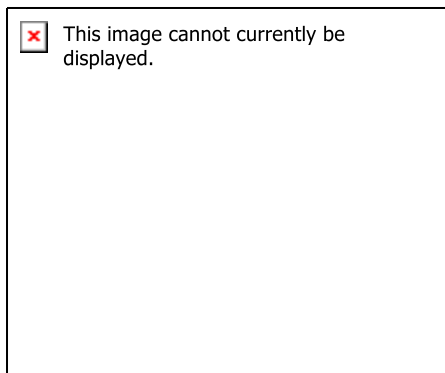


BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES



The effects of internal migration on African Traditional Religion (ATR). A case study of rural Domboshawa in Zimbabwe under Goromonzi West constituency.

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(B211352B)

A Dissertation Submitted to the Department of Peace and Governance in partial fulfilment for the requirements for the Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Peace and Governance

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to investigate the effects of internal migration on African Traditional Religion (ATR) in rural Domboshawa, Zimbabwe, guided by the conflict transformation theory, which explains the need to transform societies from modern practices to those of traditional religious traditions that were brought due to modernisation . A comprehensive literature review revealed that internal migration significantly influences religious practices, the legitimacy of traditional religious leaders, and cultural identity within migrant communities. A qualitative research approach was employed to gather in-depth data, utilizing a case study design. The researcher implemented purposive sampling, resulting in a sample size of 54 participants. Data was collected through semi-structured interviews with 10 traditional religious leaders and community elders, alongside self-administered questionnaires from 44 migrants and long-term residents .The findings of this study are crucial for understanding the dynamics of African traditional religion in the context of migration. The research indicated that internal migration leads to changes in religious practices among migrant communities, as newcomers often introduce their beliefs, which can either complement or conflict with local traditions. This dynamic necessitates open dialogue and collaboration among community members to ensure that both traditional and new practices can coexist harmoniously. Additionally, the legitimacy of traditional religious leaders is increasingly questioned, as migrants may seek guidance from leaders from their places of origin, potentially undermining local authority. This shift emphasizes the need for traditional leaders to adapt and engage with migrant communities to maintain their relevance and authority. Furthermore, the study revealed that internal migration impacts the cultural identity of both migrants and long-term residents,

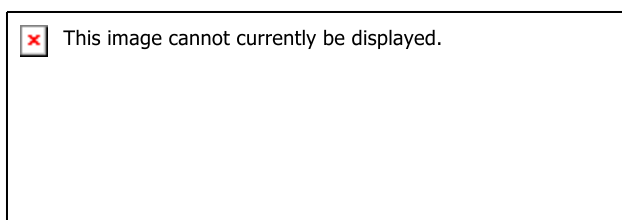
Key words : Effects, internal migration, migration, African Traditional Religion, Religious Transmission, Traditional Practices, Cultural Change

DECLARATION

I, Patience Shereni (B211352B), hereby declare that this dissertation is the result of my own original work, except where due acknowledgment has been made for quotations and references to other sources.

Patience Shereni B211352B

Signed ..



Supervisor's Dr T.K Katsinde

Signed



Chairperson

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "MK", enclosed within a circular stamp or seal.

DEDICATION

This work is lovingly dedicated to my father, Mr. N. Shereni, and my wonderful mother, Mrs. M. Machael. You stood by me throughout my university journey your prayers, love, and unwavering support have been my greatest source of strength. It was not an easy road; the path was full of thorns, but by God's grace, we made it this far. Ebenezer "Thus far the Lord has helped us." I also dedicate this work to my sisters, Pretty and Princess, my brother Nocool, and my dear friends. Your encouragement, inspiration, and belief in me kept me going, especially during the moments I felt like giving up. You rekindled my fire and reminded me to keep pushing forward. For that, I am forever grateful.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My deepest appreciation goes to my project supervisor, Dr. Katsinde, for his invaluable guidance, constructive criticism, and unwavering support throughout the development of this research project. This journey would have been much more difficult without your patience and understanding. Even when I struggled to keep up, you never lost faith in me nor scolded me for that, I am truly grateful. May the good Lord bless you abundantly, Doctor. I sincerely appreciate your professionalism, encouragement, and dedication — a rare and admirable combination that shaped this research into a scholarly and coherent piece of academic excellence. You helped turn my scattered thoughts into a meaningful and well-structured study. My gratitude also extends to all respondents and key informants who participated in this study. Your contributions were vital to the success of this work. A special thank you goes to the Department of Peace and Governance for its valuable input and support. I am equally thankful to my attachment supervisor, Ms. A. Mudzinganyama, and to the Community Care Workers, whose moral support and encouragement helped me overcome the many challenges I faced during this research. Their motivation inspired me to focus on studying the effects of internal migration on African Traditional Religion in rural Domboshawa. They continued to encourage me through moments of academic and emotional difficulty, helping me to persevere. Finally, my heartfelt gratitude goes to my colleagues the Peace and Governance Class of 2024 at Bindura University of Science Education for their friendship, motivation, and constant support. Thank you for standing by me when I needed you the most. Above all, I give thanks to the Almighty God, who has brought me this far. truly, I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me

LIST OF ACRONYMS ND ABREVIATIONS

ATR - African Traditional Religion

IM - Internal Migration

IDPs - Internally Displaced Persons

MPC - Migration Policy Centre

IOM - International Organization for Migration

UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

CERD - Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

ICRMW - International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

CCW - Community Care Workers

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Background of the Study

African Traditional Religion (ATR) encompasses a diverse range of spiritual beliefs, practices, and cultural expressions that are deeply rooted in the histories and experiences of African communities. ATR is characterized by its emphasis on ancestral worship, communal rituals, and the interconnectedness of the spiritual and physical worlds. In Zimbabwe, ATR has played a significant role in shaping social structures, cultural identities, and community cohesion. The religion is not monolithic; it varies widely across different ethnic groups and regions, reflecting the unique histories and cultural practices of each community (Moyo, 2021).

Historically, ATR has served as a vital source of identity and continuity for many communities in Zimbabwe. It has provided frameworks for understanding the natural world, social relationships, and moral values. Traditional leaders, often regarded as custodians of cultural heritage, have played a crucial role in the practice and transmission of ATR. They are responsible for conducting rituals, mediating conflicts, and preserving the community's cultural heritage (Ndlovu, 2023). However, the advent of modernity, globalization, and internal migration has posed significant challenges to the practice and legitimacy of ATR.

Internal migration in Zimbabwe, particularly from rural areas to urban centers, has become a prevalent phenomenon over the past few decades. Factors such as economic hardship, lack of employment opportunities, and the search for better living conditions have driven many individuals and families to migrate. According to the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (2022), a significant portion of the rural population has migrated to urban areas, leading to demographic shifts that have profound implications for ATR.

One of the primary effects of internal migration on ATR is the erosion of traditional practices and cultural values. As individuals move to urban centers, they are often exposed to alternative belief systems and lifestyles that prioritize modernity over tradition. This exposure can lead to a dilution of respect for traditional leaders and a decline in participation in communal rituals. Moyo (2021) argues that the authority of traditional leaders is significantly undermined as migrants adapt to urban life, where alternative social structures and belief systems emerge. This erosion of authority is particularly concerning in Domboshawa, where traditional leaders have historically played a central role in maintaining cultural continuity.

Furthermore, the generational gap in cultural transmission exacerbated by internal migration poses a significant challenge to ATR. Younger generations, influenced by urban lifestyles and modern education, often disregard the teachings and authority of traditional leaders. Zhou (2019) highlights that the younger generation's exposure to diverse belief systems can lead to a decline in the respect and authority traditionally afforded to elders. This generational disconnect threatens the transmission of cultural knowledge and practices, as younger individuals may prioritize contemporary values over traditional teachings.

The impact of internal migration on cultural heritage is also evident in the decline of communal gatherings and rituals that are central to ATR. As individuals migrate to urban areas,

the frequency of traditional ceremonies diminishes, leading to a disconnection from ancestral roots. Ndlovu (2023) notes that the pressures of urban life often overshadow the importance of cultural practices, resulting in a loss of community cohesion and identity. The neglect of traditional rituals not only affects the spiritual well-being of individuals but also undermines the collective identity of the community. Challenges in urban areas, which can lead to a reliance on modern economic systems that may not align with traditional values. This shift can create tensions between traditional practices and contemporary economic realities, further eroding the relevance of ATR in the lives of individuals and communities (Taylor et al., 2017).

The effects of internal migration on African Traditional Religion in Domboshawa are multifaceted and complex. The erosion of traditional practices, the decline of the authority of traditional leaders, and the disconnection from cultural heritage are significant challenges that arise from the migration phenomenon. As communities navigate the complexities of demographic shifts, it is crucial to explore strategies that promote the revitalization of ATR and support traditional leaders in maintaining their relevance in a changing socio-cultural landscape. Addressing these challenges is essential for preserving the rich cultural heritage of Domboshawa and ensuring the continuity of African Traditional Religion in the face of modernity and migration.

1.2 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to analyze the effects of internal migration on African Traditional Religion in Domboshawa, focusing on the impact on cultural practices, cultural heritage, and the legitimacy of traditional leaders.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

The problem arises from the significant internal migration from rural Domboshawa to urban areas, which has led to a decline in the practice of ATR and the authority of traditional leaders. This migration has resulted in a loss of cultural practices and heritage, as younger generations increasingly adopt urban lifestyles that prioritize modernity over tradition. The erosion of traditional values and the weakening of community ties pose a threat to the sustainability of ATR in Domboshawa, leading to a potential identity crisis among the local population (Zhou, 2019).

1.4 Objectives of the Study

- To assess the effects of internal migration on cultural practices associated with African Traditional Religion in Domboshawa.
- To examine the impact of internal migration on the preservation of cultural heritage in Domboshawa.
- To analyze the effects of internal migration on the legitimacy of traditional leaders within the context of ATR in Domboshawa.

1.5 Research Questions

- How does internal migration affect the cultural practices associated with African Traditional Religion in Domboshawa?

- What is the impact of internal migration on the preservation of cultural heritage?
- How does internal migration influence the legitimacy of traditional leaders in the context of ATR in Domboshawa?

1.6 Assumptions of the Study

The study assumes that internal migration has a detrimental effect on the practice of African Traditional Religion in Domboshawa. It posits that the migration of individuals to urban areas leads to a decline in the transmission of cultural knowledge and practices, resulting in a loss of cultural heritage and a weakening of the authority of traditional leaders. Furthermore, it is assumed that the Local Authorities and the Ministry of Culture and Heritage play a critical role in mitigating the impacts of migration on ATR.

1.7 Significance of the Study

This study will contribute to the understanding of the effects of internal migration on African Traditional Religion in Domboshawa. The findings will provide valuable insights for policymakers, community leaders, and scholars interested in the dynamics of ATR in contemporary Zimbabwe. By highlighting the challenges faced by traditional leaders and the erosion of cultural practices, the study aims to inform strategies for the revitalization of ATR and the preservation of cultural heritage in the face of demographic changes (Ndlovu, 2023).

1.8 Delimitations Of The Study

The research will be conducted specifically in Domboshawa, a rural area located in Zimbabwe, focusing on the wards that practice African Traditional Religion. The study will examine the cultural dynamics and practices within this specific geographical context, allowing for a detailed understanding of the local implications of internal migration. The study will focus on individuals and groups directly affected by internal migration, including traditional leaders, community elders, youth, and families who have experienced migration. This targeted approach will provide insights into the varying perspectives on the impact of migration on African Traditional Religion. The research will analyze the effects of internal migration capturing recent trends and changes in cultural practices and the legitimacy of traditional leaders. This timeframe will allow for an examination of the evolving dynamics within the community in response to migration patterns.

The study will specifically investigate the effects of internal migration on cultural practices, cultural heritage, and the legitimacy of traditional leaders within the context of African Traditional Religion. By narrowing the focus, the research aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of how migration influences these critical aspects of community life. The study will consider the demographic diversity of respondents, including age and gender, to ensure a holistic view of the impact of internal migration on African Traditional Religion. This will include perspectives from both younger and older generations, as well as insights from both male and female community members.

1.9 Limitations of the Study

The research will not encompass the entire population of Zimbabwe, focusing solely on Domboshawa. This limitation may affect the generalizability of the findings. Additionally, reliance on surveys and interviews may introduce biases, necessitating the use of triangulated data collection methods to enhance the validity of the results. Challenges in cooperation with local participants may also arise, which can be mitigated by engaging with community leaders and organizations.

1.10 Definition of Key Terms

African Traditional Religion (ATR), refers to the diverse indigenous spiritual beliefs and practices of African communities, characterized by ancestral worship, communal rituals, and a deep connection to cultural identity (Moyo, 2021).

African legitimacy encompasses the recognition and acceptance of authority within traditional leadership, rooted in cultural heritage and the ability to uphold community values (Moyo, 2021).

Cultural heritage is the legacy of physical artifacts, intangible attributes, and practices inherited from past generations that shape a community's identity and continuity (Ndlovu, 2023).

Cultural practices are the rituals, customs, and traditions that define a community's way of life and are transmitted across generations, reflecting the values and beliefs of that group (Taylor et al., 2019).

1.11 Chapter Outline

Chapter 1

Introduction, background, purpose of the study, statement of the problem, research objectives, research questions, assumptions, significance of the study, delimitations of the study, limitations of the study, ethical considerations, definition of keywords and dissertation outline

Chapter 2

Literature review and theoretical framework

Chapter 3

Research methodology and design; qualitative research and quantitative

Chapter 4

Data presentation, analysis and discussion of findings

Chapter 5

Summary, conclusions, recommendations and areas for further research

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.0 Introduction

The previous chapter presented the research problem and its settings. This chapter seeks to illuminate the existing literature on the effects of internal migration on African Traditional Religion (ATR) in Domboshawa, Zimbabwe. It will explore how migration influences the legitimacy of traditional leaders, the erosion of traditional practices, and the impact on cultural identity. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for developing effective strategies to address the challenges faced by ATR in the context of demographic changes.

2.1 Theoretical Framework

This research is guided by the conflict transformation theory, which emphasizes the potential for positive change and adaptation in the face of conflict. Internal migration can lead to conflicts over cultural identity, authority, and community cohesion within ATR. This theoretical

framework allows for an exploration of how migration-induced changes can challenge traditional structures while also highlighting opportunities for dialogue, reconciliation, and the revitalization of cultural practices.

2.1.1 Conflict Transformation Theory

Conflict transformation theory focuses on addressing the underlying causes of conflict and fostering constructive change. It recognizes that migration can create tensions within communities, particularly regarding the legitimacy of traditional leaders and the preservation of cultural practices. By understanding these conflicts, researchers can identify pathways for positive transformation that promote cultural resilience and community cohesion (Lederach, 2016). This theory is particularly relevant in the context of ATR, where traditional leaders play a vital role in maintaining cultural identity and practices.

2.2 Relevance of the Conflict Transformation Theory to the Study

Conflict transformation theory provides a lens through which to analyze the specific challenges faced by African Traditional Religion in Domboshawa due to internal migration. It helps to identify and challenge the power dynamics that may undermine the legitimacy of traditional leaders and the cultural practices they uphold (Moyo, 2017). By focusing on the intersections of migration, cultural identity, and authority, this theory emphasizes the importance of fostering dialogue and understanding among community members to address the challenges posed by migration (Mohanty, 2020).

Furthermore, conflict transformation theory highlights the need for inclusive approaches that empower traditional leaders and community members to adapt to changing circumstances while preserving their cultural heritage (Choruma, 2021). This framework encourages the exploration of strategies that promote cultural revitalization and community resilience in the face of migration-induced challenges.

2.3 The Related Literature Will Be Reviewed Under the Following Themes

- The challenges faced by African Traditional Religion leaders in Domboshawa due to internal migration.
- How these challenges affect traditional practices and cultural identity.
- Measures that can be taken to support the preservation of African Traditional Religion amidst migration.

2.3.1 The Challenges Faced by African Traditional Religion Leaders in Domboshawa Due to Internal Migration

Internal migration poses significant challenges for African Traditional Religion leaders in Domboshawa. As individuals migrate to urban areas, the authority of traditional leaders is often undermined. Traditional leaders derive their legitimacy from their roles as custodians of cultural practices and community values, but migration can dilute their influence (Moyo, 2021). The influx of diverse populations into urban settings can lead to the emergence of alternative belief systems, further challenging the authority of traditional leaders.

For instance, a study by Chikanda (2022) highlights how urban migrants often adopt new religious practices that conflict with traditional beliefs, leading to a decline in respect for traditional leaders. This erosion of authority can create conflicts within communities, as traditional leaders struggle to maintain their influence in the face of competing belief systems.

2.3.1.1 Legitimacy of African Traditional Leaders

The legitimacy of African Traditional leaders is often compromised by the changing dynamics of migration. As migrants adopt new lifestyles and beliefs, they may begin to question the relevance of ATR and its leaders, leading to a decline in respect and recognition (Ndlovu, 2023). This erosion of authority can create conflicts within communities, as traditional leaders struggle to maintain their influence in the face of competing belief systems.

2.3.1.2 Erosion of Traditional Practices

Internal migration can also lead to the erosion of traditional practices associated with African Traditional Religion. As individuals adapt to urban environments, they may abandon cultural rituals and customs, resulting in a loss of cultural identity (Moyo, 2021). The pressures of urban life often necessitate a focus on economic survival, overshadowing the importance of cultural practices and rituals. This shift can lead to a generational gap, where younger individuals become disconnected from their cultural heritage.

A case study in Domboshawa revealed that many young people, influenced by urban lifestyles, no longer participate in traditional ceremonies, leading to a decline in the transmission of cultural knowledge (Chikanda, 2022). This erosion of cultural identity can result in feelings of alienation and loss among community members, as they grapple with the complexities of adapting to new environments while trying to preserve their heritage.

2.3.2 How These Challenges Affect Traditional Practices and Cultural Identity

The challenges faced by African Traditional Religion leaders due to internal migration have profound implications for traditional practices and cultural identity. As traditional leaders lose their authority, the transmission of cultural knowledge and practices may decline, leading to a disconnection from cultural roots (Ndlovu, 2023). This erosion of cultural identity can result in feelings of alienation and loss among community members, as they grapple with the complexities of adapting to new environments while trying to preserve their heritage.

2.3.3 Measures That Can Be Taken to Support the Preservation of African Traditional Religion Amidst Migration

To address the challenges posed by internal migration on African Traditional Religion, several measures can be implemented. Community engagement initiatives that promote dialogue between traditional leaders and migrants can help bridge the gap between different cultural perspectives (Moyo, 2021). Additionally, educational programs that emphasize the importance of

cultural heritage and traditional practices can foster a sense of belonging and identity among community members.

Furthermore, policymakers and community organizations can support traditional leaders by providing resources and training that enhance their capacity to adapt to changing circumstances while preserving cultural practices (Chikanda, 2022). By fostering an inclusive environment that values both traditional and modern practices, communities can work towards revitalizing African Traditional Religion in the face of migration.

2.4 Perceptions on African Traditional Religion Leaders and Practices

Perceptions of African Traditional Religion leaders and practices can vary significantly among migrants and long-term residents. While some may view traditional leaders as essential custodians of cultural heritage, others may perceive them as outdated or irrelevant in the context of modern urban life (Moyo, 2021). This divergence in perceptions can create tensions within communities, highlighting the need for ongoing dialogue and understanding to bridge the gap between traditional and contemporary beliefs.

2.5 Chapter Summary

This literature review has explored the effects of internal migration on African Traditional Religion in Domboshawa, focusing on the challenges faced by traditional leaders, the erosion of traditional practices, and the implications for cultural identity. By employing conflict transformation theory, the review has highlighted the importance of fostering dialogue and understanding among community members to address the challenges posed by migration. The

narratives surrounding African Traditional Religion represent a call for change, emphasizing the need for inclusive approaches that promote cultural resilience and community cohesion in the face of demographic shifts.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the research design, techniques, methods, and procedures utilized to gather and analyze data for this research. The goal of this chapter is to outlay a thorough understanding of the methodology utilized to explore the impact of internal migration on ATR, focusing on cultural practices, heritage, and the legitimacy of traditional leaders in Domboshawa. The chapter begins with a discussion of the research approach and design, followed by a description of the target population, sampling technique, sample size, research tools, data analysis and presentation, ethical considerations, reliability and validity, and finally a chapter summary.

3.2 Research Approaches

The researcher used a qualitative research approach to examine the effects of internal migration on ATR in Domboshawa. Qualitative research is ideal for this study as it seeks to comprehend the lived experiences of community members, including traditional leaders, elders,

and youth, regarding the changes in cultural practices and the legitimacy of traditional authority due to migration.

3.2.1 Qualitative Research Approach

Qualitative research focuses on understanding human experiences and perspectives, making it particularly suitable for exploring the complexities of ATR in the context of internal migration. This approach allows researchers to capture the nuances of cultural practices and the social dynamics that influence the practice of ATR (Creswell & Poth, 2016). For instance, qualitative interviews and focus groups can reveal the challenges faced by traditional leaders in maintaining their authority and the impact of migration on community cohesion (Lindsay & McPherson, 2019). The flexibility of qualitative research enables researchers to adapt their questions based on participant responses, leading to a deeper understanding of the intricate interactions between migration and ATR.

3.2.2 Quantitative Research Approach

While the primary focus of this study is qualitative, a quantitative research methodology can complement the qualitative findings by providing statistical insights into the prevalence of migration and its effects on ATR. Surveys can be distributed to gather numerical data on community perceptions regarding the impact of migration on cultural practices and the legitimacy of traditional leaders. This mixed-methods approach can enhance the robustness of the findings by triangulating qualitative insights with quantitative data (Creswell, 2017).

3.3 Research Design

A research design is a structured plan that outlines how to conduct a research study, detailing the methods and procedures for collecting and analyzing data to answer specific research questions. For this study, a case study design will be employed to provide an in-depth exploration of the effects of internal migration on ATR in Domboshawa.

3.3.1 A Case Study

A case study is a qualitative research design that involves a comprehensive examination of a specific instance, group, or event within its real-life context (Yin, 2009). This approach is particularly useful for understanding the complex interplay between internal migration and ATR, as it allows for the collection of diverse evidence sources, including interviews, observations, and community documents. For example, a case study could focus on a specific community in Domboshawa that has experienced significant migration, providing insights into the challenges and adaptations of ATR practices in response to these changes.

3.3.2 Target Population and Sample

The writer targeted community members in Domboshawa, specifically traditional leaders, elders, youth, and families affected by internal migration population in her study. Defining the target population is crucial as it sets the boundaries for the study and ensures that the findings are relevant to the

intended group (Creswell, 2015).

3.3.3 Sample

A sample is a subset of the population selected to participate in the study, with the goal of making inferences about the larger population (Creswell, 2015). The sample for this study will include individuals who have experienced the effects of internal migration on ATR, ensuring a diverse representation of perspectives.

3.3.4 Sample Size

Determining an appropriate sample size is critical as it affects the precision and reliability of the study's results. A larger sample size typically increases confidence in the findings and reduces the margin of error (Cohen et al., 2018). For this study, a sample size of approximately 30-50 participants will be targeted to provide robust qualitative insights while remaining manageable for in-depth analysis.

3.3.5 Sampling Techniques

A sampling technique is a method used to select a subset of individuals from a larger population (Creswell, 2014). For this study, a non-probability sampling technique will be employed, specifically purposive sampling, to select participants based on their relevance to the research question.

3.3.6 Purposive Sampling Technique

Purposive sampling involves selecting participants based on specific characteristics or experiences related to the research topic (Creswell, 2017). This technique allows researchers to focus on individuals who have direct experiences with the effects of internal migration on ATR, facilitating in-depth exploration of their perspectives and insights (Denzin, 2011).

3.4 Research Instruments

Data collection instruments are tools used to gather information from research participants. For this research, a combination of qualitative instruments were utilised, includes interviews, focus groups, and questionnaires.

3.4.1 Interviews

Interviews are a valuable qualitative research instrument for exploring the effects of internal migration on ATR, as they facilitate in-depth exploration of participants' experiences and perceptions (Creswell & Poth, 2017). Open-ended questions will allow participants to express their

thoughts in their own words, providing rich contextual data on the challenges and adaptations of ATR practices.

3.4.2 Focus Group Discussions

Focus groups will be utilized to collect diverse perspectives on the impact of internal migration on ATR. By bringing together community members, including traditional leaders, elders, and youth, focus groups can uncover complex dynamics and collective experiences related to migration and cultural practices (Kerlinger, 1996).

3.4.3 Questionnaires

Questionnaires will be used to collect quantitative data on community perceptions regarding the effects of internal migration on ATR. Structured questions will be designed to gather information on the frequency and severity of challenges faced by traditional leaders and community members (DeVellis, 2017).

3.5 Presentation and analysis of data

Data analysis refers to the systematic process of inspecting and interpreting data to discover useful information and draw conclusions. In qualitative research, thematic analysis will be employed to identify patterns and themes within the data collected through interviews and focus groups (Braun & Clarke, 2006).

3.5.1 Data Presentation

Data presentation involves organizing and displaying the analyzed data in a clear and effective manner to facilitate understanding and communication of the findings (Babbie, 2020). This can include the use of tables, charts, and narrative formats to highlight key themes and insights.

3.5.2 Data Analysis

Thematic analysis will be used to interpret qualitative data, allowing researchers to gain insights into participants' experiences and perspectives regarding the effects of internal migration on ATR (Creswell & Poth, 2017). This analysis will help identify common experiences and challenges within the dataset.

3.6 Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations are crucial in qualitative research. This study will focus on informed consent, anonymity, and privacy.

3.6.1 Informed Consent

Participants will be provided with full information regarding the study before they decide to participate, including details about the purpose, procedures, potential risks, and their right to withdraw at any time (NCPHSBBR, 1979).

3.6.2 Anonymity

Measures will be taken to ensure participants' privacy and confidentiality. Any personally identifiable information will be anonymized to protect participants' identities (Cooper, 2020).

3.6.3 Privacy

Data management practices will adhere to data protection regulations, ensuring that participants' privacy is safeguarded throughout the study (GDPR, 2018).

3.7 Validity and Reliability

Validity and reliability are essential concepts in research that ensure the accuracy and consistency of the findings.

3.7.1 Validity

Validity refers to the extent to which a research instrument measures what it is intended to measure (Kerlinger, 2016). This study will ensure that the research instruments are designed to accurately capture the effects of internal migration on ATR.

3.7.2 Reliability

Reliability describes how consistent a research tool or methodology is (Creswell, 2015). The study will employ rigorous data collection and analysis methods to enhance the reliability of the findings.

3.8 Chapter Summary

This chapter discusses qualitative research approach and its application in studying the effects of internal migration on African Traditional Religion in Domboshawa. The chapter explains advantages of qualitative research, including its ability to provide rich and detailed data, flexibility, and insights into complex issues. Various qualitative research designs, including case studies, interviews, and focus groups, are discussed. Additionally, the chapter outlines data analysis and presentation techniques, ethical considerations, and the importance of validity and reliability in research.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents, analyses and discusses the effects of Internal migration of African Traditional Religion. A case study of rural Domboshawa under Goromonzi rural district. The chapter is arranged as follows, firstly the chapter presents the demographic characteristics which were referred to in selecting study participants. Then moves on to present, analyse and discuss the gathered responses.

4.2 Respondents' Demographic Information

This section presents the demographic characteristics of the participants engaged in conducting the study. Major characteristics considered include sex, age, marital status and level of education. The significance of participants' demographic information lies in the fact that it allows the researcher to identify trends within participants in line with their demographic characteristics.

4.2.1 Sex

Table 4.1 Sex

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Table 4.1. Sex

Table 4.1 illustrates that, out of a total of 54 respondents 31(57%) were female whilst 23 (43%) were male. This indicates that the majority of respondents in the study on the effects of internal migration on African Traditional Religion in Domboshawa were female, comprising 57% of the total participants. This gender disparity suggests that women may be more engaged or willing to discuss issues related to ATR and the impacts of migration, possibly due to their roles as primary caregivers and cultural transmitters within families. The lower representation of male respondents, at 43%, could reflect traditional gender roles where men may be less involved in discussions about cultural practices or may prioritize other responsibilities. This imbalance in gender representation may influence the findings, as the perspectives of women could dominate the narrative regarding the effects of internal migration on ATR. Additionally, the insights gathered from female respondents may highlight specific challenges and adaptations faced by women in maintaining cultural practices amidst migration.

4.2.2 Age

Table 4.2: Age (54)

Age groups in years	Frequency	Percentage (%)
21-30	10	19%
31-40	11	20%
41-50	13	24%
Above 50	20	37%
Total	54	100%

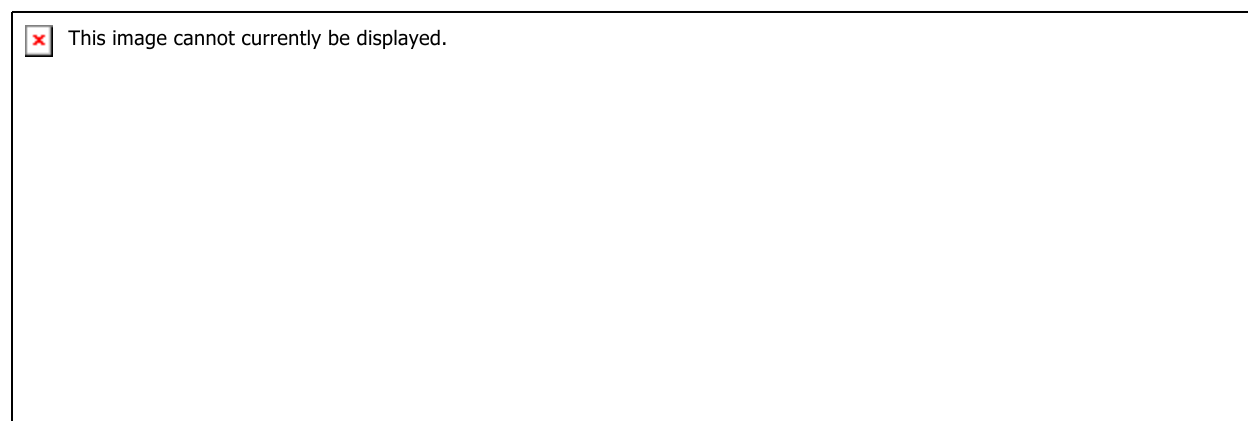
The majority of participants 20 (37%) fell above the age of 50 years, the least were 10(19%) participants were between 21 - 30 age group.

The data indicates that a significant portion of the respondents, 37%, are above the age of 50, suggesting that older individuals may have a more profound connection to African Traditional Religion and its practices. This demographic is likely to possess extensive knowledge and experience regarding the cultural and spiritual aspects of ATR, which can provide valuable insights into how internal migration affects these traditions. In contrast, the least represented age group, comprising only 19% of participants aged 21 to 30, may reflect a generational shift in engagement with ATR. Younger individuals might be more influenced by modernity and globalization, leading to a potential decline in traditional practices and beliefs. Their lower representation in the study

could indicate a lack of interest or awareness regarding the impacts of internal migration on ATR, which may result in a gap in understanding how these changes affect the younger generation.

4.2.3 Marital Status

Table : 4.3 Marital Status



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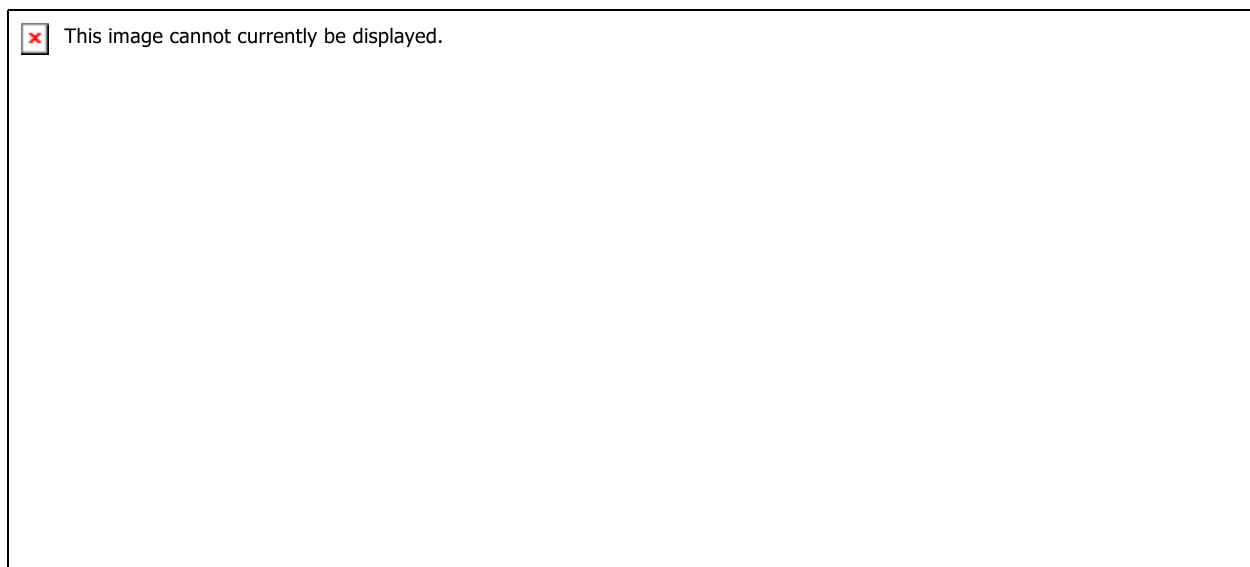
Table 4. 3 Marital status (54)

According to Table 4.2 most participants 40 (74%) were married, whilst the least number of participants 3 (6%) were widowed. The data indicates that a significant majority of respondents, 65%, have attained secondary education, suggesting a higher level of literacy and awareness within the community regarding social and cultural issues. This educational attainment may enable participants to engage more thoughtfully with the effects of internal migration on African Traditional Religion (ATR), as they are likely to have better access to information and resources. In contrast, the minority of participants, only 16%, who completed only primary education may have limited exposure to discussions about ATR and the implications of migration, potentially affecting their ability to articulate their experiences and perspectives. This educational gap could

lead to a lack of representation of the views and concerns of those with lower educational attainment in the research findings.

4.2.4 Level of education

Table 4. 4 Level of education



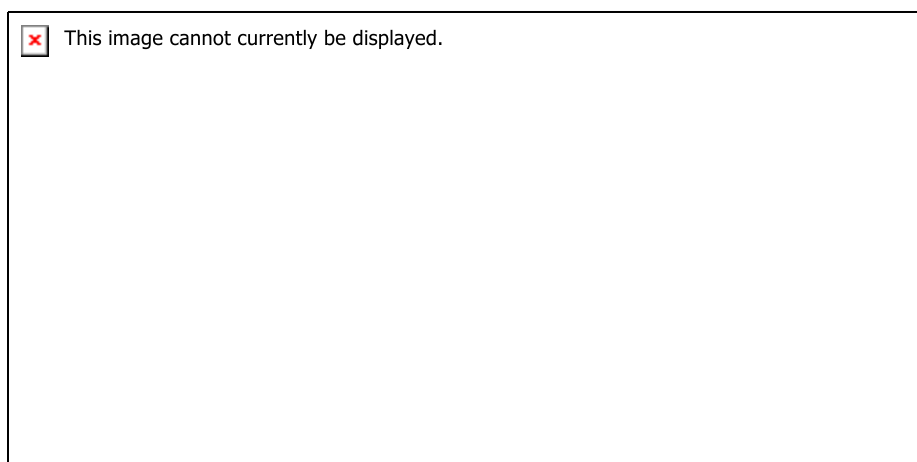
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The majority of participants 35 (65%) had attained secondary education whilst the minority 9 (16%) participants had only completed primary education.

The data reveals that a substantial majority of respondents, 65%, have attained secondary education, indicating a relatively high level of educational attainment within the community. This educational background may empower participants to engage more critically with the effects of internal migration on African Traditional Religion (ATR), as they are likely to possess the skills

necessary to articulate their thoughts and experiences effectively. Conversely, the minority of participants, comprising only 16% who completed only primary education, may have limited exposure to broader discussions about cultural practices and the implications of migration. This disparity in educational attainment could influence the depth and quality of insights shared regarding ATR, as those with higher education may be more aware of the socio-economic factors affecting their traditions. Additionally, the lower representation of individuals with only primary education may reflect systemic barriers that hinder their participation in discussions about ATR and migration.

Table 4.5 : Loss of legitimacy by traditional leaders as a result of immigrants.



Language barriers was identified as the most effect of Internal migration on African Traditional Religion which a frequency and percentage of 20(37%) .Language barriers can lead to a disconnection from cultural heritage, erosion of traditional practices, and loss of cultural identity.

4.3.1 Loss of Cultural Heritage

Internal migration has been identified as a significant effects resulting to the loss of cultural heritage in African Traditional Religion. Participants in the study emphasized that language barriers are a major challenge in the transmission of traditional knowledge and practices.

As one participant noted:

"I remember trying to explain our traditional practices to my children, but they didn't understand me properly because of a language barrier. As a result, they are losing touch with our cultural heritage." (Participant 1, 45 years).

Another participant, a traditional leader, shared a similar experience :

"Yes, I encountered a situation where a language barrier led to the loss of cultural heritage. I was trying to teach our traditional dances to the younger generation, but they spoke limited Shona. They thought I was teaching them a different dance, and they became frustrated." (Participant 2, 51 years).

These findings align with existing research. Chironda (2015) highlights that language barriers significantly contribute to the loss of cultural heritage among migrants in Zimbabwe. Moyo et al. (2017) also note that language barriers hinder effective communication between

community members and traditional leaders, particularly those with limited proficiency in local languages.

Therefore, language barriers can result in the loss of cultural heritage and inadequate transmission of traditional knowledge and practices.

4.3.2 Change in traditional authority

Participants in the study highlighted the impact of internal migration on traditional authority and African Traditional Religion in Domboshawa under Goromonzi rural district. One participant noted:

"I expressed my concerns about the changes in our traditional practices, but our traditional leader was too focused on adapting to the new urban context to provide guidance. I felt dismissed and concerned that our cultural heritage was being lost."(participant 6, 35 years)

This is similar to the works of Chironda (2015), it has been further noted that internal migration has led to a shift in traditional authority, with some traditional leaders struggling to adapt to new urban contexts. Recent studies have consistently highlighted the importance of traditional leaders in maintaining cultural heritage and traditional practices, with authors such as Chironda (2015) and Moyo et al. (2017) emphasizing that traditional leaders play a critical role in preserving

African Traditional Religion. The failure of traditional leaders to adapt to changing contexts can lead to a disconnection between community members and their cultural heritage, as noted by Shaw et al. (2018) and Okuyama et al. (2020). These findings underscore the need for traditional leaders to prioritize cultural preservation and adaptation to maintain the cultural heritage of African Traditional Religion in the face of internal migration.

The change in traditional authority due to internal migration has significant implications for African Traditional Religion in Domboshawa under Goromonzi rural district. The disconnection between community members and their cultural heritage can lead to: Loss of cultural heritage Erosion of traditional practices- Disrespect for traditional leaders To mitigate these effects, it is essential for traditional leaders to adapt to changing contexts while preserving cultural heritage and traditional practices.

4.3.3 Cultural disconnection

The cultural disconnection due to internal migration has significant implications for African Traditional Religion in Domboshawa under Goromonzi rural district. The disconnection from cultural heritage can lead to, loss of cultural heritage, erosion of traditional practices, disconnection from African Traditional Religion Identity crisis among community members. One participant noted that :

"I expressed my concerns about the changes in our traditional practices, but our traditional leader was too focused on adapting to the new urban context to provide guidance. I felt disconnected from our cultural heritage and concerned that our traditions were being lost."

These findings are similar with existing researches as given below. From the participants' views, it has been further noted that internal migration has led to a cultural disconnection, with community members struggling to maintain their cultural heritage in new urban contexts. Recent studies have consistently highlighted the importance of cultural preservation in maintaining African Traditional Religion, with authors such as Chironda (2015) and Moyo et al. (2017) emphasizing that cultural heritage is critical to the identity and well-being of community members. Cultural disconnection can lead to a loss of cultural heritage, erosion of traditional practices, and disconnection from African Traditional Religion, as noted by Shaw et al. (2018) and Okuyama et al. (2020). These findings underscore the need for community leaders to prioritize cultural preservation and adaptation to maintain the cultural heritage of African Traditional Religion in the face of internal migration.

4.3.4 Language barriers

Here is a rewritten version of the text, focusing on language barriers due to internal migration and its impact on African Traditional Religion in Domboshawa under Goromonzi rural district:

Language Barriers due to Internal Migration

Participants in the study highlighted the impact of internal migration on language and African Traditional Religion in Domboshawa under Goromonzi rural district. One participant noted:

"I tried to explain our traditional practices to my children, but they didn't understand me properly because of a language barrier. They speak more of the urban language and I speak our local language. As a result, they are losing touch with our cultural heritage."(participant 9, 49 years).

From the participants' views, it has been further noted that these finds are similar to the works of Chironda and Moyo as illustrated below. Internal migration has led to language barriers, with community members struggling to communicate their cultural heritage to younger generations. Recent studies have consistently highlighted the importance of language in maintaining cultural heritage, with authors such as Chironda (2015) and Moyo et al. (2017) emphasizing that language is critical to the transmission of cultural knowledge and practices. Language barriers can lead to a disconnection from cultural heritage, erosion of traditional practices, and loss of cultural identity, as noted by Shaw et al. (2018) and Okuyama et al. (2020). These findings underscore the need for community leaders to prioritize language preservation and cultural transmission to maintain the cultural heritage of African Traditional Religion

The language barriers due to internal migration have significant implications for African Traditional Religion in Domboshawa under Goromonzi rural district. The disconnection from cultural heritage can lead to, loss of cultural heritage, erosion of traditional practices, disconnection from African Traditional Religion- Identity crisis among community members. To mitigate these effects, it is essential for community leaders to prioritize language preservation and cultural transmission, ensuring that African Traditional Religion remains a vibrant and relevant part of community life.

4.4 Effects of Internal Migration on the Religious Cultural Practices of African Traditional Religion

Participants were asked about their perceptions of the challenges encountered in the application of ATR practices in the context of internal migration. The findings indicate that the migration of individuals from rural to urban areas has significantly impacted the religious cultural practices associated with African Traditional Religion.

4.4.1 Erosion of Traditional Rituals

The erosion of traditional rituals was identified as a primary challenge affecting the practice of ATR. Many participants expressed that the migration of individuals to urban areas has led to a decline in participation in traditional ceremonies and rituals. One respondent noted:

"In the city, people are too busy to participate in our traditional ceremonies; they have forgotten the importance of these rituals"

(Respondent 12, 45 years old).

This sentiment aligns with the findings of Ndlovu (2023), who argues that urban migration often results in a disconnection from cultural practices, leading to a decline in the observance of traditional rituals that are central to ATR.

4.4.2 Loss of Elders' Authority

The loss of authority among elders was also highlighted as a significant issue. Participants noted that younger generations, influenced by urban lifestyles, often disregard the teachings and authority of traditional leaders. As one participant stated:

"The youth think they know better because they have access to
information online; they no longer value the wisdom of our elders"

(Respondent 8, 30 years old).

This observation is supported by Moyo (2021), who emphasizes that the younger generation's exposure to diverse belief systems can lead to a decline in the respect and authority traditionally afforded to elders within African Traditional Religion.

4.5 Effects of Internal Migration on Cultural Heritage

The second objective of the study focused on the effects of internal migration on cultural heritage. Participants were asked to share their views on how migration has impacted the preservation of cultural practices and values associated with African Traditional Religion.

4.5.1 Cultural Erosion

Cultural erosion was identified as a significant challenge in the preservation of cultural heritage. Many participants expressed concern that the influx of migrants has led to a loss of traditional practices and values. One respondent remarked:

"Our children are forgetting our customs; they are more
interested in what they see on television than in our traditions"
(Respondent 15, 50 years old).

This finding resonates with Taylor et al. (2017), who define cultural erosion as a process where a culture loses its central tenets, leading individuals to no longer conform to cultural norms. The impact of globalization and modernization on cultural practices has been well-documented, with Goody et al. (2000) noting that traditional knowledge systems are often depleted due to external influences.

4.5.2 Disconnection from Ancestral Roots

The disconnection from ancestral roots was also highlighted as a consequence of internal migration. Participants noted that the migration of individuals from rural areas to urban centers has resulted in a decline in the transmission of cultural knowledge and practices. One participant stated:

"We no longer gather to share stories and teachings from our
ancestors; the youth are too busy with their lives in the city"

(Respondent 10, 38 years old).

This observation is supported by Zhou (2019), who argues that the pressures of urban life often overshadow the importance of cultural heritage, leading to a disconnection from ancestral roots and a potential erosion of community cohesion

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter summarises the observations of the research on effects of internal migration on African Traditional Religion (ATR) in rural Domboshawa under Goromonzi west rural district. The research aimed to explore how internal migration influences religious practices, the legitimacy of traditional religious leaders, and loss of cultural identity in migrant communities. The research was guided by three specific objectives, and the findings were discussed in relation to these objectives. Conclusions are drawn based on the overall observations, and suggestions for future action and research as provided.

5.2 Summary of the research findings

The study reviewed that, internal migration has led to changes in religious practices among migrant communities. Migrants often bring their beliefs and practices, which can either complement or conflict with local traditions. The blending of cultural practices can lead to adaptation of African traditional religion resulting in a more diverse religious landscape. However, this can also create tensions as traditional practices may be challenged or altered.

The research showed the effects of Internal Migration on the legitimacy of African traditional religious leaders. African traditional legitimacy is rooted in African cultures, customs, and values, and is often derived from ancestral heritage, community consent, spiritual authority, customary law, and symbolic authority. However, the legitimacy of traditional religious leaders has been affected by internal migration. Many migrants question the authority of local leaders, particularly if they are unfamiliar with the community's traditions. This can lead to a decline in the influence of traditional leaders, as migrants may seek guidance from leaders from their places of origin. This shift can undermine the cohesion of the community and the authority of established religious figures. This information above is supported with table 4.3, the table stated that loss of legitimacy by traditional leaders as a result of internal migration results to loss of cultural heritage, changes in authority, cultural disconnection and language barriers.

The study indicated the effects of Internal migration on religious cultural identity. Internal migration has significant implications for the cultural identity of both migrants and the host community. The influx of migrants can lead to cultural dilution, where traditional practices are overshadowed by new influences. This can result in a loss of cultural identity for both migrants and long-term residents, as the community navigates the complexities of integrating diverse beliefs and practices.

5.3 Conclusions

The research finalises that internal migration has profound effects on African Traditional Religion. The findings indicate that while migration can enrich the cultural landscape, it also poses challenges to the preservation of traditional practices and the authority of religious leaders. The research highlights the need for communities to engage in dialogue and collaboration to navigate these changes effectively.

The first research question was, what are the effects internal migration on cultural practices of African traditional religion. This means that, internal migration leads to changes in religious practices among migrant communities. Migrants often bring their own beliefs, which can complement or conflict with local traditions. This dynamic necessitates open dialogue and collaboration among community members to ensure that both traditional and new practices can coexist harmoniously. This aligns with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 on Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, which emphasizes the importance of fostering peaceful and inclusive societies. By promoting dialogue and collaboration, communities can work towards achieving this goal. Therefore, SDG 16 is being achieved.

The second research question was, how does internal migration affect the legitimacy of African Traditional Religion leaders in Zimbabwe. Many migrants may seek guidance from leaders from their places of origin, potentially undermining the authority of local leaders. This shift emphasizes the need for traditional leaders to adapt and engage with migrant communities to maintain their relevance and authority. This situation relates to SDG 10 on reduced inequalities, as it highlights the need for equitable representation and respect for diverse leadership within

communities. If traditional leaders can adapt and engage effectively, it can contribute to reducing inequalities. However, if they fail to do so, SDG 10 may not be fully achieved.

The third research question was, what are the implications of internal migration on cultural heritage associated with African Traditional Religion. The influx of diverse cultural influences can lead to cultural dilution, where traditional practices may be overshadowed. This underscores the importance of preserving cultural identity while fostering an inclusive environment that respects and integrates diverse beliefs. By fostering understanding and cooperation between migrants and local residents, communities can work towards preserving African Traditional Religion while embracing the cultural enrichment that migration brings. This aligns with SDG 4 on quality education, as promoting understanding and respect for diverse cultural identities can enhance educational outcomes and social cohesion. If communities actively engage in educational initiatives that promote cultural awareness, then SDG 4 is being achieved.

Recommendations

a) Documentation and Preservation of Traditional religious practices.

The study reviewed that, internal migration affects African traditional religious practices. It can then be recommended to document and archive African traditional practices through audio-visual recordings, written texts, and photographs to preserve their history and cultural significance. The need to support community-based initiatives that promote the preservation and transmission of African traditional practices, such as cultural festivals, workshops, and training programs. The need to encourage intergenerational knowledge transfer by pairing elder traditional practitioners

with younger generations, ensuring the continuation of African traditional practices and cultural heritage.

b) Strengthening the Role of Traditional Leaders

The study showed that, traditional leaders have lost their legitimacy due to internal migration which has affected the African traditional religion. It is recommended that efforts should be made to strengthen the role of traditional religious leaders in the face of internal migration. This can involve training programs that equip leaders with skills to engage with migrant communities and address their concerns.

c) Promoting Cultural Integration

The study showed that internal migration affects cultural identity in African communities. It is recommended that, initiatives that promote cultural integration and understanding between migrants and local residents should be encouraged. This can include interfaith dialogues and community-building activities that foster mutual respect and collaboration.

d) Future research should focus on the long-term effects of internal migration on African traditional religion.

e) The need to explore the experiences of both migrants and long-term residents.

f) Comparative studies in other regions may provide additional insights into the

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Appendix 1

Introduction

"Hello, my name Patience Shereni, a student at Bindura University of Science Education and I am a researcher conducting a study on "The effects of internal migration on African Traditional Religion, a case study of rural Domboshawa. The purpose of this study is to investigate the effects of internal migration on African Traditional Religion in rural Zimbabwe, using Domboshava Ward 4 as a case study. Your participation in this study will provide valuable insights into the effects of internal migration on African Traditional Religion in rural communities. All information collected during this study will be kept confidential and anonymous. Your participation is voluntary, and you may withdraw at any time without penalty.

The entire process should take approximately 20 minutes.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to ask. Thank you for your participation in this study."

Questionnaire for Community Members

Section A: Demographic Characteristics

1. What is your name?
2. What is your sex?
 - a) Male

b) Female

c) Other (please specify) _____

3. What is your marital status?

a) Single

b) Married

c) Divorced

d) Widowed

e) Other (please specify) _____

4. What is your level of education?

a) Primary

b) Secondary

c) Tertiary

d) Other (please specify) _____

5. What is your occupation? _____

Section B: Experiences with Traditional Religion

1. Have you maintained your traditional religious practices since migrating?

a) Yes

b) No

2. If yes, how have these practices changed? _____

3. How important is your traditional religion in your life?

a) Very important

b) Somewhat important

c) Not very important

d) Not at all important

4. Have you observed changes in community cohesion due to migration?

a) Yes

b) No

Key Informant Interviews with Traditional Leaders

Section A: Background Information

1. Can you briefly describe your role and responsibilities as a traditional leader/key informant?

2. How long have you been in this role? _____

Section B: Role of Traditional Religion

1. How do you perceive the impact of migration on traditional religious practices? _____
2. What challenges do you face in maintaining authority over religious practices? _____

Section C: Community Relations

1. How do community members engage with traditional religious practices in the context of migration? _____
2. What initiatives have you taken to strengthen traditional practices in your community?

3. Can you describe the traditional religious practices and beliefs of your community?
4. How has internal migration affected the demographic composition of your community?

Focus Group Discussions with Community Members

Section A: Introduction and Experience

1. Share your experiences with traditional religious practices after migration. _____
2. What changes have you observed in community relations? _____

Section B: Perspectives on Traditional Religious Practices

1. How can traditional leaders enhance the preservation of African Traditional Religion?

2. What issues related to cultural identity and religious practices would you like to discuss?

Future Prospects and Challenges

1. How do you envision the future of traditional religious practices in your community in the context of internal migration?

2. What challenges do you foresee in maintaining traditional religious practices and beliefs in the face of internal migration?

3. Are there any opportunities or potential benefits that internal migration could bring to traditional religious practices and communities? _____

4. How can traditional religious leaders and institutions work to promote the preservation and transmission of traditional religious practices and beliefs in the face of internal migration? _____

Apendix 2



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