact of Teenage Motherhood on Educational Attainment and Economic Prospects

This section delves into the repercussions of teenage motherhood on educational achievement and economic prospects. The objective is to evaluate how teenage motherhood affects the educational attainment and economic outlook of young mothers in the area. To address this goal, the study posed questions such as: How has teenage motherhood influenced your educational opportunities and accomplishments? Could you describe the economic challenges you face as a teenage mother in this community?

4.4.1 School Dropout Rates

Participants were questioned about the impact of teenage motherhood on their educational journeys. The majority acknowledged that teenage motherhood significantly affected their educational pursuits, leading many to drop out of school due to pregnancy or childcare responsibilities.

"I had to drop out of school when I got pregnant. I couldn't balance school and childcare."
(P5)

"Pregnancy made me stop going to school. I didn't have anyone to take care of my child while I was at school." (P10)

"I was doing well in school, but when I got pregnant, I had to drop out. Now I'm struggling to make ends meet." (P12)

The qualitative data suggests that teenage motherhood had a significant impact on the respondents' educational attainment, with many reporting that they had to drop out of school due to pregnancy or childcare responsibilities. This finding is consistent with the literature review, which suggests that teenage motherhood can limit educational opportunities and increase the risk of poverty (WHO, 2018).

The findings of this study agree with the literature review on teenage pregnancy, which suggests that dropping out of school is a common consequence of teenage motherhood (UNICEF, 2019). The study's findings also support the idea that educational attainment is a critical factor in determining economic prospects, and that teenage motherhood can limit opportunities for economic mobility (World Bank, 2020).

The study's findings have implications for policy and practice. There is a need for programs and policies that support teenage mothers in continuing their education, such as childcare services and flexible schooling arrangements. Additionally, policymakers and educators should work together to develop and implement programs that provide adolescents with access to reproductive health services and information, and that promote girls' education and empowerment.

4.4.2 Limited Economic Opportunities

The study asked the respondents about the economic difficulties they experience as teenage mothers in the community. The question was: Can you describe the economic difficulties you experience as a teenage mother in this community? The majority of participants agreed that teenage motherhood limited their economic opportunities, with many reporting that they struggled to find employment or start businesses due to lack of education and skills.

"It's hard to find a job when you don't have a good education. I'm struggling to make ends meet." (P12)

"I don't have the skills or education to get a good job. I'm stuck in a cycle of poverty." (P8)

"As a teenage mother, it's hard to start a business or get a job. People don't take me seriously because I'm young and don't have experience." (P18)

The qualitative data suggests that teenage motherhood limited economic opportunities for the respondents, with many reporting that they struggled to find employment or start businesses due to lack of education and skills. This finding is consistent with the literature review, which suggests that teenage motherhood can limit economic opportunities and increase the risk of poverty (World Bank, 2020).

The findings of this study agree with the literature review on teenage pregnancy, which suggests that limited economic opportunities are a common consequence of teenage motherhood (UNICEF, 2019). The study's findings also support the idea that education and skills development are critical factors in determining economic prospects, and that teenage motherhood can limit opportunities for economic mobility (WHO, 2018).

The study's findings have implications for policy and practice. There is a need for programs and policies that support teenage mothers in developing their skills and education, such as vocational training and business development programs. Additionally, policymakers and employers should work together to develop and implement programs that provide adolescents with access to job opportunities and career development.

4.4.3 Social Isolation

The study asked the respondents about their experiences as teenage mothers in the community, including any social challenges they may face. The question was: How has teenage motherhood impacted your social life and relationships? The majority of participants agreed that teenage motherhood led to social isolation, with many reporting that they felt stigmatized and isolated from their peers and community.

"I feel like I'm alone in this. People look at me differently because of the way I look or the way I talk." (P8)

"I'm no longer part of the group. My friends don't understand what I'm going through, and they don't want to hang out with me anymore." (P14)

"People in the community gossip about me and my situation. It's hard to deal with the stigma and judgment." (P5)

The qualitative data suggests that teenage motherhood led to social isolation for the respondents, with many reporting that they felt stigmatized and isolated from their peers and community. This finding is consistent with the literature review, which suggests that social isolation is a common experience for teenage mothers (McDermott & Graham, 2005). The findings of this study agree with the literature review on teenage pregnancy, which suggests that social isolation can have negative consequences for the mental and emotional well-being of teenage mothers (WHO, 2018). The study's findings also support the idea that social support is critical for the well-being of teenage mothers, and that interventions should focus on providing emotional support and connecting teenage mothers with their peers and community (UNICEF, 2019).

The study's findings have implications for policy and practice. There is a need for programs and policies that address the social isolation of teenage mothers, such as support groups and peer mentoring programs. Additionally, policymakers and community leaders should work together to develop and implement programs that promote understanding and acceptance of teenage mothers, and that challenge stigma and judgment.

4.5 Proposed Model to Support Teen Mothers

This section discusses the proposed model to support teen mothers in achieving economic independence and social integration. The objective being discussed is to propose a model to support teen mothers in achieving economic independence and social integration. To achieve this objective, the study asked the following questions: Based on your experiences, what do you believe is necessary to develop a model that effectively supports teenage mothers in achieving economic independence and social integration? What resources or strategies do you think would be most effective in addressing the socio-economic crisis faced by teenage mothers in the Murehwa district?

4.5.1 Economic Empowerment

The majority of participants agreed that economic empowerment programs would be beneficial in supporting teen mothers. These programs could include vocational training, microfinance initiatives, and business skills development.

"We need skills training and job opportunities. That would help us to be independent." (P18)

"Vocational training would be helpful. We need to learn skills that can help us get jobs or start our own businesses." (P12)

"Microfinance initiatives would be great. We need access to capital to start our own businesses." (P7)

The qualitative data suggests that economic empowerment is a critical component of a model to support teen mothers. The respondents emphasized the need for skills training, job opportunities, and access to capital to support their economic independence. The findings of this study agree with the literature review on economic empowerment for women, which suggests that economic empowerment programs can have a positive impact on women's economic outcomes (World Bank, 2012). The study's findings also support the idea that vocational training and microfinance initiatives can be effective strategies for promoting economic empowerment among women (Banerjee et al., 2015).

The study's findings have implications for policy and practice. There is a need for programs and policies that support the economic empowerment of teen mothers, including vocational training, microfinance initiatives, and business skills development. Policymakers and practitioners should work together to develop and implement programs that provide teen mothers with access to economic opportunities and resources.

4.5.2 Psychosocial Support

The study asked the respondents about the resources or strategies that would be most effective in addressing the socio-economic crisis faced by teenage mothers in the Murehwa district. The question was: What resources or strategies do you think would be most effective in addressing the socio-economic crisis faced by teenage mothers in the Murehwa district? The majority of participants agreed that psychosocial support is essential for teenage mothers, and that it could include counseling, peer support groups, and mentorship programs.

"We need someone to talk to, someone who understands what we're going through." (P10)

"Counseling would be helpful. We need someone to talk to about our problems and concerns." (P5)

"Peer support groups would be great. We need to connect with others who are going through the same thing." (P14)

The qualitative data suggests that psychosocial support is a critical component of a model to support teenage mothers. The respondents emphasized the need for someone to talk to, someone who understands what they are going through, and the importance of connecting with others who are facing similar challenges. The findings of this study agree with the literature review on psychosocial support for teenage mothers, which suggests that psychosocial support can have a positive impact on the mental health and well-being of teenage mothers (WHO, 2018). The study's findings also support the idea that peer support groups and mentorship programs can be effective strategies for providing psychosocial support to teenage mothers (UNICEF, 2019).

The study's findings have implications for policy and practice. There is a need for programs and policies that provide psychosocial support to teenage mothers, including counseling, peer support groups, and mentorship programs. Policymakers and practitioners should work together to develop and implement programs that provide teenage mothers with access to psychosocial support and resources.

4.5.3 Education and Skills Development

The study asked the respondents about the types of programs and services that would be beneficial in supporting teen mothers in achieving economic independence and social integration. The question was: What resources or strategies do you think would be most effective in addressing the socio-economic crisis faced by teenage mothers in the Murehwa district? The majority of participants agreed that education and skills development programs would be beneficial in supporting teen mothers. These programs could include literacy and numeracy training, as well as vocational training.

"We need education and skills training. That would help us to get better jobs and improve our lives." (P12)

"Vocational training would be great. We need to learn skills that can help us get jobs or start our own businesses." (P7)

"Literacy and numeracy training would be helpful. Many of us struggle with basic math and reading skills." (P15)

The qualitative data suggests that education and skills development programs are critical in supporting teen mothers in achieving economic independence and social integration. The respondents emphasized the need for programs that provide literacy and numeracy training, as well as vocational training, to help them acquire skills and knowledge that can improve their economic prospects. The findings of this study agree with the literature review on education and skills development, which suggests that education and skills development programs can have a positive impact on the economic outcomes of individuals (World Bank, 2018). The study's findings also support the idea that vocational training and skills development programs can be effective strategies for promoting economic empowerment among women (ILO, 2019).

4.7 Chapter Summary

This chapter presented the findings of the study on the socio-economic crisis faced by teen mothers in Murehwa district, Zimbabwe. The study found that teenage motherhood was a significant challenge in the district, and that the factors contributing to it included lack of access to sexual and reproductive health information, poverty and economic hardship, and cultural and social norms. The study also found that teenage motherhood

CHAPTER 5: SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter encapsulates the principal findings of the research on the socio-economic challenges encountered by teenage mothers in Murehwa district, Zimbabwe. It synthesizes conclusions derived from the study's objectives and underscores the implications for social work practice, policy-making, and avenues for future research.

5.2 Summary of findings

Objective 1: To investigate the factors contributing to teenage motherhood in Zimbabwe's Murehwa district.

The respondents reported that they lacked knowledge about contraception and safe sex practices, and had limited access to reproductive health services. Poverty and economic hardship were also identified as major contributors to teenage motherhood, with many respondents reporting that they came from poor backgrounds and had limited opportunities for education and employment. Additionally, cultural and social norms, such as early marriage and childbearing, were found to play a significant role in contributing to teenage motherhood in the district. These findings suggest that addressing these underlying factors is critical in preventing teenage motherhood and promoting the well-being of adolescent girls in Murehwa district.

Objective 2: To assess the impact of teenage motherhood on the educational attainment and economic prospects of young mothers in the region.

The study's findings showed that teenage motherhood has a negative impact on educational attainment and economic prospects, with many teen mothers dropping out of school and struggling to find employment or start businesses. The respondents reported that pregnancy and childcare responsibilities made it difficult for them to continue their education, and that they faced significant challenges in balancing their roles as mothers and students. Additionally, the study found that teenage mothers faced limited economic opportunities, with the majority reporting that they lacked the skills and education needed to secure good jobs or start their own businesses. These findings suggest that teenage motherhood can have long-term consequences for young mothers, limiting their opportunities for education and economic mobility. Therefore, it is essential to

provide support services and programs that can help teen mothers to continue their education and develop their skills, and to promote their economic empowerment.

Objective 3: To propose a model to support teen mothers in achieving economic independence and social integration.

The study's findings revealed that economic empowerment, psychosocial support, and education and skills development programs are critical in supporting teen mothers in achieving economic independence and social integration. The respondents emphasized the need for vocational training, microfinance initiatives, and business skills development to support their economic empowerment. Additionally, they highlighted the importance of psychosocial support, including counseling, peer support groups, and mentorship programs, in managing the challenges they face. The study also found that education and skills development programs, including literacy and numeracy training, and vocational training, are essential in supporting teen mothers in acquiring skills and knowledge that can improve their economic prospects. These findings suggest that a comprehensive model that includes economic empowerment, psychosocial support, and education and skills development programs can be effective in supporting teen mothers in achieving economic independence and social integration.

5.3 Conclusions of the Study

Objective 1: To investigate the factors contributing to teenage motherhood in Zimbabwe's Murehwa district.

The respondents reported that they lacked knowledge about contraception and safe sex practices, and had limited access to reproductive health services. Poverty and economic hardship were also identified as major contributors to teenage motherhood, with many respondents reporting that they came from poor backgrounds and had limited opportunities for education and employment. Additionally, cultural and social norms, such as early marriage and childbearing, were found to play a significant role in contributing to teenage motherhood in the district. These findings suggest that addressing these underlying factors is critical in preventing teenage motherhood and promoting the well-being of adolescent girls in Murehwa district.

Objective 2: To assess the impact of teenage motherhood on the educational attainment and economic prospects of young mothers in the region.

The study's findings showed that teenage motherhood has a negative impact on educational attainment and economic prospects, with many teen mothers dropping out of school and struggling to find employment or start businesses. The respondents reported that pregnancy and childcare responsibilities made it difficult for them to continue their education, and that they faced significant challenges in balancing their roles as mothers and students. Additionally, the study found that teenage mothers faced limited economic opportunities, with the majority reporting that they lacked the skills and education needed to secure good jobs or start their own businesses. These findings suggest that teenage motherhood can have long-term consequences for young mothers, limiting their opportunities for education and economic mobility. Therefore, it is essential to provide support services and programs that can help teen mothers to continue their education and develop their skills, and to promote their economic empowerment.

Objective 3: To propose a model to support teen mothers in achieving economic independence and social integration.

The study's findings revealed that economic empowerment, psychosocial support, and education and skills development programs are critical in supporting teen mothers in achieving economic independence and social integration. The respondents emphasized the need for vocational training, microfinance initiatives, and business skills development to support their economic empowerment. Additionally, they highlighted the importance of psychosocial support, including counseling, peer support groups, and mentorship programs, in managing the challenges they face. The study also found that education and skills development programs, including literacy and numeracy training, and vocational training, are essential in supporting teen mothers in acquiring skills and knowledge that can improve their economic prospects. These findings suggest that a comprehensive model that includes economic empowerment, psychosocial support, and education and skills development programs can be effective in supporting teen mothers in achieving economic independence and social integration.

5.4 Implications to Social Work

Social workers play a pivotal role in addressing the multifaceted needs of teenage mothers by offering counseling, organizing peer support groups, and implementing mentorship programs. These interventions assist teenage mothers in managing emotional and psychological challenges, while providing the necessary support and guidance to navigate their circumstances. Social

workers can also facilitate access to education and skills development programs, equipping teenage mothers with information and resources for economic empowerment. By providing such support services, social workers aid teenage mothers in building resilience, developing coping strategies, and enhancing their overall well-being.

The study's findings hold Implications for social work policy, particularly regarding the design and execution of programs supporting teenage mothers. Collaborative efforts between policymakers and practitioners are essential to establish policies and programs that grant teenage mothers access to economic opportunities, education, and skills development. This may entail funding initiatives like vocational training and mentorship programs, alongside advocating for policies that uphold the rights and requirements of teenage mothers. Through joint endeavors, policymakers and practitioners can foster a nurturing environment that empowers teenage mothers to flourish and realize their full potential.

Moreover, the study underscores the necessity for social workers to adopt a holistic approach when working with teenage mothers. This approach involves recognizing the intricate web of factors contributing to teenage motherhood, encompassing poverty, limited educational and employment prospects, and cultural and social norms. Social workers should acknowledge the power dynamics influencing the lives of teenage mothers and empower them to make informed decisions about their futures. By embracing a holistic approach, social workers can furnish teenage mothers with the support and guidance needed to navigate their circumstances and construct a brighter future for themselves and their children.

The study's revelations also bear implications for future research in the realm of social work. Further research is imperative to evaluate the effectiveness of diverse interventions and programs supporting teenage mothers, and to discern best practices for engaging with this demographic. Additionally, research should delve into the experiences of teenage mothers in varied contexts, pinpointing factors that foster resilience and positive outcomes among this group. Through continued research in this domain, social workers and policymakers can deepen their comprehension of the intricate needs of teenage mothers, fostering the development of more effective interventions and programs to bolster their support.

5.5 Recommendations

To Policymakers

- Allocate funding for economic empowerment programs, including vocational training, microfinance initiatives, and business skills development, to support teen mothers in achieving economic independence.
- Develop and implement policies that promote the rights and needs of teen mothers, including access to education and healthcare services.

To Educators and Training Institutions

- Provide education and skills development programs, including literacy and numeracy training, and vocational training, to support teen mothers in acquiring skills and knowledge that can improve their economic prospects.

To Social Workers and Practitioners

- Provide psychosocial support programs, including counseling, peer support groups, and mentorship programs, to support teen mothers in managing the challenges they face.
- Facilitate access to economic empowerment programs, including vocational training, microfinance initiatives, and business skills development, to support teen mothers in achieving economic independence.
- Adopt a holistic approach when working with teen mothers, considering the complex interplay of factors that contribute to teenage motherhood.

To Community Leaders and Organizations

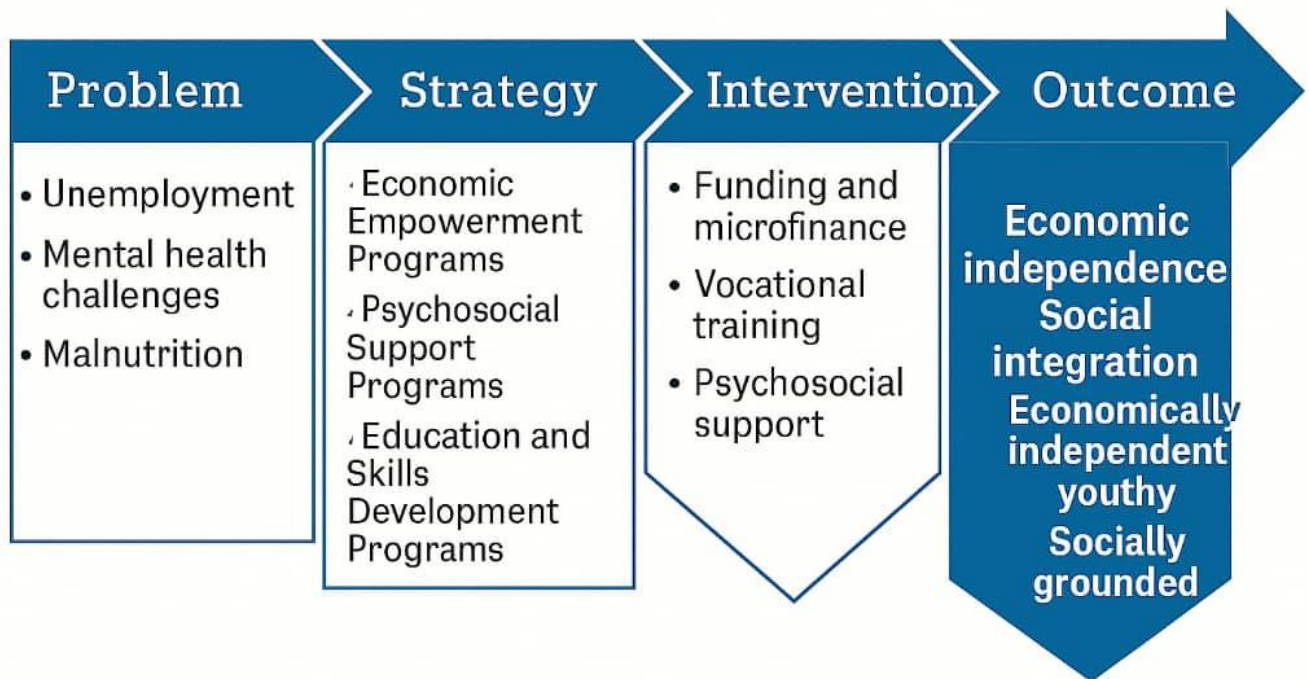
- Support the development and implementation of programs that provide economic empowerment, psychosocial support, and education and skills development to teen mothers.
- Promote awareness about the importance of supporting teen mothers, and advocate for policies and programs that address their needs and rights.

- Provide resources and funding for initiatives that support teen mothers, including vocational training, microfinance initiatives, and mentorship programs.

To Future Researchers

- Conduct further research on the effectiveness of different interventions and programs in supporting teen mothers, and identify best practices in working with this population.
- Explore the experiences of teen mothers in different contexts, and identify the factors that contribute to resilience and positive outcomes among this population.
- Investigate the impact of cultural and social norms on teenage motherhood, and develop strategies to challenge harmful norms and promote supportive environments for teen mothers.

5.6 Model Framework



The proposed model framework for supporting teen mothers in achieving economic independence and social integration is a comprehensive and multifaceted approach that addresses the complex needs of teen mothers. The framework includes three key components: Economic Empowerment Programs, Psychosocial Support Programs, and Education and Skills Development Programs.

Component 1: Economic Empowerment Programs

The Economic Empowerment Programs component aims to provide teen mothers with the skills and resources they need to achieve economic independence. This component includes:

- Providing teen mothers with training in specific skills or trades, such as tailoring, hairdressing, or cooking, to enhance their employability and income-generating potential.
- Providing teen mothers with access to microloans or grants to start or expand their own businesses, or to support their economic empowerment.
- Providing teen mothers with training and support in business skills, such as financial management, marketing, and entrepreneurship, to enhance their ability to start and manage their own businesses.

Component 2: Psychosocial Support Programs

The Psychosocial Support Programs component aims to provide teen mothers with the emotional and psychological support they need to manage the challenges they face. This component includes:

Component 3: Education and Skills Development Programs

The Education and Skills Development Programs component aims to provide teen mothers with the education and skills they need to improve their economic prospects and achieve their goals.

This component includes:

- Providing teen mothers with training in basic literacy and numeracy skills to enhance their ability to participate in education and employment opportunities.
- Providing teen mothers with training in specific skills or trades, such as computer programming, nursing, or teaching, to enhance their employability and income-generating potential.

Key Outcomes

The proposed model framework is expected to achieve the following key outcomes:

- Increased economic independence among teen mothers
- Improved psychosocial well-being among teen mothers

- Increased education and skills development among teen mothers
- Improved employability and income-generating potential among teen mothers
- Enhanced social integration and community participation among teen mothers

5.7 Areas for Further Study

Further research is essential to expand upon the findings of this study and assess the efficacy of the proposed model framework in aiding teenage mothers to attain economic independence and societal integration. Exploring the influence of cultural and social norms on teenage motherhood in diverse contexts can offer valuable insights into the intricate factors contributing to this issue. Subsequent studies should prioritize the development and evaluation of initiatives that offer economic empowerment, psychosocial assistance, and educational and skills training to teenage mothers, aiming to enhance their well-being and life trajectories. Through continued research in these domains, policymakers and practitioners can deepen their comprehension of the requirements of teenage mothers and devise more impactful interventions to bolster their support.

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LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendices 1: Consent Form for Data Collection

I, Chimuzimu Melody, a student pursuing an HBSec in Social Work at the Department of Social Work, under the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, with registration number B210681B, hereby seek your consent to participate in my research study titled:

A Model Towards the Socio-Economic Crisis Being Faced by Teen Mothers in Zimbabwe: A Case Study of Murehwa District.

I am requesting your voluntary participation in this study, which aims to investigate the socio-economic challenges faced by teenage mothers in the Murehwa district of Zimbabwe. Your insights and experiences as a teenage mother are invaluable to understanding and addressing the issues surrounding teenage motherhood in this region.

Procedures:

- Your participation will involve answering a series of questions in either a questionnaire or an interview, based on your preference.
- The data collected will be used for research purposes only and will be kept confidential.
- Your anonymity will be maintained in all research reports and publications.

Consent

By signing this form, you indicate that you:

- Understand the purpose of the study.
- Agree to participate voluntarily.
- Consent to the use of data collected for research purposes.
- Understand that you can withdraw from the study at any time without consequences.

Participant's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Researcher's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Thank you for considering participation in this research study. Your contribution is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact me at [your contact information]

Appendices 2: Interview Guide

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this research study. The following interview aims to gather insights into the socio-economic challenges faced by teenage mothers in the Murehwa district of Zimbabwe. Your experiences and perspectives are vital to understanding the impact of teenage motherhood on educational attainment and economic prospects. Your responses will be kept confidential, and your anonymity will be maintained in all research reports and publications.

1. Personal Background

- Can you tell me about your background and circumstances that led to your experience as a teenage mother?
- How has teenage motherhood influenced your educational journey and economic opportunities?

2. Socio-Economic Challenges

- What are the primary socio-economic challenges you face as a teenage mother in the Murehwa district?
- How do these challenges impact your daily life and future prospects?

3. Support and Services

- Have you accessed any support services or programs designed for teenage mothers in the region?
- In your opinion, what kind of support or interventions would be most beneficial for teenage mothers in similar situations?

4. Aspirations and Future Goals

- What are your aspirations for the future, considering the socio-economic challenges you currently face?
- How do you envision achieving economic independence and social integration as a teenage mother in this community?

5 Proposed Model

- Based on your experiences, what do you believe is needed to develop a model that effectively supports teenage mothers in achieving economic independence and social integration?
- What specific resources or strategies do you think would be most helpful in addressing the socio-economic crisis faced by teenage mothers in the Murehwa district?

Appendices 3: Interview Guide 2

Socio-Economic Factors

- 2.1. What are the main challenges you face as a teenage mother in the Murehwa district?
- 2.2. How has teenage motherhood impacted your educational opportunities and achievements?
- 2.3. Can you describe the economic difficulties you experience as a teenage mother in this community?

Support and Services

- 3.1. Have you received any support or assistance as a teenage mother in the Murehwa district?
- 3.2. What kind of support services do you believe would be most beneficial for teenage mothers like yourself in this region?

Future Aspirations

- 4.1. What are your aspirations for the future, considering your current socio-economic challenges as a teenage mother?
- 4.2. How do you envision achieving economic independence and social integration in the future?

Proposed Model

5.1. Based on your experiences, what do you believe is necessary to develop a model that effectively supports teenage mothers in achieving economic independence and social integration?

5.2. What resources or strategies do you think would be most effective in addressing the socio-economic crisis faced by teenage mothers in the Murehwa district?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

Official communications should
Not be addressed to individuals

Telephone: 703711 / 790721-4
Harare



ZIMBABWE

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE, LABOUR AND SOCIAL
WELFARE
Compensation House

Cnr S.V Muzenda and Central Avenue
HARARE

3 June 2025
Chimuzimu Melody(B210681B)
Bindura University of Science Education

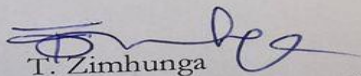
**REF: LETTER OF APPROVAL TO CONDUCT A RESEARCH STUDY
TITLED 'A MODEL TOWARDS SOCIO-ECONOMIC CRISIS FACED BY
TEEN MOTHERS IN ZIMBABWE. A CASE STUDY OF MUREWA
DISTRICT.'**

Receipt of your letter with the above mentioned matter is acknowledged.

Please be advised that permission is hereby granted for you to carry out research
titled **"A model towards socio-economic crisis faced by teen mothers in
Zimbabwe. A case study of Murewa District."**

Permission is granted **STRICTLY** on condition that the research is for academic
purposes only in pursuit of your Bachelors of Science Honours Degree in Social
Work. The data collected should not be shared to third party (3rd).

You are requested to submit a copy of your final research documents to the
Department of Social Development up to the Department's mandate. Your research has a bearing
on the Department's mandate.


T. Zimhunga

Acting Chief Director Social Development and Disability Affairs
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE, LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE



Approved on the usual conditions
30/05/2025

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BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

Date: 30 MAY 2025

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE: REQUEST TO UNDERTAKE RESEARCH PROJECT IN YOUR ORGANISATION

This serves to introduce the bearer, CHIMUZIMU MELODY, Student Registration Number B210681 B, who is a BSc Social Work student at Bindura University of Science Education and is carrying out a research project in your area/institution.

May you please assist the student to access data relevant to the study, and where possible, conduct interviews as part of a data collection process.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E.E. Chigondo'.

E.E. CHIGONDO
CHAIRPERSON

