Assess the impact of forced evictions on community cohesion and peace in Harare. A case study of Mabvuku

BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

ASSESS THE IMPACT OF FORCED EVICTIONS ON COMMUNITY COHESION AND PEACE IN HARARE. A CASE STUDY OF MABVUKU

By

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Abstract

The phenomenon of forced evictions in urban areas, particularly in Harare's suburb of Mabvuku, presented a critical challenge to community cohesion and peace. The dissertation sought to explore the intricate dynamics between forced evictions and their subsequent impact on the social fabric of communities. Through a case study of Mabvuku, the research investigated the immediate and long-term consequences of displacement on community relationships, trust, and conflict resolution mechanisms. The methodology included qualitative interviews with affected individuals, analysis of policy documents and a review of secondary data to provide a comprehensive picture of the consequences of forced evictions. The analysis provided a nuanced understanding of how forced evictions disrupt social networks, exacerbate tensions, and undermine the sense of community. Moreover, the author examined the strategies employed by residents to rebuild their lives and restore communal harmony in the face of adversity. The findings underscored the importance of inclusive urban planning and the need for legal frameworks that protect against arbitrary displacement. The dissertation argued for a participatory approach to housing policy that prioritizes the well-being of residents and promotes sustainable peace. By highlighting the voices of those affected, this study contributed to the discourse on urban governance, human rights, and peacebuilding in post-eviction scenarios.

Keywords: forced evictions, peace, community, cohesion

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Declaration

I, B200699B hereby declare that the information provided in this document is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. The research study titled "access the impact of forced eviction on community cohesion and peace in Harare a case study of Mabvuku. I confirm that all sources used in this study have been properly cited and referenced. I understand that any form of academic misconduct, including plagiarism, is strictly prohibited and may result in severe consequences. By signing this declaration, I take full responsibility for the content and conclusions presented in this study.

STUDENT SIGNED: .... DATE: 24/9/24

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CHAIRPERSON SIGNATURE............ DATE........ 24/09/2024

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Declaration

I Hannah Shumirai Kokhola hereby declare that this thesis is my own original work and has not been submitted before to any institution for assessment purposes. Further, I have acknowledged all sources used and have cited these in the reference section.

Signature: _____

Date: _____/_____/_____

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Dedication

My academic experience and life has been greatly impacted by the person to whom this dissertation is dedicated. My mum, Juliet Kokhola has fashioned me into the person I am today with her unfailing support and guidance, for which I will always be thankful. I am privileged to make you proud because of the sacrifices and support you have showed me to follow my aspirations. Your love and dedication has been a constant source of inspiration for me, and I want to have a positive effect on the world as you have in mine.

This dissertation serves as an example of the strength of love, encouragement, and diligence. It is the result of years of commitment, tenacity, and passion. I am proud to dedicate it to you, and I hope it will work as a testament to the influence you have had on my life and academic aspirations. May it also motivate others to pursue their goals and make a positive difference in the world.

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List of abbreviations and acronyms

COH   City of Harare

COHRE   Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions

GOZ   Government of Zimbabwe

PTSD   Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

SADC   Southern African Development Community

UNDP   Universal Declaration of Human Rights

UNHCHR   United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

UN   United Nations

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CHAPTER ONE

1.0. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the study

The displacement of people and communities due to various factors, such as urban development projects or land disputes, can have far-reaching consequences on the affected populations. One crucial aspect that often gets overlooked is the impact of forced evictions on community cohesion and peace. Community cohesion refers to the sense of belonging, trust, and cohesion within a community. Because of this, it is crucial to evaluate how forceful evictions affect community harmony and peace in Harare in order to comprehend the wider consequences for urban growth and social harmony.

According to the Housing and Land Rights network (2014), eviction is frequently linked to psychological and physical harm to individuals impacted, with particular effects on women, children, those who are already extremely poor, indigenous peoples, minorities, and other marginalized groups. The poorest, the communities who experience discrimination, the disenfranchised, and those who lack the power to influence the decisions and designs of the project that led to their displacement are frequently the victims of forced evictions. The impoverished are frequently targets of least resistance and are often forced to relocate because of their very poverty. Forced evictions, in the words of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing, "intensify inequality, social conflict, segregation and 'ghettoization' and invariably affect the

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poorest, most socially and economically vulnerable, and marginalized sectors of society, especially women, children, minorities, and indigenous community.

Kidane (2011) contends that internal displacement is, "a symptom of state dysfunction" that has in some respects indiscriminately affect both developing and developed nations. The phenomenon of forced evictions was called a global epidemic in the First Report of the Advisory Group on Forced Evictions to the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlement Program UN-HABITAT (Advisory group on forced evictions, 2005). The statistics are staggering, about five million individuals worldwide in Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas are affected by forcible evictions. Mass human relocation caused by conflict or persecution, of which forced evictions are but a subspecies, is a considerably more widespread occurrence. 37 million people, or six out of every 1000 persons, are presently displaced globally. Detailed statistics from the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE) reported that over 4 million people were affected by forced evictions between 2007 and 2008, and violence was used in almost 50% of evictions. This comprises internally displaced people, as opposed to refugees as defined by the United Nations Convention pertaining to the Status of Refugees, who have been uprooted from their homes but have stayed inside the borders of their own country.

Compared to other regions of the country, evictions have occurred in Harare (Zimbabwe) far more frequently and impacted more individuals. These evictions have violated many people's rights, generally. This is so because most instances have been

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unjustified and done so often at the national government's request without completing the proper procedures. The lives and livelihoods of victims have been disturbed, and they are increasingly denied access to the kinds of public safeguards they expect, along with their dignity and right to development. People are being evicted and having their lives disrupted by the permit-issuing and service-delivering agencies, who have become increasingly ineffective at meeting demand. Residents are displaced without adequate reimbursement or even their previous informed agreement as a result of deficiencies in spatial planning and general development management (mine, dams, plantations, etc.). Some homes and commercial buildings have been built in unfavorable locations and in environmentally sensitive areas. Evictions therefore constitute a result of citizen and state (in)actions due to the general deficiencies in settlement, economic, and governance planning.

700,000 households were forcibly removed from Harare in 2005 as part of an operation known as Murambatsvina (clean the filth) by the Zimbabwean government. With little or no warning, the government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) working through the limb of the police, bulldozed and razed down any structures deemed illegal (Bratton, 2006). Through the disruption of schooling, food, water, and health care, this operation had an overall negative impact on 2.4 million individuals to varied degrees. Numerous hundred thousand houses, businesses, and marketplaces were destroyed. Additionally, since 2000, the Robert Mugabe administration has forcibly removed thousands of white farmers from their lands. Some of the farmers who were left penniless moved to other

regions of Africa where they are now trying to re-establish themselves. Compensation for the seizure of the land has remained a contentious subject.

In 2005, operation murambatsvina destroyed slums in Mabvuku and other areas such as Budiriro and Mbare as well as nearby Chitungwiza. Homes and possessions were ruthlessly burnt to the ground and they were given a few hours to remove what they can save before bulldozers came in to demolish the entire structures.

Forced evictions can displace families and communities, causing the disintegration of preexisting social networks and support systems. People who are subjected to forced evictions frequently experience severe psychological suffering, including emotions of fear, anxiety, and tension. Families and people facing eviction are frequently left without suitable alternative accommodation or compensation. As a result, they can be forced to relocate to locations with less access to basic services including healthcare, education, water, and sewage. Rhoades (2010) asserts that, education opens doors for economic development, health awareness, poverty reduction, community safety and civic involvement. Thus, this shows that communities cannot develop as long as they are limited access to these services. Affected communities and the authorities may clash as a result of forced evictions. Conflicts like these have the potential to worsen existing tensions and disturb local peace. Consequently, this study will examine the effects of forced evictions on societal harmony and peace in Mabvuku.

1.2. Purpose of the study

To understand the specific consequences of forced evictions on community

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cohesion and peace.

1.3. Statement of the problem

Forced evictions, a prevalent phenomenon in Mabvuku, have significant implications for the social fabric and wellbeing of affected communities. Forced evictions often result in the displacement of individuals and families from their homes and communities. Hence it disrupts social networks. Increased vulnerability and tension and loss of livelihood are some problems that may be posed by forced evictions. Furthermore, forced evictions in cause severe emotional distress and trauma for those affected (psychological impact) and a strained community- government relation can emerge.

1.4. Research objectives

i. To examine the extent to which forced evictions in Mabvuku disrupt social relationship and cohesive community bonds.

ii. To assess the psychological and emotional consequences experienced by individuals and families in Mabvuku facing forced evictions.

iii. To evaluate the impact of forced evictions on access to essential services and resources to the Mabvuku community.

iv. To explore the strategies and coping mechanisms employed by communities in Mabvuku facing forced evictions.

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1.5. Research questions

i.   How do forced evictions affect social relationships and cohesive community bonds?

ii. What are the psychological and emotional consequences experienced by individuals and families facing forced evictions?

iii. To what extent do forced evictions disrupt access to essential services and resources?

iv. What are the strategies and coping mechanisms that are being adopted by communities as a way of maintaining peace in the face of evictions?

1.6. Research assumptions

i.   Forced evictions contribute to the breakdown of community cohesion

ii. Leads to increased social tensions and conflicts

iii. Have differential impacts on different socio-economic groups

1.7. Justification of the study

The peace and cohesion of the community might be negatively impacted by forced evictions. It is critical that decision-makers and authorities carefully assess the social and psychological repercussions of such actions and work toward more inclusive, participatory strategies that put the rights and well-being of all residents first. Thus, research on the effects of forced evictions on community cohesion and peace in Harare is crucial for understanding the unique difficulties faced by affected communities as

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well as for advancing social justice, human rights, conflict resolution, sustainable development, and policymaking that is well-informed.

1.8. Delimitations of the study

The study focused on Mabvuku area. This helped to ensure that the research remained focused and manageable. Furthermore, the research also selected specific communities and individuals who have experienced forced evictions. And this ensured that the research captured firsthand information from those most affected by the issue. The research also referred to other areas that experienced forced evictions.

1.9. Limitations of the study

The study focused on a small community in Harare that is Mabvuku, so the results do not reflect that of the whole nations. Another limitation was that of timeframe that is the effects of forced evictions varied with time hence it was difficult to capture the full range of effects. To curb this limitations other sources and documents were consulted to try to explain the effects of forced evictions on a larger scale

1.10. Definition of key terms

Forced evictions: are defined by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR, 1993:np) as the forcible removal of people from their homes or lands for reasons that are either directly or indirectly related to the State. It comprises moving evicted individuals or groups to other locations with assistance (in the case of resettlement) or without assistance (in the absence of resettlement) and effectively

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removing the possibility of an individual or group residing in a certain house, residence, or site.

Eviction: refers to the act of forcing a tenant to move out of a rented property, typically by legal proceedings initiated by the landlord. (Desmond, 2016)

Peace: is defined as the absence of direct violence, as well as the presence of justice and equity, social harmony, and positive relationships characterized by cooperation and nonviolent conflict resolution. (Galtung, 2013)

Cohesion: refers to the relationships of meaning, linkages, or interconnections that exist inside a text and give the semantic unity required in its structure. (Jabur, 2023)

Community: is first a place and second a configuration as a way of life both as to how people do things and what they want to say, their institutions and goals. (Kaufman, Bell &Newby, p30)

1.11. Chapter outline
Chapter 1: Introduction

This chapter focused on the study's background, purpose, problem statement, importance, study limits, key terminology definition, and chapter summary.

Chapter 2: Literature review and theoretical framework

This chapter is going to focus on the theoretical frameworks, literature review, research gaps and scholarly views, critiques and the chapter summary.

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Chapter 3: Research Design and Methodology

Chapter 3 will focus on outlining the methodology that the researcher applied which is the qualitative research approach, research design, target population, research sample, data collection tools, document analysis, data presentation analysis and ethical considerations.

Chapter 4: Data presentation, Analysis and Discussion of Findings

The chapter is going to look at the research findings. The findings will be presented, analyzed and discussed and compared to other findings from other related studies.

Chapter 5: Summary, Conclusions, Recommendations and Areas of Further Research

This chapter focuses on the summary of the whole project, conclusions, and recommendations and areas of further research.

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CHAPTER TWO

2.0. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Introduction

Forced evictions, a pervasive phenomenon in urban development, have far-reaching consequences on community cohesion and peace. Harare, Zimbabwe's capital city, has witnessed numerous forced evictions, particularly in informal settlements like Mabvuku. This chapter reviews existing literature to provide a theoretical framework for understanding the impact of forced evictions on community cohesion and peace, with a specific focus on Mabvuku.

2.2. Theoretical framework

The social capital and the human rights are two theories that are going to be used as the anchoring philosophy of the research.

2.2.1. Social capital theory

American political scientist Robert David Putnam (1941) is well known for popularizing the concept of social capital. He believed that social capital is crucial to a society's ability to function and has a big impact on a lot of different outcomes, such economic growth, political engagement, and general social well-being. Putnam described social capital as a public good, the degree of civic engagement, confidence in others, and participatory potential that is available to cities, states, or countries (Putnam, Leonardi & Nanneti,1993).

To keep a community cohesive and peaceful, trust is essential. Community

members may acquire a suspicion of external actors like developers or government authorities as a result of forced evictions. According to Putnam (1993), social capital is defined as features of social organizations, such as networks, norms, and trust that facilitate action and cooperation for mutual benefit. Therefore, a lack of trust can make it difficult to work together, heighten social tensions, and undercut efforts to achieve peace and reconciliation within a community.

In order to accomplish shared objectives, people and communities can tap the resources that are ingrained in social networks, which is referred to as social capital. Therefore, Putnam considered social capital as a public good. Social capital, which includes trust, norms, reciprocity, and social relationships, is the amount of participatory potential, civic orientation, and trust in others that cities, states, or countries can access (Putnam, R., Leonardi., R., & Nanneti, R.,Y., 1993). During forceful evictions, communities frequently see the damage of physical infrastructure, the displacement of residents, and the disruption of social networks. By undermining the social capital already present in the neighborhood, these disturbances might make it more difficult for locals to function as a unit and uphold harmony and tranquility.

2.2.2. Human rights theory

In accordance with the Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights' general comment No. 7 (1997) on the right to adequate housing, forced eviction is defined as, "the permanent or temporary removal against their will of individuals, families, and/or communities from the homes and/or land which they occupy, without

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the provision of, and access to, appropriate forms of legal or other protection." People's rights are being violated by this. The human rights doctrine contends that everyone has fundamental rights that the government and others should uphold. In 1689, john Locke proposed the theory that each person has certain rights derived from their own nature rather than their government or its laws.in reality, a governments legitimacy is based on its respect for these essential liberties. More people came to accept the idea that these basic rights should provide people with explicit legal protections and some countries' constitutions began to reflect this viewpoint. Human rights theory places a strong emphasis on the violations and injustices connected to forced evictions when analyzing their impacts, which ultimately threaten peace and community cohesion.

Human rights are widely recognised as unalienable, fundamental rights to which every individual has an inherent right only by virtue of being a human. Therefore, it is believed that human rights are egalitarian and universal, meaning that they apply to all people equally. These rights may be recognised by local, regional, national, and international law as natural rights or as legal rights. Therefore, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a significant declaration that offers important recommendations on human rights. According to Article 2 of the Declaration, everyone is entitled to all the freedoms and rights outlined in it, regardless of any distinction made on the basis of something like race, colour, sex, language, religion, political opinion, national or social origin, property, birthplace, or any other status. In a broader sense, forced evictions are flagrant violations of several internationally recognised human rights, such as the

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freedom from cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment, the right to adequate housing, food, water, health, education, and employment, as well as the right to personal security. (Samuel & Benjamin, 2018)

Article 25.1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights acknowledges that, 'Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control". In addition to the UNDP, state parties are urged by Article 25.1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child to acknowledge each child's entitlement to a quality of living that is sufficient for their physical, mental, spiritual, moral, and social development. In addition, Article 19 of the same convention requires States Parties to take all necessary legislative, administrative, social, and educational actions to safeguard children against any kind of abuse, including sexual abuse, as well as neglect or careless treatment, maltreatment, or exploitation while the child is under the custody of parent(s), legal guardian(s), or other careers. Article 28 also acknowledges the right to education for every child.

At the regional level, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights also prohibits discrimination in the enjoyment of human rights, guarantees the inviolability of human dignity, freedom from arbitrary deprivation of life and property, and all of the rights recognized as fundamental to the actualization of the human being.

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The provision set out above is therefore of the essence that, Human rights are fundamental and there should be no given time that they are derogated from; however, corruption has led to derogation from these delineable human rights as we continue to witness forced evictions that displace people from their land, shelter and other entitlements (Kimeu & Maina, 2018). (Kimeu & Maina, 2018).

2.3. Land reform in Zimbabwe

Land reform in Zimbabwe refers to the series of policies and actions undertaken by the Zimbabwean government to address historical land inequalities and redistribute land ownership. The land reform program, which began in the late 1990s, aimed to rectify the imbalances in land ownership that were a result of colonial rule. Historically, Zimbabwe's land ownership was heavily skewed, with the majority of fertile land being owned by a small number of white farmers, while the majority of the population, who were mainly black, had limited access to land. The issue of land distribution was a longstanding source of tension and inequality in Zimbabwe.

In 2000, the Zimbabwean government, under the leadership of President Robert Mugabe, initiated a controversial land reform program. The program involved the compulsory acquisition of land owned by white farmers, often without compensation, and its redistribution to landless black Zimbabweans. The government argued that the land reform was necessary to address historical injustices and promote social and economic equality. The land reform program faced criticism both domestically and internationally. The United Nations identified several key shortcomings with the

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programme, namely failure to compensate ousted landowners as called for by the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the poor handling of boundary disputes, and chronic shortages of material and personnel needed to carry out resettlement in an orderly manner. Several farm owners and even more farm workers were killed during violent takeovers. Critics raised concerns about the lack of transparency and fairness in the land redistribution process, as well as the impact on agricultural productivity and the economy. The rapid and sometimes violent nature of the land seizures, coupled with the lack of support for new farmers, led to a decline in agricultural output and contributed to an economic downturn in Zimbabwe.

2.4. Operation Murambatsvina

Operation Murambatsvina, also known as "Operation Restore Order," was a controversial government campaign that took place in Zimbabwe in 2005. The operation was led by the government under President Robert Mugabe and aimed to clear informal settlements and "restore order" in urban areas. The operation targeted informal housing structures, street vendors, and other informal economic activities. It involved the demolition of homes, businesses, and informal marketplaces, resulting in the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people. The government argued that the operation was necessary to eliminate illegal structures, reduce crime, and improve urban planning.

However, Operation Murambatsvina drew widespread criticism from both domestic and international observers. Critics argued that the operation was carried out

without adequate consultation, proper planning, or provision of alternative housing for those affected. The demolitions left many people homeless and deprived them of their livelihoods, exacerbating an already challenging economic situation. Rights organizations condemned the operation, citing violations of the right to adequate housing, the right to livelihood, and the right to be free from forced evictions. The United Nations and other international bodies also expressed concern about the humanitarian impact of the operation.

2.5. Impact of forced evictions on community cohesion and peaceful relations

Families and communities may be uprooted as a result of forced relocation, shattering long-standing support structures and social networks. As a result, relationships between people and ties within the community may deteriorate and social connections may disappear. A loss of cultural identity and heritage can result from the frequent eviction of communities from their long-standing dwellings. Consequently, it alters customary practices. Communities' sense of belonging may be impacted if their historical, spiritual, and ancestral ties are severed. These disturbances have the potential to deplete the community's social capital, making it more difficult for citizens to act jointly and uphold harmony and solidarity.

According to Putnam's theory of social capital, communities with high levels of social capital are frequently more resilient and better suited to collectively address issues. They are able to gather supplies, information, and assistance to lessen the damaging effects of forcible evictions. However, the community's capacity to react

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appropriately may be hampered if social capital is lost as a result of forced evictions. This may result in more confrontations, divides, and a general decline in communal well-being. Conflict between impacted communities and the authorities might result from forced evictions. Communities may protest, demonstrate, or fight in court to defend their rights and prevent eviction. These disputes have the potential to exacerbate tensions and disturb local peace.so jeopardizing the tranquility of the Mabvuku community.

2.6. Factors influencing impact of forced evictions

2.6.1. Socio-economic

The effects of forced evictions on community welfare are strongly influenced by socioeconomic level. Health and welfare, education, employment prospects, and social support are all impacted, as well as access to alternative homes. People with higher socioeconomic level are more likely to have access to alternative housing options, better medical care, resources to give steady educational opportunities, more secure work, and savings that permit speedy recovery. Thus, those most impacted by these evictions are typically the poorest, most marginalized communities. It is often their very poverty that subjects the poor to processes of displacement and resettlement (Oliver-Smith, 2009). The Special Rapporteur on adequate housing states that forced evictions always affect the most vulnerable, impoverished, and marginalised groups in society, including women, children, minorities, and indigenous peoples. Additionally, they exacerbate social unrest, segregation, inequality, and "ghettoization."

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2.6.2. Cultural diversity

Diversity in culture fosters a sense of identity and belonging by bringing diverse cultural practices, traditions, and values to a community. Forced evictions may have a significant impact on these cultural connections and identities. Cultural variety also frequently promotes social capital and community cohesion. However, forced removal can strain or break this social fabric of various groups. Lack of efficient communication routes can make a group more vulnerable and less happy. Language challenges may make it difficult for people to communicate with the authorities, access information, and participate in eviction decision-making processes.

2.6.3. Governance structures

Community well-being is significantly impacted by the capacity of the organizations involved in forced evictions, such as local governments, housing authority, and related ministries. Strong and capable institutions are more likely to handle evictions successfully, protect the rights of impacted populations, and offer assistance during the transition. Strong institutional capability, on the other hand, can result in poor planning, insufficient funding, and a restricted ability to respond to the needs of the impacted communities.

2.6.4. Political factors

The choice to conduct forcible evictions would be influenced by political issues like government policies and politics. Governments with policies that place a high

priority on human rights and community well-being are more likely to investigate other options before forcibly removing residents, to communicate with those communities, and to take steps to lessen negative effects. Involved communities can experience a considerable improvement in outcomes if there is a robust legal framework that protects individual rights, guarantees due process, offers fair compensation, and establishes procedures for dispute resolution. In addition, governments ought to place a high priority on accountability and transparency in order to hold officials accountable for their deeds, ensure that the law is followed, and stop the abuse of authority. Consequently, it is necessary for the international community, particularly human rights organizations and diplomatic connections, to persuade the government to implement policies that safeguard community wellbeing.

2.7. Coping mechanisms and strategies
2.7.1. Community Solidarity

Affected communities often come together to build a strong sense of solidarity. They form support networks, share resources, and collectively resist eviction attempts. Unity helps in creating a stronger voice and enables communities to better advocate for their rights.

2.7.2. Legal Awareness and Advocacy

Communities educate themselves about their rights, including international human rights standards and national laws related to evictions. They seek legal assistance from organizations specializing in housing and land rights. By understanding

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their rights and mobilizing legal support, communities may challenge unlawful evictions and demand fair compensation or alternative housing solutions.

2.7.3. Peaceful Protests and Demonstrations

Engaging in peaceful protests, demonstrations, and public awareness campaigns can draw attention to the unjust nature of forced evictions. Communities organize rallies, marches, sit-ins, and media campaigns to raise public awareness about their situation, generate support, and exert pressure on authorities to reconsider eviction plans.

2.7.4. Negotiations and Dialogue

Affected communities may engage in negotiations with local authorities, government representatives, and relevant stakeholders to reach a mutually acceptable solution. Dialogue platforms provide an opportunity to present alternative proposals, discuss concerns, and explore options that respect the rights and well-being of the community while ensuring development objectives are met.

2.7.5. Documentation and Evidence Gathering

Communities document their living conditions, the history of their settlement, and the impacts of forced eviction. This evidence can be used to support legal cases, advocacy efforts, and raise awareness among the public, media, and policymakers. Documenting human rights violations and the social, economic, and cultural significance of the affected community strengthens their position and helps in seeking

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redress.

2.7.6. Alternative Housing Initiatives

Some communities develop innovative solutions to address housing needs even in the face of eviction threats. They may explore self-help housing initiatives, cooperative housing models, or negotiate for suitable alternative accommodations. Building their own homes or developing sustainable housing solutions empowers communities and ensures their basic needs are met.

2.8. Long term effects of forced evictions on community cohesion and peace

2.8.1. Disruption of Social Networks

Forced evictions can uproot communities from their established neighborhoods, breaking social ties and disrupting social networks. People may be forced to relocate to unfamiliar areas, separating them from their friends, relatives, and support systems. This loss of social cohesion and support networks can lead to feelings of isolation and weakened community bonds.

2.8.2. Fragmentation and Division

When a community is forcibly evicted, its members may be scattered across different locations, making it challenging to maintain the sense of unity and collective identity. The physical separation of community members can lead to fragmentation, with individuals and families struggling to rebuild connections and trust. This division

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can erode the social fabric, making it difficult to mobilize collective actions or advocate for common interests.

2.8.3. Increased Vulnerability and Poverty

Forced evictions often push communities into precarious living conditions, including homelessness, inadequate housing, or informal settlements lacking basic services. Displaced individuals frequently face increased vulnerability to poverty, as they struggle to access employment, education, healthcare, and other essential services. The resulting economic strain and marginalization further weaken community cohesion and can spark conflicts over limited resources.

2.8.4. Psychological Distress

Forced evictions can cause significant psychological distress and trauma within affected communities. Disrupted lives, loss of homes, and uncertainty about the future take a toll on the mental well-being of individuals. The stress of eviction can also trigger the adoption of unhealthy behaviors particularly during pregnancy such as forgoing meals and prenatal care or engaging in physically demanding work (Himmelstein G & Desmond M, 2021).Anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and other psychological consequences can impede community members' ability to engage in community activities, maintain healthy relationships, and contribute to peace-building initiatives.

2.8.5. Intercommunity Tensions

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Forced evictions can lead to tensions between the evicted community and the host community in the new location. This can arise due to perceived encroachment on resources, competition for scarce services, or stigmatization of the evicted community. Strained relationships between these groups can jeopardize intercommunity harmony, exacerbate discrimination, and amplify social divisions.

2.8.6. Loss of Cultural Identity and Heritage

Communities facing forced evictions may lose not only their physical homes but also their cultural heritage and identity intimately tied to the land they inhabited. Traditional practices, ceremonies, and collective memory can be disrupted or lost entirely, resulting in a profound sense of cultural dislocation and erosion of community cohesion.

2.8.7. Reduced Trust in Authorities

Forced evictions, especially if carried out without proper consultation, compensation, or adequate alternative housing solutions, can lead to a loss of trust in local authorities. When community members feel betrayed or disregarded by those responsible for protecting their rights, it can leave lasting scars and hinder future cooperation with authorities. This distrust can hamper efforts to establish peaceful relationships and resolve conflicts through dialogue.

2.9. Role of trauma and mental health on communities facing evictions
2.9.1. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

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Eviction has been reported to often have a "domino effect" (El Nasser, 2015). This was supported by Babajide,Blum, Maniates &Scher (2016) who indicated that," residential instability breeds other forms of instability for families and communities." Evictions may take a toll on mental health. Individuals who have experienced forced evictions may develop symptoms of PTSD. This condition is characterized by intrusive thoughts, nightmares, flashbacks, hyper arousal, and avoidance behaviors related to the traumatic event. Symptoms of PTSD can persist even long after the eviction took place, hindering individuals' ability to rebuild their lives and maintain healthy relationships with others.

2.9.2. Depression and Anxiety

Forced evictions can contribute to increased rates of depression and anxiety among community members. Displacement, loss of social support networks, insecurity, and uncertain living conditions can all contribute to these mental health challenges. The stress of finding alternative housing, employment, and education can further exacerbate feelings of hopelessness and worry.

2.9.3. Loss of Identity and Sense of Belonging

Forced evictions often involve the loss of not only physical space but also cultural identity and a sense of belonging. Communities may lose their connection to their ancestral lands, traditional practices, and cultural heritage. This loss can contribute to a profound sense of dislocation, identity crisis, and a feeling of being uprooted, which can

significantly impact mental health.

2.9.4. Intergenerational Trauma

Forced evictions can lead to intergenerational trauma, where the psychological effects are passed down from one generation to another. Children growing up in communities facing forced evictions may experience developmental delays, learning difficulties, behavioral problems, and higher rates of mental health disorders. The trauma experienced by parents and caregivers can affect their ability to provide nurturing and stable environments for children, perpetuating the cycle of trauma. Also, the stress of eviction can also trigger the adoption of unhealthy behaviors particularly during pregnancy such as forgoing meals and prenatal care or engaging in physically demanding work (Himmelstein & Desmond , 2021).

2.9.5. Stigmatization and Discrimination

Communities facing forced evictions may also experience stigmatization and discrimination, both from the wider society and within their new host communities. This can further compound the negative mental health impacts, leaving individuals feeling isolated, marginalized, and rejected.

2.10. Chapter summary

The chapter focused on various issues that were used to explain the effects of forced evictions on community cohesion and peace. Social capital theory and human rights were the theories that anchored this chapter. More so, the chapter discussed

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issues around the land reform and operation murambatsvina and the impact of forced evictions on community cohesion and peace. The chapter also explored the factors influencing impact of forced evictions and the long term effects of forced evictions. Lastly it discussed the role of trauma and mental health on communities facing evictions.

CHAPTER THREE

3.0. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND DESIGN

3.1. Introduction

The instruments and methods used to gather data were explained in this chapter and the qualitative research method was employed. Qualitative research allows one to ask questions that cannot be easily put into numbers to understand human experience. The research instruments that were employed by the researcher to collect data were interviews and questionnaires.

3.2 Research philosophy

Research philosophy refers to the underlying beliefs, values, and assumptions that guide the research process and shape the methodology, methods, and interpretation of findings. The study employed the qualitative research approach in data collection and data analysis. Bai & Zhou (2019) indicated that qualitative research is mainly concerned about behavior of people, their views or opinions and the assessment of attitudes. This was significant as it helped to breed a positive relationship between

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the researcher and the respondents which helped the researcher to find   accurate information.

3.3 Research methodology

It is defined as the study of methods by which knowledge is gained and its aim is to give the work plan of research. When conducting a research study to assess the role of forced evictions on community cohesion and peace in Mabvuku, the researcher adopted a qualitative research methodology.

3.4 Research design

In order to investigate the effects of forced evictions in Zimbabwe a case study of Mabvuku was used. Miller defined research design as the planned sequence of the entire process involved in conducting a research study. According to (Trochim, 2005), research design is the glue that holds the research project together. The importance of using a case study was that it helped in gathering crucial information about the impact of forceful evictions on community cohesion and peace.

3.5 Population and sampling

Population is any complete group with at least one characteristic in common (Creswell, 2013). Residents of Mabvuku who have undergone or been impacted by forced evictions were the target group for studying the effects of these evictions on community cohesion and peace. This included people who have had their homes forcibly taken away from them as well as those who live in neighborhoods where such evictions had occurred and have seen the effects these evictions have on the cohesion

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and harmony of the neighborhood.

3.6 Sampling

According to Sunusi (2016), when assessing the impact of forced evictions on community cohesion and peace in Mabvuku, the researcher utilized various sampling methods to select participants who are representative of the target population. Sampling refers to the act of selecting certain data sources from which to gather data in order to progress the study's aims. The choice of sampling method depended on various factors, including the research objectives, resources available, and the characteristics of the population. This study used the non-probability method which include convenience and snowballing sampling. Probability sampling methods generally provide a more representative sample and allow for generalization of findings to the larger population. However, non-probability sampling methods can be appropriate when access to the population is limited or when studying specific subgroups within the population.

3.7 Data collection methods

Data collection is the process of acquiring and analysing information on relevant variables in a predetermined, systematic way that enables one to respond to specified research questions and assess results (Aspers, 2019). The entire research was based on both primary and secondary data in this study. Primary data are those that are gathered from first-hand information, whereas secondary data are those that are gathered from previously researched and published information. Numerous methods of

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data collecting were used to gather this information. As a result, questionnaires and interviews were used in the study.

3.7.1 Interview

The researcher employed the direct interview tool to collect data from the participants. A direct interview can simply be defined as the process where the researcher will be asking the participants some systematic questions on a topic of interest and in this case, the researcher serves as the facilitator (Aspers & Corte, 2019). Interviews can be structured or unstructured but this study employed the open ended structured interview guide in which the questions were written in English but the respondents were free to answer in their own language.

3.7.2 Questionnaires

The research also used structured questioners in interviewing individuals affected by forced evictions. The questionnaire was pretested before it was administered to the participants.

3.8 Validity and Reliability

The research tools utilized by the researcher produced accurate and fair data that did not mislead any user of the findings of the study. Validity is defined by Degu & Yigsaw (2006) as the degree of congruence between a measurement and the actual value of the thing being measured. Validity is the relationship between the outcomes that the research instrument will produce and the real circumstance that will be measured.

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According to David (2014), reliability refers to the repeatability of a measure, which is the degree of closeness between repeated measurement of the same value. It is a concept that addresses the question of how close the measurements shall be to each other if the same thing is measured multiple times. Therefore, the reliability of the study was concerned with the consistency of the research equipment in producing comparable results if the study were to be repeated under the same conditions. As a result, the research tools used in this study were thought to be appropriate and trustworthy because they were designed in a way that was basic enough for any participant to grasp.

3.9 Data presentation and analysis

Mbambo (2017) defined this as a process where data is organized into graphs, tables or charts so as to allow the researcher to come up with conclusions which are statistical and logic as derived from the collected data or information. Graphs and charts were used in this study to show the data collected regarding the effects of forced evictions in the Mabvuku community.

3.10 Pilot testing

Pilot testing is an essential step in the research process to evaluate and refine the research instruments and procedures before full-scale data collection. A pilot study is a small feasibility study designed to test various aspects of the methods planned for a larger, more rigorous, or confirmatory investigation (Arain, Campbell, Cooper & Lancaster (2010). In the context of assessing the impact of forced evictions on

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community cohesion and peace in Mabvuku, pilot testing helped to ensure the effectiveness and appropriateness of the data collection tools and procedures. It helped the researcher to identify and address potential problems or limitations in the research instruments and procedures before implementing them on a larger scale. It allowed for adjustments to be made, which improved the quality and validity of the data collected in the main study. In general, researchers use pilot studies to evaluate the adequacy of their planned methods and procedures (Polit & Beck, 2017).

3.11 Ethical considerations

When conducting research, ethics were crucial. Bos (2020) refers to Ethics as an inquiry into what is right and wrong, and what researchers ought to do. The respondents willingly provided written consent to engage in the study, in line with Arifin's (2018) contention that participants in research should do so voluntarily. There were no respondents who were coerced into taking the survey. The insignia respondent 1, respondent 2, respondent 3, and so on were used throughout the study to preserve the respondents' anonymity. Following that, ethical considerations were noted as a method to respect the participant's confidentiality, privacy, anonymity, and informed permission, among other things, and this was done in order to protect the participants from any harm.

3.12 Chapter summary

The chapter explored research methods and techniques that were carried out in this study. Population, sample, sampling procedures, data collection methods, data

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collection procedures and data analysis plan and research ethics were explored as stated above. Interviews and questionnaires have been identified and justified as well as the research instruments that were used for the study. The merits and demerits of these instruments were also focused on.

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CHAPTER FOUR

4.0.DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

4.1. Introduction

This chapter serves to present research findings about the effects of forced evictions on cohesion and peace, a case of Mabvuku. Data was collected from Mabvuku residents. The presentation of data and analysis in this chapter is determined by the aims, objectives and research questions that were used for data collection. Tables, charts and graphs are going to be used in presenting the research findings.

4.2. Data presentation and analysis

The study targeted 30 participants and the researcher distributed 30 questionnaires to the participants. The researcher targeted 20 participants who were affected by forced evictions and the other 10 questionnaires were distributed to council workers. The findings indicate that evictions undermine trust between residents and authorities, increase tensions between ethnic groups competing for scarce land, and disrupt social networks vital for community support.

Figure 4.2.1. Gender

The graph below shows that the highest number of participants were females who were 18 while the males were 12 hence making them the lowest number of participants.

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Figure 4.2.2. Age

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AGE

■ 25-30 ■ 31-40 ■ 41-50 ■ 51-60

13%

17%

24%

46%

From the study the highest number of participants were 46% ranging from 31-40 years, followed by those who were 24% ranging from 41-50 years, followed by those who were 17% ranging from 25-30 and lastly followed by those ranging from 51-60 who

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were 13%.

4.3. Effects of forced evictions on social relationships and cohesive community bonds

Forced evictions disrupt the social networks and support systems that people rely on for their livelihoods, well-being and identity. It disrupts child education, disrupts leadership and ownership, and causes breakdown of social orders and means of livelihood (Islam,M & mungai .,N, 2015). These effects go beyond the individual and their family to the entire community. In the words of Mathur (1995), "The labyrinth of broken communities, broken families and broken lives remains beyond numerical calculation." Evicted people often lose contact with their relatives, friends, neighbors and co-workers, and face difficulties in maintaining or establishing new relationships in their new locations. One participant had this to say:

"The eviction has left me feeling isolated and disconnected. I miss the familiar faces and interactions with my neighbors."

Forced evictions undermine the sense of belonging and identity that people derive from their homes and communities. Evicted people often experience a loss of cultural, historical and spiritual ties to their places of origin, and may face discrimination, stigma and hostility in their new environments. "Forced evictions can fracture the social fabric of neighborhoods, undermining social cohesion, collective identity, and neighborhood resilience. Addressing the social impacts of displacement is essential for promoting inclusive, sustainable communities." (Jones, 2020). Another person

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commented:

"Absolutely. The eviction disrupted our close-knit community, and I miss the sense of belonging we once had."

Forced evictions erode the trust and confidence that people have in their authorities and institutions. Evicted people often feel betrayed, humiliated and powerless, and may develop feelings of resentment, anger and frustration towards the perpetrators and beneficiaries of the evictions. According to Zhang (2021), "Forced evictions not only displace individuals from their homes but also rupture social networks, weakening community cohesion and hindering collective action." Hence this may trigger or exacerbate social conflicts and violence, as people resist or protest against the evictions, or compete for scarce resources and services in their new locations

4.4. Psychological and emotional consequences experienced by individuals and families facing forced evictions

Forced evictions can cause high levels of stress and anxiety, as people face uncertainty, insecurity, and loss of control over their lives. Stress and anxiety can affect people's physical and mental health, impairing their immune system, sleep quality, mood, and cognitive functioning. Amnesty International (2012) found that the evictees suffer psychological trauma and their coping mechanisms are put under severe stress. The trauma of losing one's home and community can lead to long-term mental health challenges that require specialized support.
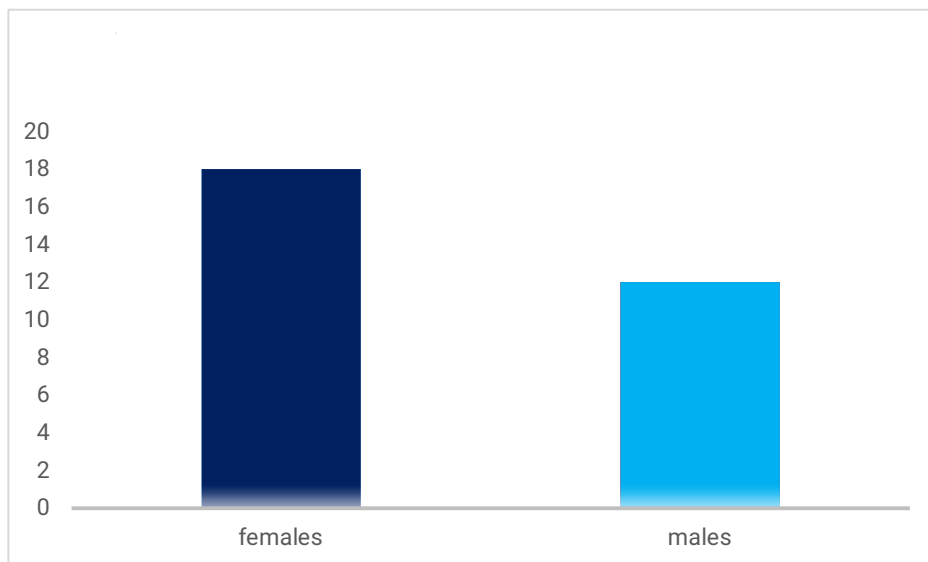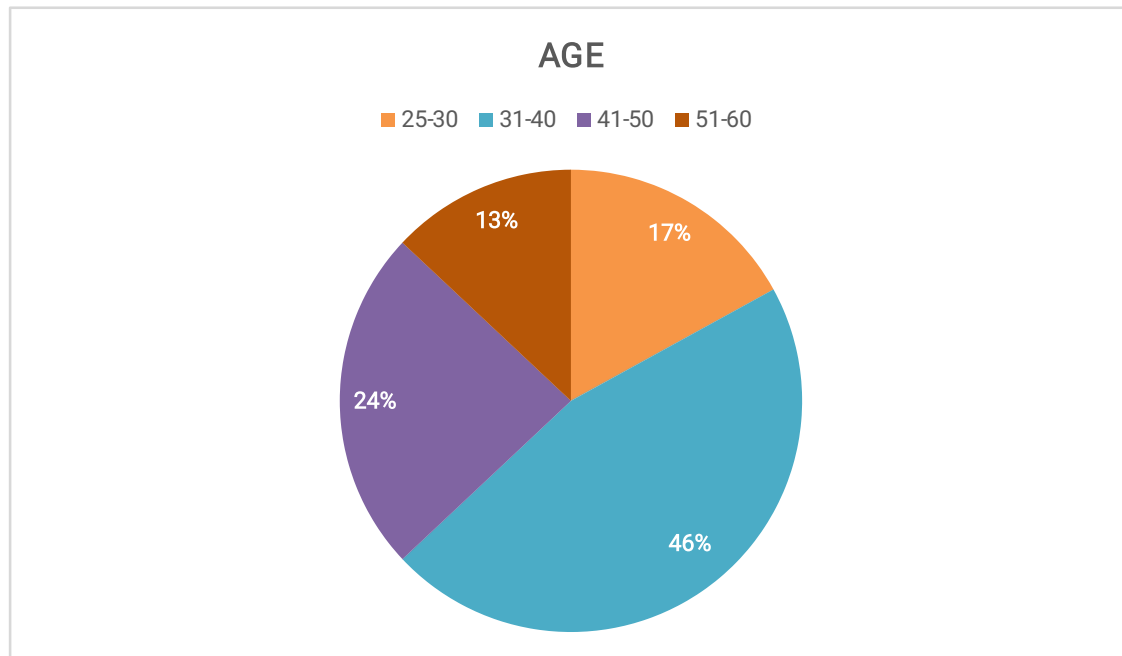
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The participant remarked:

"The eviction has caused immense stress and anxiety. The uncertainty of losing our home has taken a toll on my mental health."

Forced evictions can trigger or worsen depression and trauma, as people experience grief, sadness, hopelessness, and helplessness (Kim, 2019)"The emotional trauma of forced evictions may manifest in various ways, such as loss of self-esteem, feelings of injustice, and diminished sense of safety. Depression and trauma can affect people's self-esteem, motivation, and social functioning, increasing their risk of isolation, substance abuse, and suicide. Another contributor voiced his opinion:

" the constant legal battles and fear of homelessness have left me feeling overwhelmed and depressed."

Forced evictions can provoke or intensify anger and aggression, as people feel violated, humiliated, and powerless (Brown, 2020)"Families facing forced evictions often experience fear, shame, and a sense of loss, resulting in profound emotional distress. The disruption of familiar routines, social connections, and support systems can exacerbate feelings of isolation and alienation, requiring holistic interventions that address the psychological well-being of affected individuals. "Anger and aggression can affect people's interpersonal relationships, leading to conflicts, violence, and abuse. Anger and aggression can also affect people's coping strategies, making them more likely to resort to destructive or illegal actions. Roughly two-thirds of the respondents

also reported feeling more anxious, depressed or hopeless after the eviction process:

"Our family used to be close-knit, but the eviction strained our bonds. We argue more, and the stress has affected our communication."

4.5. Access to essential services and resources

Forced evictions often result in the disruption or destruction of water and sanitation facilities, exposing evicted people to health risks, hygiene problems, and environmental hazards (Patel, 2020)"Forced evictions not only deprive individuals of their homes but also disrupt their access to essential services, including water, sanitation, and electricity. Ensuring continuity in service provision during and after displacement is essential for upholding the rights of affected populations and promoting their longer-term recovery and stability." Evicted people may also face difficulties in accessing safe and sufficient water and sanitation services in their new locations, due to lack of infrastructure, affordability, or discrimination.

"We rely on community food banks, but it's not enough. The eviction disrupted our access to regular meals." One victim expressed her opinion.

Forced evictions can have negative impacts on the physical and mental health of evicted people, as they may suffer from injuries, illnesses, stress, trauma, and depression. Evicted people may also lose access to health care services and facilities, such as hospitals, clinics, and pharmacies, that they relied on in their previous locations. Evicted people may also face obstacles in accessing health care services in their new locations, due to lack of availability, accessibility, affordability, or acceptability.

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Unfortunately, women are the most affected. Women's health after forced eviction is reported to be significantly worse than that of the general population because of inadequate living conditions, substandard housing, poverty and the disadvantaged position of women within their domestic setting (Islam,M & mungai .,N, 2015)Evicted women became dependent on anti-depressants and other psychotropic medications. One participant shared her thought:

"Unfortunately, access to healthcare was a challenge. We lost our regular clinic, and finding a new one has been difficult."

Forced evictions can disrupt the education of children and adults, as they may lose access to schools, teachers, and learning materials. Evicted children may also face difficulties in enrolling or continuing their education in their new locations, due to lack of schools, transportation, documentation, or discrimination. Evictions often destroy infrastructure investments made by humanitarian organizations, such as latrines, water pipes, health centres and schools, which have a significant impact on children's education (Jelle, Morrison,Mohamed, Ali, Solomon & Seal, 2021)

Disruptions in service provision due to forced evictions can exacerbate inequality and social exclusion, underscoring the need for targeted interventions to safeguard access to vital resources for vulnerable populations. One woman weighed in her thoughts:

"My children had to change schools abruptly, affecting their education. We're

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struggling to find a stable learning environment."

Forced evictions can affect the food security and nutrition of evicted people, as they may lose access to land, crops, livestock, markets, and food assistance. Evicted people may also face challenges in accessing adequate and affordable food and nutrition in their new locations, due to lack of income, livelihood, or social protection. Evicted people may also suffer from hunger, malnutrition, and related health problems. These victims rely on humanitarian organization for assistance. Some victims had this to say:

"We rely on the assistance of organization and well-wishers, but it's not enough. The eviction disrupted our access to regular meals."

Forced evictions can undermine the livelihood and social protection of evicted people, as they may lose access to employment, income, assets, and social networks. Evicted people may also face difficulties in finding or maintaining decent work and income in their new locations, due to lack of skills, opportunities, or discrimination. Evicted people may also lack access to social protection schemes, such as pensions, insurance, or social assistance, that could help them cope with the impacts of evictions.

"We're currently staying with relatives, but it's temporary. Finding permanent housing is a challenge." Another victim commented.

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4.6. Strategic and coping mechanisms adopted by communities facing evictions

Communities may resist or oppose the evictions, either individually or collectively, through legal, political, or social means. Communities may mobilize themselves or seek support from external factors, such as civil society organizations, human rights groups, media, or international agencies, to raise awareness, advocate, and campaign for their rights and interests. Communities may also engage in direct actions, such as protests, demonstrations, petitions, or occupations, to express their grievances and demands.

"Our community formed a support network, organizing protests, legal advocacy, and awareness campaigns. We were fighting for our rights together. "one participant had this to say.

Communities may negotiate or participate in the decision-making processes related to the evictions, either directly or through representatives, to seek alternatives, compensation, or restitution. Communities may also participate in the planning and implementation of any relocation or resettlement plans, to ensure that their needs and preferences are taken into account. Communities may also seek dialogue and cooperation with the authorities, the private sector, or other stakeholders, to find mutually acceptable and beneficial solutions. Some victims had this to contribute:

"Yes, we've connected with NGOs providing legal aid, counseling, and emergency relief. Their support has been crucial."

Communities may adapt or diversify their livelihoods, assets, and income

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sources, to cope with the impacts of evictions. Communities may also adapt or diversify their consumption patterns, expenditure levels, and saving strategies, to manage their resources and expenses. Communities may also adapt or diversify their social networks, support systems, and coping strategies, to access information, assistance, and opportunities.

"Some individuals started small businesses, selling handmade crafts, offering services, or growing vegetables to sustain themselves." Was another person's comment

4.7. Chapter summary

The study findings were showcased, evaluated and considered in this chapter. The majority of the data was gleaned from interactive discourse and comprehensive analysis. The researcher found out that forced evictions have a multiplicity of effects. And these include it disrupts social networks that people rely on. Likewise, the sense of belonging and identity is undermined by these evictions. As well the trust and the confidence that people have in their authority is misplaced. Furthermore, the research highlighted the psychological effects that the victims of evictions experience. They experience stress, PTSD, depression, anxiety, anger and aggression. In addition, the study revealed that access to essential services is limited. this therefore causes a lot of health problems. Also it should be noted that it is women and children who are mostly affected by this. Moreover, the exploration exhibited how those from the grassroots are the ones mostly affected by the evictions. However, there are coping mechanisms that are adopted by these communities in order to survive that were revealed by this

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research.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND AREAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

5.1 Introduction

Chapter 5 is the final chapter of this research in which the research findings are relating to the research objectives and research questions as articulated in chapter 1. The summary of this study, the conclusions and recommendations serves to be used as a purpose of reference of future studies. Recommendations are also important as they serve to help those in authority especially the council on the effects of forced evictions on community cohesion and peace.

5.2 Summary of the project

The study focused on the impact of forced evictions on community cohesion and

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peace, a case of Mabvuku.Female participants were the most interviewed compared to males. In chapter 1 of the study, the researcher presented the main objectives which seek to explain the effects caused by forced evictions on community cohesion and peace. The research also demonstrated some key research questions, limitations, delimitations of the study and defined some key terms.   Chapter 2 of the research presented literature view in which the social capital and human rights theories were used to explain events and support the whole study. These theories were used to explain the effects of forced evictions on community cohesion and peace. This chapter also focused on the land reform and operation murambatsvina as examples of forced evictions, factors that influence the impact of forced evictions, coping mechanism and strategies, the long term effects of forced evictions on community cohesion and peace, the role pf trauma and mental health on communities facing evictions.

In chapter three, the research focused on the research philosophy, research methodology, research design, population and sampling, sampling, validity and reliability, data presentation and analysis, pilot testing and ethical considerations. In this chapter, various research tools which are the questionnaires were unpacked.

Chapter four of this study focused on data presentation and analysis of the study. Data presentation was done through graphs. This also enabled the use of literature review presented in chapter two of the study and relates the theories used in this study

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to be in line with the research findings.

Chapter five is the final chapter of the whole study and is focused on the summary of the research, recommendations and conclusions of the whole study.

5.3 Conclusions

This dissertation has undertaken a comprehensive assessment of the impact of forced evictions on community cohesion and peace in Mabvuku. The study has shed light on the profound consequences of forced evictions, revealing the challenges faced by individuals and communities in maintaining social relationships, community dynamics, and overall peace in the aftermath of such events.

5.3.1 Impact of forced evictions on community cohesion and peace

This dissertation has explored the impact of forced evictions on community cohesion and peace in Mabvuku. Through a comprehensive examination of the reasons behind these evictions and their effects on social networks, relationships, and psychological well-being, it has become clear that forced evictions have a detrimental impact on community cohesion. The research findings highlighted the disruptions caused by forced evictions in Mabvuku, leading to the breakdown of social ties and trust among community members. The loss of homes and displacement of individuals and families create a sense of dislocation and isolation, resulting in a fragmented community fabric.

Furthermore, the study revealed that forced evictions often generate tensions

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and conflicts within the community. Clashes between those evicted and those responsible for carrying out the evictions can escalate to violence, threatening the overall peace and stability of the community. The heightened insecurity and fear resulting from these evictions further exacerbate the potential for violence. The data collected through quantitative research methods served as a critical foundation for understanding the lived experiences of community members affected by forced evictions. By incorporating the perspectives of community members and relevant stakeholders, this study provides valuable insights into the challenges faced by those impacted and their implications for community cohesion and peace.

5.3.2 Coping mechanism and strategies

The findings of this study highlight the need for immediate action by policymakers and relevant stakeholders to address the issue of forced evictions in Mabvuku. It is imperative that efforts are made to protect the rights of individuals and families facing eviction, to ensure community participation and engagement in decision-making processes, and to provide support and resources for those affected by evictions. By recognizing the negative consequences of forced evictions on community cohesion and peace, policymakers and stakeholders can develop strategies and policies that prioritize the rights and well-being of the community members. By promoting inclusive and sustainable development that respects the rights of all residents, Mabvuku can work towards a more harmonious and peaceful community.

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5.4 Recommendations

i. Enhance the legal framework governing forced evictions to ensure that the rights of individuals and communities are adequately protected. This includes establishing clear guidelines and procedures for eviction processes, promoting transparency, and providing avenues for affected individuals to seek legal remedies.

ii. Foster inclusive and participatory decision-making processes that involve affected communities in matters related to urban development, land tenure, and housing policies. Encourage community participation in planning, implementation, and monitoring of projects to ensure that their interests and needs are taken into account.

iii. Strengthen social support systems and community organizations that provide assistance to individuals and communities affected by forced evictions. This can be achieved through partnerships with NGOs, government agencies, and relevant stakeholders to ensure the provision of immediate relief, psychosocial support, and access to essential services.

iv. Facilitate dialogue and reconciliation processes between affected communities, local authorities, and other stakeholders. Encourage open and constructive discussions to address grievances, seek redress, and promote understanding among different parties. Mediation and conflict resolution mechanisms can play a crucial role in fostering reconciliation and healing.

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v.   Raise public awareness about the negative impacts of forced evictions on community cohesion and peace through advocacy campaigns, media engagement, and community outreach. Promote a rights-based approach to urban development and housing, emphasizing the importance of respecting human rights, community well-being, and social justice.

vi. Encourage collaboration and knowledge sharing among researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and community members working on forced eviction issues. This can be achieved through conferences, workshops, and platforms for sharing best practices, lessons learned, and innovative approaches to address the impacts of forced evictions.

5.5 Areas of further research

i.   Conduct an in-depth analysis of the policy and legal frameworks governing forced eviction and evaluate the effectiveness of existing policies, identify gaps and inconsistencies, and propose recommendations for policy reforms that prioritize the rights and well-being of affected communities.

ii. Undertake a comparative legal analysis of the legal frameworks governing forced evictions in different jurisdictions. Compare the effectiveness of legal protections and mechanisms in safeguarding community cohesion and peace. Identify innovative legal approaches and policies that can be adopted to prevent forced evictions and mitigate their negative impacts.

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ANNEXURES

Questionnaire on the impact of forced evictions on community cohesion and peace in Mabvuku

My name is Hannah kokhola doing a degree in peace and governance at Bindura university of science education. I'm carrying out a study on the impact of forced evictions on community cohesion and peace in Mabvuku as part of the fulfilment of the Bachelor of Science Honors Degree in Peace and Governance. **You are kindly requested to contribute to the study by answering the questions on this form. Please note that the findings will be strictly used for academic and research purposes. Confidentiality and anonymity are guaranteed. Your participation and cooperation will be greatly appreciated**.

Instruction:

Please tick the response that is most appropriate to you or write in the spaces provided.

SECTION A

1. Please indicate your gender.

MALE	FEMALE

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2. What is your Age group?

25-30	31-40	41-50	51-60

SECTION B

3.How did the eviction affect your sense of community and belonging?

----

4. did you receive any support from friends, family, or community organizations during this difficult time?

5.What coping mechanisms did you use to navigate the challenges posed by the eviction?

----

6. How did the eviction impact your mental well-being?

----

7. did you experience feelings of helplessness or depression due to the eviction process?

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----

----

8. Were you able to access necessary health care services since the eviction?

----

9. How did the eviction impact your access to education for yourself or your children?

----

10. did you receive any assistance with food and nutrition during the difficult time?

----

11. Were you able to secure safe accommodation or shelter after the eviction?

----

12. Were there any legal aid services helping you navigate the eviction process?

----

13. did you engage with local NGOs or community-based organizations for assistance?

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14.How did you maintain social bonds within the community during the crisis?

----

15. What creative income-generating activities have emerged within your community?