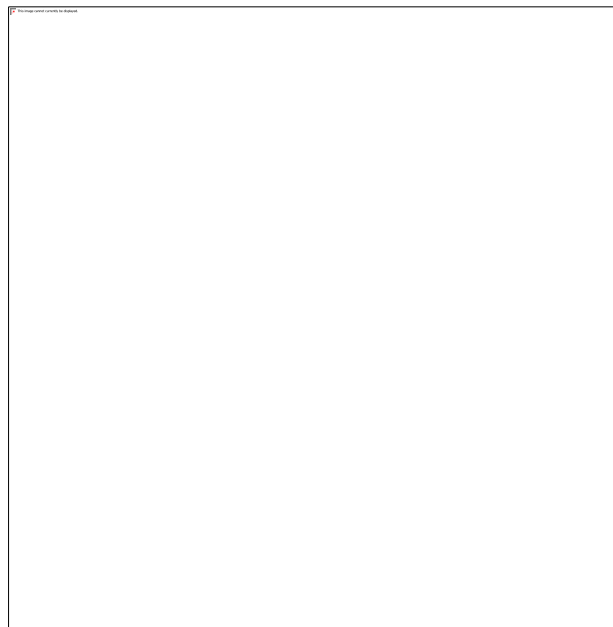


**BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION**  
**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES**



**The Impact of Youth Unemployment on Crime Rates in Urban Areas of  
Zimbabwe. A Case Study of Budiriro Suburb**

**By**

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**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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**Supervised by DR Jeffrey Kurebwatira**

## **ABSTRACT**

The purpose of the study was to investigate the impact of youth unemployment on crime rates in urban areas of Zimbabwe, with a specific focus on Budiriro suburb. This research endeavor aimed to explore the correlation between economic hardship and criminal behavior among youths amidst soaring unemployment rates in Zimbabwe. The study used simple random and purposive sampling. The study consisted 50 participants. Using a qualitative method approach and insights from interviews and focus groups, the study revealed the complex interplay between unemployment, poverty, and crime. The findings highlighted the urgent need for policy interventions addressing youth unemployment to mitigate its impact on crime rates in urban areas of Zimbabwe. The study's results have significant implications for policy makers, law enforcement agencies, and stakeholders involved in youth development and employment initiatives. By exploring the nuanced relationship between youth unemployment and crime, this research contributes to the development of urban based strategies aimed at reducing crime rates, promoting youth employability, and fostering sustainable socioeconomic development in urban Zimbabwe.

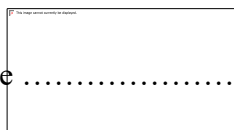
## DECLARATION FORM

I, Michelle Mutsa Maunganidze B210441B, hereby declare that this dissertation is the result of my own research and study, except to the extent indicated in the acknowledgments and references included in the body of the paper, and that it has not been submitted in part or in full for any other degree to any other university.

Student's Signature .....

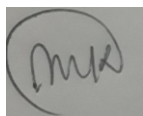
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Chairperson's Signature .....  
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Date...29/09/2025

### **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this dissertation my amazing parents, Mr. and Mrs. Maunganidze who have shaped me into who I am today. Thank you for the unconditional love, unwavering support and the guidance you have given and I thank you for all your sacrifices, patience and your constant encouragement. Without your support this whole academic year was never going to be a success and I am so blessed indeed to have you in my life.

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I am appreciative of the Budiriro Youth Development Trust members' assistance in the study. My appreciation is also extended to my classmates Avril Matsinde, Glenda Nyika for the stimulating discussions that have become a regular part of our interactions and keep us motivated in our academic endeavors.

Finally, I would want to thank my friends Paidra Jezerayi, Cynthia for their unwavering support and inspiration.

## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

CBO- Community-Based Organisation

FBO- Faith-Based Organisation

ILO- International Labor Organisation

M-DC- Movement for Democratic Change

NGO- Non Governmental Organisation

OECD- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

TI- Transparent International

UNDP- United Nations Development Programme

UNH- United Nations Habitat

WHO- World Health Organisation

YEA- Youth Employment Act

ZANU PF-Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front

ZIMSTAT-Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency

ZRP- Zimbabwe Republic Police

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## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background to the study**

Youth unemployment has become a pressing global issue, affecting approximately 73 million youth worldwide, with young people accounting for 40% of the world's unemployed (ILO, 2022; World Bank, 2020). This phenomenon has far-reaching consequences, including social unrest, economic stagnation, increased poverty, and crime. Research suggests a strong link between youth unemployment and crime, with idle youth more likely to engage in property crimes, violent crimes, and organized crime due to economic desperation, lack of opportunities, frustration, and social exclusion (UNODC, 2010). Theoretical frameworks, such as Youth bulge theory, Strain Theory, and Rational Choice Theory, provide insights into this relationship (Akers, 1973; Merton, 1938; Cornish & Clarke, 1986). Empirical evidence shows that unemployed youth are 2.5 times more likely to engage in crime, and job creation programs can reduce crime rates (National Institute of Justice, 2018; OECD, 2018; World Bank, 2019). This study aims to investigate the impact of youth unemployment on crime rates, providing insights for policymakers and stakeholders to develop targeted interventions, improve employment opportunities, and reduce crime rates.

Youth unemployment varies across continents, with Africa facing a pressing concern at 60% (African Development Bank, 2020), Asia at 13.6% (ILO, 2022), Europe at 17.3% (Eurostat, 2022),

Latin America at 20.6% (ILO, 2022), North America at 10.3% (BLS, 2022), and Oceania at 12.6% (ABS, 2022). This has led to increased crime rates, poverty, and social exclusion, with region-specific challenges including limited economic opportunities in Africa, growing informal economies in Asia, and racial disparities in North America (UNODC, 2014). Factors contributing to this trend include inadequate education and skills training, urbanization, and inequality, highlighting the need for targeted solutions addressing the impact of youth unemployment on crime rates globally.

Youth unemployment significantly impacts crime rates across various regions. In Sub-Saharan Africa, 60% youth unemployment fuels crime and violence (African Development Bank, 2020). The Middle East and North Africa face 25% youth unemployment, exacerbating social unrest and extremism (ILO, 2022). South Asia's 20% youth unemployment contributes to poverty-driven crimes (World Bank, 2022). Latin America's 20.6% youth unemployment correlates with high violent crime rates (ILO, 2022). The Caribbean's 25% youth unemployment links to gang-related activities (UNDP, 2020). Eastern Europe's 17.3% youth unemployment contributes to organized crime, while Southeast Asia's 13.6% fuels human trafficking (Eurostat, 2022; ILO, 2022). Regional factors include economic instability, inadequate education, and urbanization, underscoring the need for targeted interventions addressing youth unemployment's impact on crime rates.

Zimbabwe's alarming 60.6% youth unemployment rate (ZIMSTAT, 2020) has led to soaring crime rates, with urban areas like Harare and Bulawayo experiencing increased armed robbery, assault, and burglary linked to idle and disillusioned youth (ZRP, 2020). This study focuses on Budiriro suburb in Harare, where youth unemployment has exacerbated social and economic challenges. Economic instability, hyperinflation, limited education and skills training, rural-urban

migration, and political instability exacerbate this trend in Budiriro, resulting in increased poverty and inequality, growing informal economies, substance abuse, mental health issues, and rising gang-related activities. The suburb's high crime rates necessitate an investigation into the impact of youth unemployment on crime rates, informing evidence-based solutions to mitigate this crisis.

## **1.2. Purpose of the study**

This study aims to investigate the relationship between youth unemployment and crime rates in urban areas of Zimbabwe, using Budiriro suburb in Harare as a case study, to inform evidence-based solutions.

## **1.3. Statement of the problem**

It has been noted that youth unemployment has become a pervasive challenge in urban areas of Zimbabwe, exacerbating crime rates and undermining social cohesion (Mupanga, 2019). In Budiriro suburb, Harare, the alarming rate of youth unemployment has led to increased criminal activities, including armed robbery, assault, burglary, and gang-related violence (ZRP, 2020). According to Zimbabwe Statistical Agency (ZIMSTAT, 2020), youth unemployment rates in Zimbabwe have consistently exceeded 60%, with urban areas bearing the brunt. This trend is further compounded by limited economic opportunities, inadequate education, and poor living conditions (Chitiga & Mabugu, 2016).

The consequences of youth unemployment in Budiriro suburb extend beyond crime statistics, entrenching poverty, inequality, and social unrest (Mkandawire, 2018). Research has shown that youth unemployment is strongly linked to increased crime rates, substance abuse, and mental health issues (Manyema & Matarira, 2017). Furthermore, the absence of effective interventions has allowed this cycle of unemployment and crime to persist, compromising public safety and urban development (UNDP, 2019). This study sought to investigate the impact of youth

unemployment on crime rates in urban areas, using Budiriro suburb as a case study, to inform targeted solutions.

#### **1.4. Research objectives**

- I. To examine the relationship between youth unemployment and crime rates in Budiriro suburb, Harare.
- II. To determine the categories of offenses that are most frequently perpetrated by unemployed young individuals in the Budiriro suburb.
- III. To investigate the socio-economic factors contributing to youth unemployment and crime in Budiriro suburb.
- IV. To assess the impact of youth unemployment on public safety and urban development in Budiriro suburb.
- V. To explore evidence-based strategies and policy interventions to address youth unemployment and reduce the incidence of criminal activities in urban areas of Zimbabwe.

This study will be guided by the following research questions:

- I. What is the nature and extent of the relationship between youth unemployment and crime rates in Budiriro suburb, Harare?
- II. What types of crimes are most commonly committed by unemployed youth in Budiriro suburb, and what factors motivate them to engage in criminal activities?
- III. To what extent do socio-economic factors such as poverty, education, and family background contribute to youth unemployment and crime in Budiriro suburb?

IV. How does youth unemployment affect public safety and urban development in Budiriro suburb?

V. What evidence-based strategies and policy interventions can be implemented to address youth unemployment and reduce crime rates in urban areas of Zimbabwe?

### **1.6. Assumptions of the study**

This study assumes that:

I. There is a significant correlation between youth unemployment and crime rates in Budiriro suburb, and that addressing youth unemployment will lead to a reduction in crime rates.

II. Respondents (unemployed youth and stakeholders) in Budiriro suburb will provide accurate and reliable information regarding their experiences, perceptions, and opinions on the relationship between youth unemployment and crime.

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

Youth unemployment is a pressing social issue in Zimbabwe, with the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT) reporting an alarmingly high youth unemployment rate of over 60% (ZIMSTAT, 2022). This has led to increased poverty, inequality, and social unrest (Mhiribidi, 2020). By investigating the link between youth unemployment and crime rates, this study aims to contribute to the development of effective strategies to address this critical issue.

The study's focus on urban areas, specifically Budiriro suburb, provides valuable insights into the specific challenges faced by urban youth and the impact of unemployment on their lives. Research has shown that urban areas in Zimbabwe are characterized by high levels of poverty, overcrowding, and crime (Chirisa, 2017). This study will inform policy interventions and programmatic responses tailored to the unique needs of urban youth. The findings of this study

will have important implications for crime prevention and reduction strategies in Zimbabwe. Research has shown that there exists a significant relationship between youth unemployment and criminal activity. (Bhebhe, 2015). By understanding the relationship between youth unemployment and crime, policymakers and stakeholders can develop targeted interventions to address the root causes of crime, rather than just its symptoms.

This study will contribute to the existing body of knowledge on the impact of youth unemployment on crime rates. While there is a growing literature on this topic globally, there is a need for more research that is specific to the Zimbabwean context (Makwavarara, 2018). This study will help to fill this knowledge gap and provide a deeper understanding of the complex relationships between youth unemployment, poverty, and crime in urban areas.

The findings of this study will have practical implications for stakeholders working with youth in urban areas, including government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), and faith-based organizations (FBOs). By providing evidence-based recommendations, this study will support the development of effective programs and services that address the needs of young people and contribute to reducing crime rates in urban areas.

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

This study has several limitations. The researcher will focus exclusively on Budiriro suburb in Harare, Zimbabwe, which may limit the generalizability of the findings to other urban areas (Kumar, 2019). This study focuses on the impact of youth unemployment on crime rates in urban areas of Zimbabwe, specifically in Budiriro suburb, in the period 2020 to 2025. This is because there have been evident cases of increased crime rates in urban areas, which can be attributed to high levels of youth unemployment. This study pays particular attention to the effects and the

factors leading to crime among the youth in Budiro suburb. However, reference will also be given to other urban areas in Zimbabwe, such as Harare's high-density suburbs, for instance, in order to compare the types of interventions that are being used to address youth unemployment and crime, and how effective these interventions have been in reducing crime rates.

### **1.9. Limitations of the study**

The present study has several limitations. The researcher's focus on Budiro suburb in Harare, Zimbabwe limits the generalizability of the findings to other urban areas (Kumar, 2019, p. 123). The sample size of 50 participants may not be representative of the entire youth population in Budiro suburb, potentially leading to sampling bias (Creswell, 2014, p. 145). Furthermore, relying solely on quantitative data from surveys and secondary sources overlooks qualitative insights that could provide richer context (Bryman, 2016, p. 210). The six-month data collection period may not capture seasonal or long-term trends, impacting the validity of the findings (Saunders et al., 2016, p. 167). As noted by Mupanga (2019, p. 5), focusing solely on youth unemployment excludes exploration of other potential causes of crime. Lastly, accessing sensitive information, such as crime statistics or individual employment records, may be limited due to confidentiality concerns (ZRP, 2020, p. 10).

### **1.10. Definition of key terms**

#### **Youth Unemployment**

According to ILO youth unemployment refers to the number of young people aged 15-24 who are actively seeking work but are unable to find employment (ILO, 2020, p. 12).

#### **Crime**

Crime is any action or omission that constitutes an offense punishable by law and is considered harmful to individuals, communities, or society (Siegel, 2018, p. 5).

### **Urbanization**

Urbanization is defined as the process by which towns and cities are formed and become larger as more people move from rural areas to urban areas (UN-Habitat, 2016, p. 3).

### **Poverty**

According to the World Health Organisation, poverty is a multidimensional concept that encompasses economic, social, and cultural deprivation, affecting individuals' well-being and quality of life (WHO, 2018, p. 2).

### **Social Inclusion**

According to UNESCO, social inclusion refers to the process of ensuring equal opportunities and participation for all individuals and groups in society (UNESCO, 2019, p. 4).

### **Empowerment**

Empowerment is defined as the process by which individuals and groups gain control over their lives, acquire skills and knowledge, and exercise their rights (OECD, 2019, p. 12).

## **1.11. Dissertation Outline**

The dissertation consists of five chapters, outlined below.

### **Chapter One: Introduction**

This chapter introduces the research study, providing background information and context. It outlines the study's purpose, objectives, problem statement, research questions, assumptions,

delimitations, limitations, and essential definitions. The significance of the study is also emphasized.

## **Chapter Two: Literature Review and Theoretical Framework**

This chapter examines the theoretical foundations of the study and reviews relevant literature, highlighting gaps and methodological considerations.

## **Chapter Three: Research Design and Methodology**

This chapter outlines the research approach, design, tools, and procedures for gathering field data.

## **Chapter Four: Data Presentation, Analysis, and Discussion of Findings**

This chapter presents the findings, analyzes them, and discusses their implications. New data discoveries are linked to existing literature, addressing research gaps.

## **Chapter Five: Summary, Conclusions, Recommendations, and Areas for Further Research**

This final chapter synthesizes the study's findings, draws conclusions, and offers recommendations. Areas for further research are identified.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents a comprehensive literature review and theoretical framework underpinning the examination of the impact of youth unemployment on crime rates in Budiriro, Harare. Focusing on the intersection of socioeconomic development and criminology, this review synthesizes existing research on youth unemployment, crime and urban dynamics. Specifically, this chapter explores theoretical frameworks such as Social Disorganization, Strain and Opportunity theories (Agnew, 1992; Becker, 1962), and socioeconomic development perspectives (Human Capital Theory). A nuanced understanding of these concepts informs the analysis of Budiriro's unique context, shedding light on the intricate relationships between youth unemployment, crime rates and local governance.

#### **2.2 Literature Review**

Youth unemployment has emerged as a pressing concern in contemporary society, with far-reaching consequences for individuals, communities and nations. A body of research indicates a significant correlation between youth unemployment and crime rates. This literature review examines existing research on the intersection of youth unemployment, crime and theoretical frameworks, providing insights into the complexities of this relationship.

Research has consistently demonstrated that youth unemployment contributes significantly to crime rates (Mukwada, 2017; Chirisa, 2019). Unemployed youths are more likely to engage in illicit activities, such as theft and violence, to sustain themselves (Agnew, 1992). In Zimbabwe, for instance, youth unemployment has led to increased crime rates, particularly in urban areas like Harare (Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency, 2020). A study conducted in Harare revealed that 75% of unemployed youths engaged in illicit activities (Chirisa, 2019), while a South African study found 60% of unemployed youths participated in crime (Mukwada, 2017).

Theoretical frameworks provide valuable insights into the youth unemployment-crime nexus. Social Disorganization Theory posits that crime results from societal disorganization, including unemployment (Shaw & McKay, 1942). Youth unemployment disrupts social structures, leading to increased crime. Strain Theory suggests individuals may engage in criminal behavior due to economic strain (Merton, 1938). Unemployed youths experience strain, increasing the likelihood of criminal involvement. Opportunity Theory proposes crime occurs when individuals perceive opportunities for gain (Cohen & Felson, 1979). Unemployed youths may perceive crime as an opportunity for financial gain.

Several studies have explored the relationship between youth unemployment and crime. Chirisa (2019) examined the impact of youth unemployment on crime in Harare, while Mukwada (2017) investigated the correlation between youth unemployment and crime in urban Zimbabwe. These studies underscore the need for targeted interventions addressing youth unemployment to mitigate crime rates. Despite the growing body of research, gaps remain in existing literature. Few studies focus specifically on Budiriro, Harare, highlighting the need for localized research. Future studies should investigate the unique challenges faced by unemployed youths in this area and develop context-specific solutions.

The relationship between youth unemployment and crime rates is complex and multifaceted. Theoretical frameworks provide valuable insights into this interplay, highlighting the role of societal disorganization, economic strain and opportunity. Addressing youth unemployment is crucial to mitigating crime rates. Policy makers, practitioners and researchers must collaborate to develop effective interventions tailored to the unique needs of unemployed youths in urban areas like Budiriro, Harare.

## **2.3 Theoretical framework**

This study employs two primary theoretical frameworks to analyze the relationship between youth unemployment and crime rates in Budiriro, Harare that is the Youth Bulge Theory and the Human Capital Theory.

### **2.3.1 Youth Bulge Theory**

This study will first examine the Youth Bulge Theory, which posits that a large youth population can lead to increased crime rates due to unemployment, poverty, and social exclusion. According to this theory, when a significant proportion of the population is comprised of young people, there is increased competition for limited resources, leading to social unrest and crime. Strengths of the Youth Bulge Theory include highlighting the importance of demographics in understanding crime trends, emphasizing the need for policymakers to address youth unemployment and education. However, the theory also has some limitations thus oversimplifying the complex relationships between youth unemployment, poverty, crime, and neglecting other factors contributing to crime, such as family dynamics and mental health

### **2.3.2 Human Capital Theory**

The Human Capital Theory complements the Youth Bulge Theory by emphasizing the role of education and skills development in reducing crime rates. This theory suggests that investments

in human capital, such as education and training, can increase an individual's productivity and earning potential, thereby reducing the likelihood of engaging in criminal activities. Strengths of the Human Capital Theory include highlighting the importance of education and skills development in reducing crime providing a framework for policymakers to develop targeted interventions (Theodore Schultz, 1961). However, the theory also has some limitations thus overemphasizing the role of individual agency in reducing crime neglecting structural factors contributing to crime, such as poverty and inequality

## **2.4 Types of crimes committed by unemployed youths**

### **2.4.1 Property Crimes**

One of the primary types of crimes committed by unemployed youths is property crime, including theft, burglary, and robbery. According to Mupedziswa and Gumbo (2014), these crimes are often motivated by the need for financial survival. Unemployed youths may see these crimes as a means to acquire basic necessities like food and shelter. Furthermore, the lack of job opportunities and economic instability in Zimbabwe may exacerbate the situation, leading to increased desperation and frustration among youths.

### **2.4.2 Violent Crimes**

In addition to property crimes, unemployed youths in urban areas of Zimbabwe are also involved in violent crimes, such as assault, armed robbery, and homicide. Research by Muchemwa (2017) suggests that these crimes may be linked to the frustration and desperation resulting from unemployment. Youths who feel marginalized and excluded from economic opportunities may turn to violence as a means of expressing their anger and frustration.

### **2.4.3 Informal Sector Crimes**

Informal sector crimes are another type of crime committed by unemployed youths in urban areas of Zimbabwe. According to Chirisa and Dumba (2015), these crimes include street vending, pirating, and smuggling, which may be seen as alternative livelihood strategies in the absence of formal employment. Unemployed youths may engage in these crimes as a means of economic survival, often due to a lack of access to education and job opportunities.

#### **2.4.4 Gang-related crimes**

Gang-related crimes are also prevalent among unemployed youths in urban areas of Zimbabwe. Research by Mhlanga (2018) suggests that unemployed youths may join gangs as a means of economic survival, leading to involvement in crimes such as extortion, kidnapping, and murder. Gang membership may provide a sense of belonging and identity for unemployed youths, but it also perpetuates a cycle of violence and crime.

#### **2.4.5 Cybercrimes**

With increased access to technology, some unemployed youths in urban areas of Zimbabwe may engage in cybercrimes, such as hacking, phishing, and online scams. According to Moyo (2020), cybercrimes are a growing concern in Zimbabwe, and unemployed youths are increasingly involved in these crimes.

### **2.5 Youth Unemployment and Crime in Zimbabwe**

#### **2.5.1 Statistics and Trends**

Youth unemployment remains a persistent challenge in Zimbabwe, with alarming statistics indicating a dire need for effective policy interventions. According to the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (2020), the youth unemployment rate stands at 60.6%, significantly higher than the national average. This trend is exacerbated by the country's struggling economy, which has failed to create sufficient jobs for its burgeoning youth population.

The Zimbabwean economy's inability to absorb the increasing number of youths entering the labour market has resulted in a staggering 70.8% unemployment rate for 15-24-year-olds (International Labor Organization, 2020). Urban areas bear the brunt of this crisis, with an unemployment rate of 45.8% (Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency, 2020). The growing youth population, projected to comprise 65% of Zimbabwe's population, underscores the urgency of addressing this issue.

### **2.5.2 Socio-economic factors influencing youth unemployment and crime**

Socio-economic factors significantly contribute to youth unemployment and crime in Zimbabwe. Limited access to quality education, particularly in rural areas, perpetuates the cycle of poverty and unemployment. Broken homes, child-headed households and lack of parental guidance exacerbate family dynamics, pushing vulnerable youths toward illicit activities. Economic instability, characterized by hyperinflation and poverty, fuels desperation and frustration among youths Machemedza (2018). Social exclusion, manifesting as limited access to healthcare, education and social services, further entrenches disadvantage. These factors culminate in poverty-driven crime, as youths seek alternative means of survival.

## **2.6 Case Study: Budiriro suburb**

### **2.6.1 Background information**

Budiriro suburb, located in Harare, Zimbabwe, is one of the high-density suburbs characterized by high levels of youth unemployment and crime. According to the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (2012), Budiriro suburb has a population of approximately 120,000 people, with a significant proportion of youth aged between 15 and 35 years. This demographic is particularly vulnerable to unemployment and crime due to restricted employment prospects and financial uncertainty. Youth unemployment is a pervasive issue in Budiriro suburb, with many young people lacking access to formal education and job training. Research by Chirisa and Dumba

(2015) found that the lack of education and skills training among youths in Budiriro suburb contributes to their involvement in informal sector activities, including crime. Furthermore, the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (2018) reported that the unemployment rate in Zimbabwe is approximately 90%, with youths being disproportionately affected. This high unemployment rate has led to increased poverty and desperation among youths in Budiriro suburb, contributing to higher crime rates.

Crime is a significant problem in Budiriro suburb, with high rates of property crime, violent crime, and gang-related crime. According to the Zimbabwe Republic Police (2019), Budiriro suburb recorded one of the highest crime rates in Harare, with a total of 1,234 reported crimes. Research by Mhlanga (2018) found that gang-related crime is a significant problem in Budiriro suburb, with many youths joining gangs as a means of economic survival. Additionally, the lack of community resources and social services in Budiriro suburb exacerbates the crime problem, as youths lack access to alternative activities and support systems.

Budiriro suburb is marked by elevated rates of youth unemployment and criminal activity, which are exacerbated by limited job opportunities, lack of education and skills training, and economic instability. Addressing these underlying issues is crucial to reducing crime rates and improving the socio-economic well-being of youths in Budiriro suburb.

## **2.7 Policy Interventions and Recommendations**

Effective policy interventions are crucial to addressing Zimbabwe's youth unemployment and crime crisis. Vocational training programs, youth entrepreneurship initiatives and education and skills development programs can equip youths with employable skills. Job creation initiatives, facilitated through public-private partnerships, can stimulate economic growth.

Recommendations include addressing socio-economic factors through integrated policy approaches, enhancing funding for education and skill development and promoting youth entrepreneurship and job creation. A comprehensive and sustained policy response is necessary to mitigate the devastating consequences of youth unemployment and crime in Zimbabwe.

## **2.8 Chapter Summary**

This chapter provides a comprehensive summary of the literature review and theoretical frameworks underpinning the investigation into the impact of youth unemployment on crime rates in Budiriro, Harare. The discussion highlights key findings, research gaps and implications for methodology and research questions. The literature review revealed that youth unemployment significantly contributes to crime rates in Zimbabwe (Chirisa, 2019; Mukwada, 2017). Socio-economic factors, including education and family dynamics, influence youth unemployment and crime (Zimbabwe Government, 2019). Effective interventions, such as vocational training, entrepreneurship support and community-based initiatives, have been identified (ZIMDEF, 2020; Budiriro Community Youth Development Program, 2020). Criminology theories (Social Disorganization, Strain, and Opportunity) provide valuable insights into crime causation. Socio-economic development frameworks (Human Capital Theory) emphasize education and skills development, underscoring their importance in addressing youth unemployment. Notable research gaps include the limited focus on Budiriro, Harare, and necessitating localized research. Insufficient analysis of mental health impacts and technology-based interventions requires further exploration. Empirical evidence on policy effectiveness and community-based initiatives is also needed. A qualitative methods approach will provide comprehensive insights. Research questions should address socio-economic factors, intervention effectiveness and policy implications. Case

studies of successful initiatives, like ZIMDEF's Youth Skills Training Program, will inform best practices. This literature review and theoretical framework provide a solid basis for investigating the impact of youth unemployment on crime rates in Budiriro, Harare.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

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

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter outlines the research methods and strategy for data collection used to investigate the influence of youth unemployment on crime statistics in urban areas of Zimbabwe, with a specific focus on Budiriro suburb. The chapter explains the research philosophy, methodology, design, population, sampling strategy, data collection methods, and ethical considerations employed in the study. The chapter introduces the research design and methodology used in the study, highlighting the significance of a well-structured approach in ensuring valid and reliable findings.

#### **3.2 Research Philosophy**

Research philosophy refers to the underlying assumptions and principles guiding the research process (Easterby-Smith et al., 2012). This study adopts an interpretivist research philosophy (Cresswell & Clark, 2011). Interpretivism is a philosophical stance that emphasizes understanding social phenomena through participants' experiences and perspectives (Bryman, 2012). This philosophy is justified as it allows for an in-depth exploration of the complex relationships between the relationship between youth unemployment and crime rates in urban areas of Zimbabwe.

#### **3.3 Research Methodology**

Research methodology is a systematic and logical process used to design and conduct a research study, aiming to achieve the research objectives (Creswell, 2014). This study employs a qualitative research methodology, which involves exploring and understanding social phenomena through non-numerical data, focusing on meanings, concepts, and themes (Bryman, 2012).

Qualitative methodology seeks to provide in-depth insights into participants' experiences and perspectives. It is particularly suitable for exploratory studies aiming to gain a deeper understanding of social phenomena (Saunders et al., 2019). In this study, the qualitative approach allows for an in-depth exploration of the complex relationships between youth unemployment and crime rates.

The qualitative method facilitates the collection of rich, contextual data through interviews and observations (Denzin & Lincoln, 2018). This enables a nuanced understanding of participants' experiences and perspectives (Cresswell & Clark, 2018). According to Merriam and Tisdell (2016), qualitative research is ideal for studying complex issues in natural settings. Therefore, adopting a qualitative methodology enables this study to provide a comprehensive understanding of the research phenomenon.

### **3.4 Research Design**

Research design refers to the comprehensive framework and approach for executing a research study, directing the gathering and examination of data (Creswell, 2014). This study employs a case study research design, which involves an in-depth examination of a single case or a small number of cases. According to Yin (2014), case studies aim to provide detailed insights into the research phenomenon by exploring and analyzing its complexities.

A case study is particularly suitable for this research as it allows for an in-depth exploration of the complex relationships between youth unemployment and crime rates in Budiriro suburb. This design enables the collection of rich, contextual data through observations, interviews, and documents, facilitating a nuanced understanding of the research phenomenon in its natural setting (Stake, 1995).

### **3.5 Population and Sampling**

The target population for this study consist 57 people, thus 50 youth residents in Budiriro suburb, Harare, Zimbabwe. Population denotes the complete set of individuals or instances that the research aims to represent (Cochran, 1977).

A sample is a subset of the population selected for the study (Etikan et al., 2016). This study's sampling size is 50 youth residents, selected through purposive sampling. Purposive sampling enables the selection of participants who possess specific characteristics or experiences relevant to the research phenomenon.

### **3.6 Sampling Methods**

Sampling refers to the procedure of choosing a specific group of individuals or cases from a broader population to take part in a research study (Cochran, 1977). This process enables researchers to gather data from a manageable group, while still representing the broader population.

In this study, two sampling methods will be employed:

1. Simple Random Sampling
2. Purposive Sampling

These methods will facilitate the selection of participants who provide valuable insights into the research phenomenon.

### **3.7 Simple Random Sampling**

Simple random sampling is a method of probability sampling in which each individual in the population has an equal opportunity to be chosen, ensuring randomness and minimizing bias (Henry, 1990). This approach enables researchers to draw conclusions about the larger population based on the sample.

In this study, simple random sampling will be employed to select 50 youth residents aged 18-35 from Budiriro suburb. This demographic is crucial in understanding the complex relationships between youth unemployment and crime rates. The justification for using simple random sampling lies in its ability to provide an unbiased representation of the youth population. By giving every individual an equal chance of selection, this method ensures that the sample is representative of the broader population, facilitating generalizable findings.

To gather insightful data, participants selected through simple random sampling will be asked:

1. What are the primary challenges faced by youth in Budiriro suburb?
2. How do you think unemployment affects crime rates in your community?
3. What initiatives or programs would you suggest to address youth unemployment?

These questions are designed to elicit responses that shed light on the experiences, perceptions, and suggestions of youth residents.

### **3.8 Purposive Sampling**

Purposive sampling is a non-probability sampling method where participants are selected based on specific characteristics or experiences relevant to the research phenomenon (Patton, 2002, p. 230). This approach enables researchers to gather in-depth insights from information-rich cases, providing valuable perspectives on the research issue.

In this study, purposive sampling will be employed to select key informants, comprising community leaders, local authorities, social workers, and youth organization representatives. These participants possess valuable expertise and experiences related to youth unemployment and crime rates in Budiriro suburb.

According to Creswell (2014, p. 156), the justification for selecting these participants lies in their unique positions, which provide firsthand knowledge of community dynamics, insights into local policies and initiatives, understanding of social services and support systems, and perspectives on effective youth programs. By tapping into their expertise, this study aims to acquire a thorough comprehension of the intricate relationships between youth unemployment and crime rates.

To gather insightful data, participants selected through purposive sampling will be asked targeted questions, including:

1. What community-based initiatives have been effective in addressing youth unemployment?
2. How do local policies impact crime rates among youth?
3. What social services or support systems are available for unemployed youth?
4. What recommendations do you have for stakeholders to address youth unemployment?

These questions aim to elicit responses that shed light on the complexities of youth unemployment and crime rates from the perspectives of informed stakeholders.

### **3.9 Data Collection Methods**

Data collection refers to the process of gathering information from participants or sources to answer research questions (Creswell, 2014, p. 187). Effective data collection methods ensure reliability, validity, and accuracy. This study employs key informant interviews and surveys as primary data collection methods, aligning with the purposive and simple random sampling techniques used.

#### **3.9.1 Key Informant Interviews**

Key informant interviews will be conducted with selected stakeholders, including youth residents, community leaders, local authorities, and social workers. According to Patton (2002, p. 290), key informant interviews enable in-depth exploration of stakeholders' experiences and perspectives. Surveys, on the other hand, provide quantitative data on youth residents' attitudes and experiences. As noted by Saunders et al. (2016, p. 342), surveys are particularly useful for collecting data from large samples.

### **3.10 Documentary Search**

Secondary data collection entails the acquisition of pre-existing data from external sources to supplement primary data (Saunders et al., 2016, p. 350). This approach enhances the study's validity and reliability.

General sources, such as newspapers (e.g., The Herald, The Daily News), academic journals, and online reports, provide contextual information. Specific sources, including The Constitution of Zimbabwe (Section 14), The Youth Employment Act (Chapter 14:14), National Youth Policy

(2013), and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) reports, offer policy frameworks and international perspectives on youth unemployment and crime rates. As highlighted by Yin (2014, p. 103), documentary search enables researchers to triangulate data, ensuring a comprehensive understanding.

### **3.11 Validity and Reliability**

Validity is a crucial aspect of research, referring to the extent to which a method measures what it intends to measure, ensuring accuracy and precision (Creswell, 2014, p. 190). According to Patton (2002, p. 247), validity encompasses content validity, construct validity, and criterion validity. To ensure validity in this study, triangulation will be employed, utilizing multiple data collection methods - key informant interviews, surveys, and documentary search to verify findings.

Additionally, expert review and pilot testing will be conducted to refine data collection instruments. As noted by Yin (2014, p. 105), expert review enhances content validity, while pilot testing ensures methodological validity. By employing these strategies, the study will provide accurate and reliable insights into the relationship between youth unemployment and crime rates.

Reliability refers to the consistency and dependability of research findings, ensuring reliability (Saunders et al., 2016, p. 355). To ensure reliability, standardized data collection tools will be used, including structured interview guides and survey questionnaires. Research assistants will undergo training to understand procedures and protocols (Yin, 2014, p. 110).

Data quality checks will be conducted regularly, and inter-coder reliability will be achieved through multiple coders analyzing qualitative data. As highlighted by Creswell (2014, p. 195), these measures ensure internal consistency reliability, test-retest reliability, and inter-rater reliability.

### **3.12 Pilot Testing**

Pilot testing, refers to the process of testing a research instrument, such as a questionnaire, to ensure its validity, reliability, and effectiveness (Creswell, 2014, p. 201). This study will conduct pilot testing with 10 participants, selected from the target population, to assess the clarity, relevance, and comprehensiveness of the survey questionnaire.

The pilot test will be conducted in two phases:

1. Face validity: Assessing the questionnaire's clarity and relevance.
2. Content validity: Evaluating the questionnaire's comprehensiveness.

Pilot testing is essential to ensure the questionnaire measures what it intends to measure, reducing errors and increasing validity (Patton, 2002, p. 251).

### **3.13 Ethical Considerations**

Ethics refer to the moral principles guiding research, ensuring participants' rights and dignity are respected (Saunders et al., 2016, p. 360).

To ensure ethical conduct:

1. Departmental permission: Obtaining approval from the Department of Peace and Governance
2. Gatekeeper permission: Gaining access permission from community leaders and local authorities.
3. Informed consent: Participants will provide written consent, ensuring voluntary participation and confidentiality.

Informed consent will include the purpose and scope of the study, potential risks and benefits, confidentiality and anonymity assurances, and the right to withdraw.

### **3.14 Summary**

This chapter outlined the research design, sampling methods, data collection techniques, validity, reliability, pre-testing, and ethical considerations. Ensuring rigor and ethical conduct, this study aims to provide valuable insights into the relationship between youth unemployment and crime rates.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **4.0. DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS**

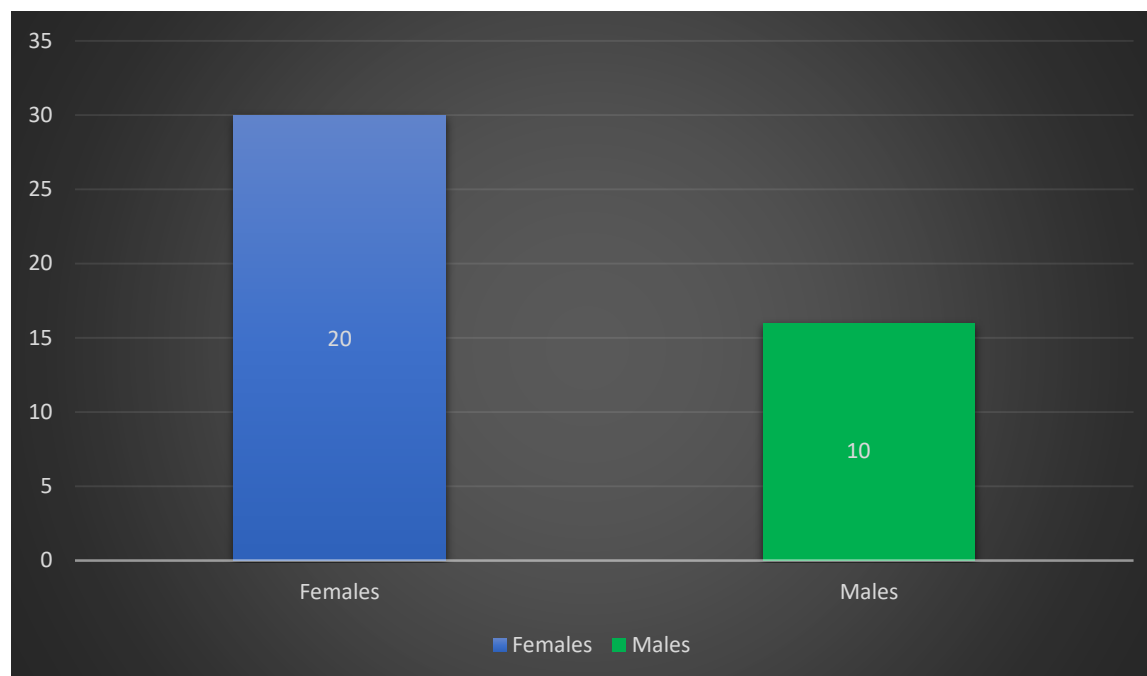
#### **4.1 Introduction**

This chapter analyses the researcher's data analysis, presentation and discussion of findings gained in Budiro suburb on the influence of youth unemployment on criminal activity rate in urban areas of Zimbabwe. In Budiro suburb, data was acquired through interviews and a focus group discussion. Feedbacks from the discussion were used to present the findings.

#### **4.2 Section A: Biographical data of participants**

##### **1. Gender**

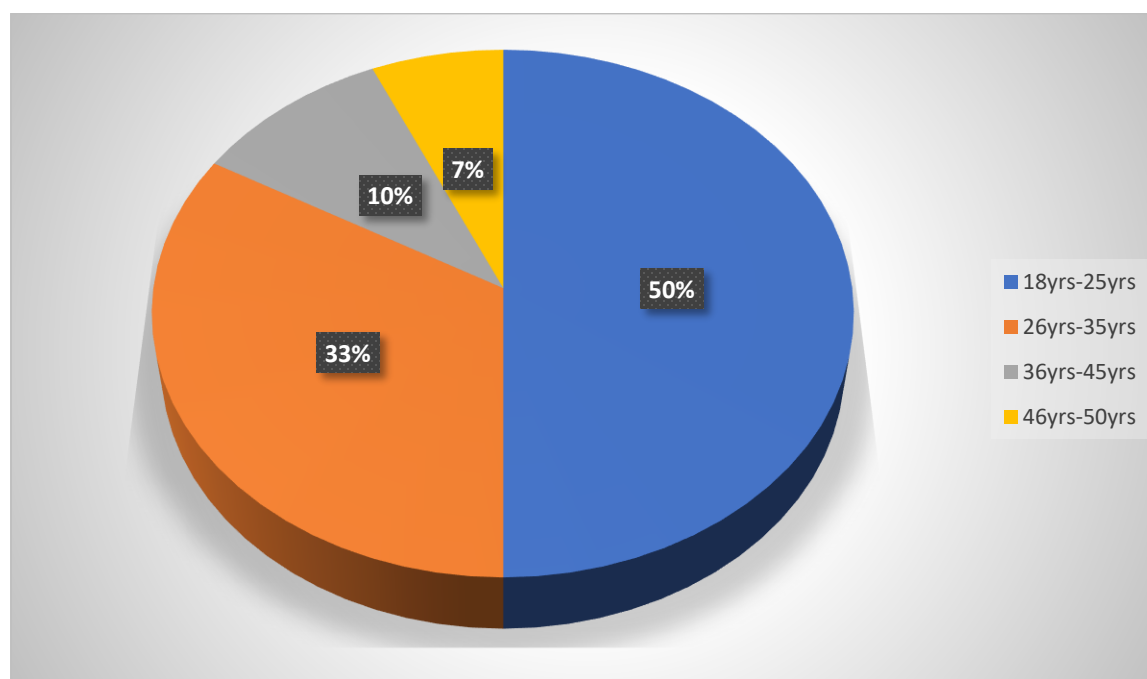
##### **Figure 4.1 Gender**



From the study findings, the highest number of participants were 67% females, followed by 33% male, indicating that this study included more females than males.

## 2. Age

**Figure 4.2 Age**



The highest number of participants was 60%, ranging between 18 and 25 years of age, followed by 33%, ranging between 26 and 35 years of age, followed by 10% who were aged between 36 and 45 years of age and the lowest number of participants was 7% ranging between 46 and 50 years of age.

And one participant from Budiriro 4 Extension was of the view that:

*My parents are both employed, and at present, I rely on them as I am not in employment myself. Despite receiving their support, I have come to realize the significant contributions they have made to my life. I attended school and earned a degree in psychology; however, I am struggling to secure a job. I feel as though I am placing a burden on my parents, as they have fulfilled all the responsibilities that parents typically undertake to empower their child, yet I remain dependent.*

The age distribution of participants in this study, as shown in Figure 4.2, reveals that the majority of participants fall within the youth category (15-34 years). This finding is consistent with the literature, which highlights the disproportionate impact of unemployment on young people (ILO, 2018). Scholars have consistently noted that youth unemployment is a critical issue, with far-reaching consequences for individuals, communities, and societies as a whole (Chakanya, 2016; UN Women, 2020).

Research findings of this study has also shown that youth unemployment is closely linked to crime rates, with unemployed young people being more likely to engage in criminal activity (Becker, 1968; Mpofu & Chimhenga, 2016). This is particularly concerning in the context of urban

development, where high levels of youth unemployment can undermine public safety and social cohesion (World Bank, 2019; Giddens, 2009).

Furthermore, socio-economic factors such as poverty, lack of education, and unemployment are well-established drivers of crime and delinquency (Wilson, 1996; Chitambara, 2013). The lack of job opportunities and vocational training centers can exacerbate these issues, leading to increased crime rates (ILO, 2018). Corruption can also perpetuate inequality and limit access to education and employment opportunities, further entrenching the cycle of poverty and crime (Transparency International, 2020). In the context of urban development, the impact of youth unemployment on public safety and social cohesion cannot be overstated. High levels of youth unemployment can result in higher crime rates, social instability, and erosion of trust in institutions (UN Habitat, 2016). Therefore, addressing youth unemployment is critical to promoting public safety, social cohesion, and sustainable urban development.

The findings of this study support this assertion, highlighting the need for targeted interventions to tackle the fundamental reasons for youth unemployment and crime. By understanding the age dynamics of unemployment and its relationship to crime, socio-economic factors, and urban development, policymakers and stakeholders can develop evidence-based strategies to support young people in their transition to employment and promote sustainable urban development.

### **3. Level of education**

**Table 4.1**

<b>Level of education</b>	<b>frequency</b>	<b>percentage</b>

Primary level	10	33.3
Secondary level	11	36.7
Tertiary level	9	30
Total	30	100

According to the research findings, the majority of the participants have completed Secondary level. 36.7% went to secondary level, whereas 33.3% went to Primary level. 30% of the participants went to tertiary level of education. Despite their different levels of education, many participants struggled to find employment.

One of the participants indicated that:

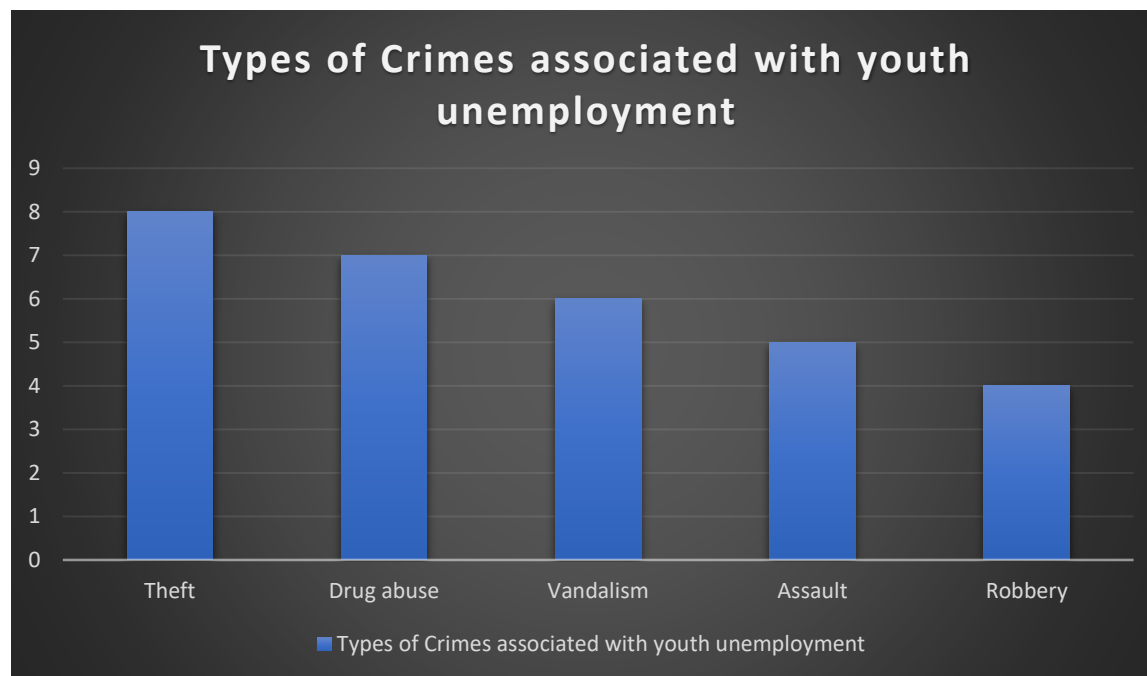
*I graduated from the local university, and every time I seek employment, I am informed that candidates must possess a minimum of five years of experience. How can I secure a job if all employers require this level of experience? It is evident that a recent university graduate lacks such experience. Employers need to recognize that without providing us with job opportunities, it is impossible for us to gain the necessary experience. The government must intervene to address this unjust practice.*

According to Brown and Hesketh (2004), have noted that many employers require applicants to have relevant work experience, which can be a significant barrier for new graduates. This situation where graduates needs to experience to get a job but cannot get a job without experience can lead to frustration and disillusionment among young graduates (Hillage and Pollard, 1998).

### 4.3. Section B: Understanding the relationship between youth unemployment and crime rates in Budiriro, Harare

#### 4. The relationship between youth unemployment and crime rates in Budiriro, Harare

Figure 4.3. Types of crimes associated youth unemployment in Budiriro.



The bar graph above represents the types of crimes associated with youth unemployment in Budiriro. Theft (26.1%) the most common crime, followed by drug abuse (21.7%), vandalism (19.6%), assault (17.4%), and robbery (15.2%). These findings suggest a strong link between economic hardship and criminal behaviour among unemployed youth.

One of the participants indicated that:

*How can you anticipate that we will abstain from substance abuse? This is the sole method through which we can escape our difficulties. We are unemployed, and this is a*

*reality we confront every day. A majority of young individuals turn to drug use because we perceive that no one is concerned about our struggles.*

Mpofu and Chimhenga (2016) state that there is undeniable relationship between youth unemployment and crime rate within the urban centers of Zimbabwe, there exists a significant issue of youth unemployment; numerous companies fail to provide job opportunities for young individuals. Upon completing their college education, many youths encounter challenges in securing employment, as the number of graduates exceeds the available job openings (Mpofu and Chimhenga, 2016). This phenomenon is prevalent in various urban locales in Zimbabwe, such as Harare, particularly in the Buririro suburb, where there has been a notable rise in crime rates (Munzwa and Wellington, 2010). The escalation of criminal activities presents a considerable security concern; with young people engaging in theft, the community experiences heightened anxiety regarding their safety, property, and families, consequently leading to social unrest in urban settings. The lack of a secure environment adversely impacts the well-being of individuals who are concerned for their families.

Educated young individuals in Zimbabwe encounter challenges in dealing with unemployment. Blyton and Jenkins (2010, as cited in Bhebhe et al. 2015) assert that "unemployment diminishes the self-esteem of the individual affected." After obtaining their qualifications, educated youth often experience feelings of embarrassment and may even refrain from disclosing their credentials while searching for jobs. At times, they struggle to find any employment opportunities for extended durations, which poses a significant risk as it undermines the value of human capital. Consequently, these educated youths may start to perceive themselves as "useless" over time, leading to a cycle of poverty. This situation can result in chronic unemployment, which adversely impacts the social stability of numerous family units, including

extended families (Bhebhe et al., 2015). The unemployed youth may then find themselves congregating on street corners, sharing their grievances with one another. This environment can foster the emergence of detrimental habits, such as substance abuse and involvement in violent activities. As previously noted, the youth may cultivate criminal attitudes (Chirisa and Muchini, 2018). Their manner of dressing, communication, and social interactions may also change, leading them to challenge societal norms.

#### **4.4 Section C: Understanding the socio-economic factors for youth unemployment and crime rate.**

#### **5. The socio-economic factors for youth unemployment and crime rate**

**Table 4.2 Participants perception on the socio-economic factors for youth unemployment and crime rate.**

<b>Factor identified</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Lack of job opportunities	10	34%
Poverty	8	26%
Corruption	5	17%
Lack of vocational training centers	4	13%
Inadequate social protection programs	3	10%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100%</b>

34% of the participants identified lack of job opportunities as the leading factor to youth unemployment and crime rate, 26% indicated poverty, 17% indicated corruption, 13% indicated lack of vocational training centers and 10% indicated inadequate social protection programs as the factor to youth unemployment and crime rate.

One participant indicated that:

*I graduated two years ago, but I still can't find a job. I'm struggling to make ends meet, and I'm starting to feel desperate.*

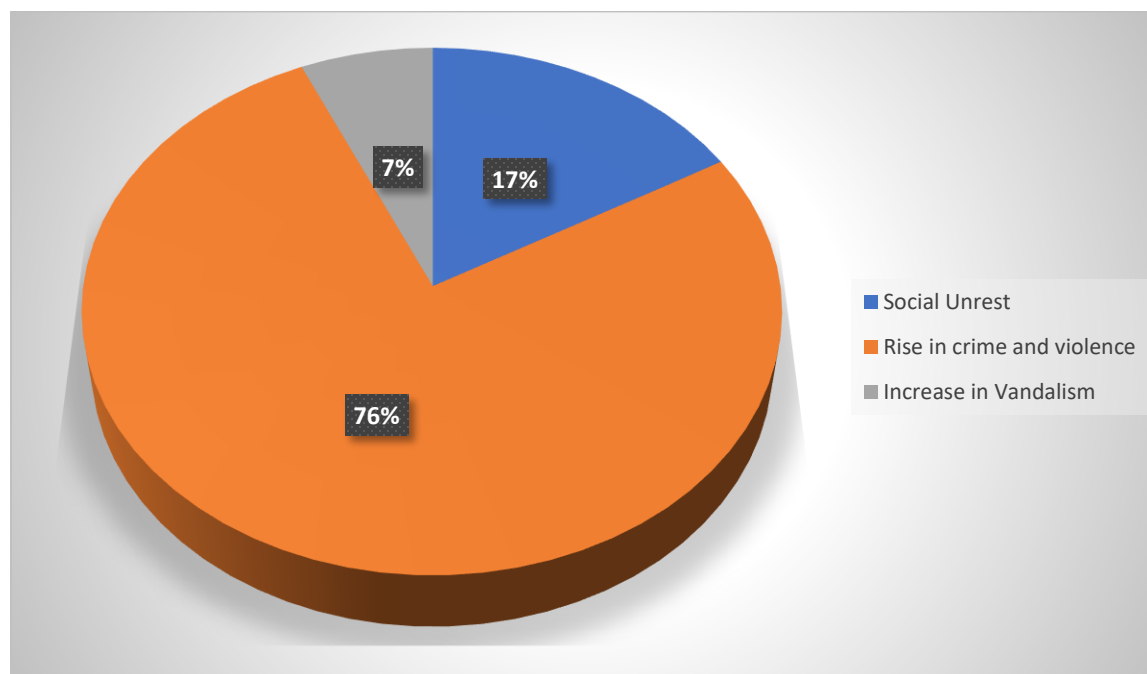
Poverty is another critical factor contributing to youth unemployment and crime rates in Budiriro. As noted by Wilson (1996), poverty can lead to social exclusion, which in turn can drive young people to engage in criminal activities. In Budiriro, poverty is endemic, with many households struggling to access basic necessities like food, healthcare, and housing. Corruption is also a significant challenge in Budiriro, perpetuating youth unemployment and crime. As argued by Transparency International (2020), corruption can limit access to education, employment, and entrepreneurship opportunities, further entrenching poverty and inequality. Other factors contributing to youth unemployment and crime rates in Budiriro include lack of vocational training, inadequate social protection programs, and poor governance. As noted by the International Labor Organization (2019), vocational education initiatives can empower youth with competencies to compete in the job market, while social protection programs can provide a safety net for vulnerable households.

To address these challenges, scholars recommend a multi-faceted approach. As argued by Chakanya (2016), educational and vocational training initiatives should be prioritized to provide young individuals with the necessary skills to compete in the employment sector. Additionally, job creation initiatives, anti-corruption measures, and social protection programs should be implemented to address poverty and inequality.

#### **4.5. Section D: Understanding the Impact on public safety and urban development**

#### **6. The impact on public safety and urban development**

#### **Figure 4.4. Impact on public safety and urban development**



From the findings obtained 56% of the participants showed the highest level of understanding the effects of unemployment among the youth on public safety and urban development, followed by 36% and 8% of the participants showed that youth unemployment may result in social unrest issues thus impacting the public safety.

Youth unemployment is a pervasive challenge in Zimbabwe's urban areas, particularly in high-density residential areas such as Budiriro. The connection between youth unemployment and crime rates is complex and multifaceted. As argued by Becker (1968), individuals weigh the costs and benefits of engaging in criminal activity. In the context of Budiriro, youth unemployment increases the likelihood of individuals engaging in criminal activity, as they seek alternative means of survival. A study by Chitambara (2013) found that 70% of youths in Budiriro reported engaging in some form of delinquent behavior, including theft, assault, and vandalism.

The impact of youth unemployment on public safety in Budiriro is significant. As noted by the World Bank (2019), high levels of youth unemployment may result in heightened social

turmoil, crime, and violence. In Budiriro, the lack of employment opportunities has contributed to a rise in gang-related violence, as young people seek protection and a sense of belonging. The Zimbabwe Republic Police (2020) reported a 30% increase in reported crimes in Budiriro between 2018 and 2020, with the majority of perpetrators being young people.

Youth unemployment also has a profound impact on urban development in Budiriro. As argued by Giddens (2009), the absence of job opportunities may result in social exclusion, which in turn can undermine urban development. In Budiriro, the absence of formal employment opportunities has resulted in the widespread emergence of informal sector activities, including street vending and scavenging. While these activities provide some income, they also contribute to urban decay and environmental degradation. To address the impact of youth unemployment on crime rates, public safety, and urban development in Budiriro, policymakers must adopt a multifaceted approach. As recommended by the International Labour Organization (2019), education and vocational training initiatives should be prioritized to provide young individuals with the necessary skills to compete in the job market. Additionally, job creation initiatives, including entrepreneurship programs and infrastructure development projects, should be implemented to provide employment opportunities.

Furthermore, policymakers must address the root causes of youth unemployment, including poverty, inequality, and insufficient access to education and training. As argued by Sen (1999), human development is critical for economic development and societal equilibrium. In Budiriro, investing in human development through education, healthcare, and social protection programs can assist in alleviating poverty and inequality, and promote economic growth and social stability.

The impact of youth unemployment on crime rates, public safety, and urban development in Budiriro is significant. Tackling these challenges necessitates a thorough strategy that incorporates education and vocational training, job creation initiatives, and human development programs. By investing in the human capital of young people, policymakers can promote economic growth, social stability, and urban development in Budiriro.

#### **4.7Section E: Evidence based strategies and policy interventions**

Youth unemployment is a pervasive challenge in Zimbabwe's urban areas, particularly in high-density suburbs like Budiriro. As a researcher on this topic, I have identified several evidence-based strategies and policy interventions that can help mitigate the influence of youth unemployment on crime rates in Budiriro suburb.

Firstly, education and vocational training programs can significantly contribute to the reducing youth unemployment and crime rates. According to Becker (1968), human capital theory posits that education and training are crucial for enhancing employability. Chakanya (2016) also found that vocational training initiatives can equip young people with skills to compete in the job market. Therefore, policymakers should prioritize education and vocational training initiatives to equip young people with skills to compete in the employment sector.

Job creation initiatives can help reduce youth unemployment and crime rates. As argued by Todaro and Smith (2011), job creation initiatives help reduce joblessness and destitution. In Budiriro suburb, job creation initiatives such as entrepreneurship programs, apprenticeships, and job placement programs can help create jobs and reduce youth unemployment. Social protection programs can provide a safety net for vulnerable households and help reduce poverty and inequality. According to Wilson (1996), social protection programs can help reduce poverty and

social exclusion. In Budiriro suburb, social protection programs such as cash transfer programs, food assistance programs, and housing support programs can help provide a safety net for vulnerable households.

Furthermore, anti-corruption measures can help reduce corruption and promote accountability. According to Transparency International (2020), corruption can limit access to education, employment, and entrepreneurship opportunities. In Budiriro suburb, anti-corruption measures such as strengthening institutions, increasing transparency, and promoting accountability can help reduce corruption and promote accountability. Community-based initiatives can help promote youth empowerment and reduce youth unemployment and crime rates. According to Bhebhe et al. (2016), community-based initiatives such as youth empowerment programs, mentorship programs, and community-based training programs can help promote youth empowerment and reduce youth unemployment and crime rates.

The evidence-based strategies and policy interventions presented in this chapter can help mitigate the impact of youth unemployment on crime rates in Budiriro suburb, Zimbabwe. Policymakers should prioritize education and vocational training programs, job creation initiatives, social protection programs, anti-corruption measures, and community-based initiatives to address the complex challenges of youth unemployment and crime rates in Budiriro suburb. Job creation initiatives can help reduce youth unemployment and crime rates. As argued by Todaro and Smith (2018), job creation initiatives can help reduce unemployment and poverty. In Budiriro suburb, job creation initiatives such as entrepreneurship programs, apprenticeships, and job placement programs can help create jobs and reduce youth unemployment. Social protection programs can provide a safety net for vulnerable households and help reduce poverty and inequality.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **5.0 SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND AREAS OF FURTHER RESEARCH**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

This chapter offers a comprehensive overview of the research conducted. It emphasizes the key findings and responds to the research questions outlined in Chapter 1. Additionally, the chapter illustrates how the study's objectives were achieved. To fulfill these objectives, recommendations are presented to the central government, non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations and faith-based organisations. The suggestions are grounded in the current literature and empirical evidence from the present study. Ultimately, areas for future research are proposed.

#### **5.2 Summary**

Chapter 1 introduces the research study, providing background information and context. It outlines the study's purpose, objectives, problem statement, research questions, assumptions, delimitations, limitations, and essential definitions. The significance of the study is also emphasized.

Chapter 2 provides a comprehensive summary of the literature review and theoretical frameworks underpinning the investigation into the impact of youth unemployment on crime rates in Budiriro, Harare. The discussion highlights key findings, research gaps and implications for methodology and research questions.

Chapter 3 outlined the research design, sampling methods, data collection techniques, validity, reliability, pre-testing, and ethical considerations. Ensuring rigor and ethical conduct, this study aims to offer significant perspectives on the connection between youth unemployment and criminal activity rates.

Chapter 4 analyses the researcher's data analysis, presentation and discussion of findings gained in Budiro suburb examining the relationship between youth unemployment and criminal activity rate in urban areas of Zimbabwe. Data was acquired through interviews and a focus group discussion. Feedbacks from the discussion were used to present the findings.

Chapter 5 provided a summary, key recommendations, and conclusions derived from the study are presented. Additionally, the implications of the study along with suggestions for future research are included.

### **5.3 Conclusions**

The results of the study responded to the research inquiries that were presented in Chapter 1:

#### **I. What is the nature and extent of the relationship between youth unemployment and crime rates in Budiro suburb, Harare?**

The initial inquiry focused on the nature and extent of the relationship between youth unemployment and crime rates in the Budiro suburb of Harare. The research findings revealed a significant correlation between youth unemployment and crime rates in this case study, attributed to several factors such as the rapid increase in the youth population, extensive rural-to-urban migration predominantly by young individuals, and the backdrop of a declining economy from 1980 to the present. A critical factor contributing to this issue is the government's inability to provide employment opportunities for newly qualified youth. Furthermore, political patronage is prevalent in Zimbabwe, adversely affecting the ability of youth to find jobs. The characteristics of urban youth unemployment are diverse, encompassing individuals who have never participated in any form of paid employment, including school dropouts, as well as graduates from basic schools,

technical institutions, and universities. Another category of unemployment arises from retrenchment, where individuals lost their jobs during various tumultuous periods in the country's history. The transition from the Zimbabwean Dollar to a multicurrency system in 2009 resulted in the closure of numerous companies and the cessation of many informal economic activities that had previously thrived. With youth facing economic marginalization, their future prospects appear grim. This situation also discourages investment from the few individuals who are employed, as they bear the responsibility of supporting the unemployed. Consequently, unemployment contributes to a decline in living standards. Additionally, urban youth unemployment is linked to increased drug abuse, violence, and other criminal activities, including prostitution.

## **II. What types of crimes are most commonly committed by unemployed youth in Budiriro suburb, and what factors motivate them to engage in criminal activities?**

The second question was posed that is what types of crimes are most commonly committed by unemployed youth in Budiriro suburb, and what factors motivate them to engage in criminal activities? The research findings indicated that one of the primary types of crimes committed by unemployed youths is property crime, including theft, burglary, and robbery. According to Mupedziswa and Gumbo (2014), these crimes are often motivated by the need for financial survival. Unemployed youths may see these crimes as a means to acquire basic necessities like food and shelter. Furthermore, the lack of job opportunities and economic instability in Zimbabwe exacerbate the situation, leading to increased desperation and frustration among youths. In addition to property crimes, unemployed youths in urban areas of Zimbabwe are also involved in violent crimes, such as assault, armed robbery, and homicide. Research by Muchemwa (2017) suggests that these crimes may be linked to the frustration and desperation resulting from unemployment. Youths who feel marginalized and excluded from unemployment economic opportunities may turn

to violence as a means of expressing their anger and frustration. Findings of the research study also indicated that informal sector crimes are another type of crime committed by unemployed youths in urban areas of Zimbabwe. According to Chirisa and Dumba (2015), they supported that these crimes include street vending, pirating, and smuggling, which may be seen as alternative livelihood strategies in the absence of formal employment. Unemployed youths may engage in these crimes as a means of economic survival, often due to a lack of access to education and job opportunities. Gang-related crimes are also prevalent among unemployed youths in urban areas of Zimbabwe. Research by Mhlanga (2018) suggests that unemployed youths may join gangs as a means of economic survival, leading to involvement in crimes such as extortion, kidnapping, and murder. Gang membership may provide a sense of belonging and identity for unemployed youths, but it also perpetuates a cycle of violence and crime.

### **III. To what extent do socio-economic factors such as poverty, education, and family background contribute to youth unemployment and crime in Budiriro suburb?**

The third question pertained to what extent do socio-economic factors such as poverty, education, and family background contribute to youth unemployment and crime in Budiriro suburb? This study argued that the socio-economic factors contributing to youth unemployment and crime rates in Budiriro are complex and interconnected. In Budiriro, many young people lack access to quality education, limiting their job prospects. This is further supported by the study done by Chakanya (2016) who found that 60% of youths in Budiriro had not completed secondary education, perpetuating the cycle of unemployment. According to the research findings poverty is another critical factor contributing to youth unemployment and crime rates in Budiriro. As noted by Wilson (1996), poverty can lead to social exclusion, which in turn can drive young people to engage in criminal activities. In Budiriro, poverty is endemic, with many households struggling to

access basic necessities like food, healthcare, and housing. The research came to an appreciation that addressing these socio-economic challenges necessitates a thorough strategy that incorporates education and vocational training, job creation initiatives, anti-corruption measures, and social protection programs. By drawing on scholarly research and insights, policymakers can develop effective solutions to mitigate the impact of youth unemployment and crime in Budiriro.

#### **IV. How does youth unemployment affect public safety and urban development in Budiriro suburb?**

The fourth question pertained to how youth unemployment affect public safety and urban development in Budiriro suburb. This study has clearly shown that youth unemployment has an impact on public safety and urban development in Budiriro is significant. In Budiriro, the lack of employment opportunities has contributed to a rise in gang-related violence, as young people seek protection and a sense of belonging. This was further supported by the Zimbabwe Republic Police (2020) who reported a 30% increase in reported crimes in Budiriro between 2018 and 2020, with the majority of perpetrators being young people.

#### **V. What evidence-based strategies and policy interventions can be implemented to address youth unemployment and reduce crime rates in urban areas of Zimbabwe?**

The final inquiry that the research aimed to address was whether evidence-based strategies and policy interventions can be implemented to address youth unemployment and reduce crime rates in urban areas of Zimbabwe. According to the research findings of this study, the showed that youth unemployment indeed is a pervasive challenge in urban areas of Zimbabwe. However, several evidence-based strategies and policy interventions were identified that can help mitigate the impact of youth unemployment on crime rates in Budiriro suburb. According to the research

findings of this study, education and vocational training programs can play a crucial role in reducing youth unemployment and crime rates. Studies done by Chakanya (2016) also supports this view that vocational training programs can equip young people with skills to compete in the market.

## **5.4 Recommendations**

The study makes the following recommendations to the Ministry of Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation, Non-Governmental Organisations, Community-Based Organisations and Faith-Based Organisations.

### **1. Ministry of Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation**

There is need for government to rise up to the challenge of unemployment and demonstrate commitment towards responsible governance, by creating job opportunities for the teeming unemployed youths.

### **2. Non-Governmental Organisations**

NGOs can play a crucial role in addressing youth unemployment and its impact on crime rates in urban areas of Zimbabwe through establishing job training and vocational programs that equip youth with enjoyable skills offer support for young entrepreneurs, and implement initiatives that promote economic empowerment.

### **3. Community-Based Organisations**

CBOs can develop community-based initiatives that create jobs and income-generating opportunities for youth, such as community gardens, cooperatives, or small-scale industries and

should offer skills development programs that focus on areas such as technology, trades, or entrepreneurship.

#### **4. Faith-Based Organisations**

FBOs should develop faith-based initiatives that promote values such as hard work, integrity, and community service, and they should engage in community outreach programs that provide support to vulnerable youth and families.

#### **5.5 Areas of further research**

The purpose of the study was to investigate the impact of youth unemployment on crime rates in urban areas of Zimbabwe, with a specific focus on Budiriro suburb. Some scholars should research on the psychological and social implications of youth unemployment on crime rates in Zimbabwe.

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## APPENDIX 1: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR BUDIRO YOUTH RESIDENTS

### Introduction

My name is Michelle M Maunganidze B210441B, a final year student carrying out a research in Budiro on the impact of youth unemployment on crime rates in urban areas of Zimbabwe. I kindly ask you to participate in the interview questions that are relevant to my study as part of the fieldwork and information acquired is strictly used for academic and research purposes. Therefore, confidentiality and anonymity is guaranteed hence your participation and cooperation is greatly appreciated.

### Instructions

1. Please answer all the questions honestly
2. Put a tick where is appropriate

### Section A: Biographical Data about the respondent

1. **Gender:** Male      (   )              Female      (   )

2. **Age:**

18-25 years
26 -35 years
36-45 years

3. **Marital Status:**

Single	Married	Widowed	Divorced
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4. **Level of Education:**

No formal education	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
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5. **Monthly Income:**

\$0 - \$100	\$101 - \$200	\$201 - \$500	Above \$500
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6. Number of Children:

0	1-2	3-4	5 or more
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7. Employment Status:

Employed	Unemployed
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**Budiriro, Section B: To examine the relationship between youth unemployment and crime rates in Harare.**

8. Have you ever been unemployed?

Yes	No
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9. Can you tell me about your experience with unemployment?

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10. How long have you been unemployed? \_\_\_\_\_

11. Have you ever been involved in any criminal activity?

Yes	No
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12. What type of crime have you been involved in?

Theft	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Other (please specify)
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13. Do you think unemployment contributes to crime?

Yes	No
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### Section C: Socio-Economic Factors

14. What do you think are the main reasons for youth unemployment in Budiriro suburb?

	Yes	No
Lack of education		
Lack of job opportunities		
Poverty		
Corruption		
Other (please specify)		

15. How do you think socio-economic factors contribute to crime among unemployed youth?

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### Section D: Impact on Public Safety and Urban Development

16. How do you think youth unemployment affects public safety in Budiriro suburb?

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17. What impact do you think youth unemployment has on urban development in Budiriro suburb?

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### Section E: Evidence-Based Strategies and Policy Interventions

18. What do you think are some effective strategies to address youth unemployment in Budiriro suburb?

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19. What policy interventions do you think would help reduce crime rates among unemployed youth?

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### **Conclusion**

Thank you for your time and valuable insights

Do you have any questions you would like to ask or any additional information you would like to share?

## **Key Interview Guide for Budiriro Youth Development Trust**

### **Bindura University of Science Education (BUSE)**

#### **Department of Peace and Governance Studies**

**Title of Research:** The impact of youth unemployment on crime rates in urban areas of Zimbabwe. A case study of Budiriro suburb.

I am Michelle M Maunganidze B210441B, a final year student in Peace and Governance studies at Bindura University of Science Education. The information you are asked to provide is required for research purposes only and will not be used to jeopardise your position or compromise the integrity or status of your organization. Your responses will be kept in confidence and used solely for the purpose of this study. Anonymity is strictly guaranteed. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

#### **Questions**

1. How do you think unemployment affects crime rates in Budiriro suburb?
2. What type of crimes do you think are most prevalent among unemployed youth in Budiriro suburb?
3. Do you believe that youth unemployment is a primary driver of crime in Budiriro, or are other factors at play?
4. How do you think the community in Budiriro suburb can support unemployed youth to prevent them from engaging in criminal activities?
5. Are there any challenges that law enforcement agencies face in addressing crime in Budiriro suburb particularly among unemployed youth?
6. What do you think are the most effective strategies for addressing youth unemployment and crime in Budiriro suburb?

7. Are there any existing programs or initiatives that you think should be scaled up or replicated to address youth unemployment and crime?
8. What role do you think the government, private sector, and civil society organisations should play in addressing youth unemployment and crime in Budiriro suburb?

## dissertation

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