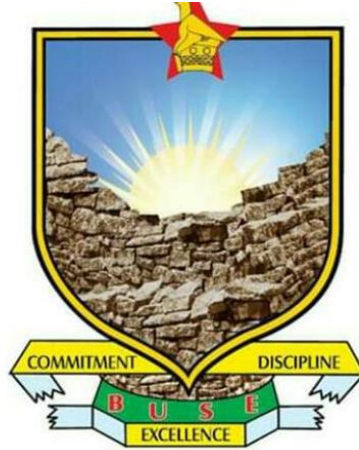


**1BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION**  
**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**



**AN ANALYSIS OF THE MENACE OF CHILD TRAFFICKING IN ZIMBABWE .A**  
**CASE STUDY OF DOMBORAMWARI EPWORTH.**

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**RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PEACE AND GOVERNANCE,**  
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**REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE HONORS DEGREE IN PEACE AND**  
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**SUPERVISOR: DR NYONI**

## ABSTRACT

Child trafficking “is a global phenomenon encompassing areas of sex trafficking, labor trafficking, and indentured servitude. Child trafficking is an exceptionally under researched and growing phenomenon, Epworth ranks as” a town with the one of the largest child trafficking population in Zimbabwe. The qualitative research study “discovers whether, and to what degree, barriers are being presented by law enforcement policies and procedures to law enforcement officials of child trafficking unit within Epworth, within child trafficking and “child exploitation prevention of children aged 5–17. The study utilized “Senge’s systems theory as a framework to understand the barriers confronting” child trafficking within’ Epworth, Harare, using a case study approach for data analysis. The study utilized a Qualtrics active link email survey, developed by the researcher and distributed by Epworth “police department’s Planning, Research and “Special Projects Unit, to collect and lay out the data collection processes and procedures.

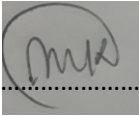
Respondents to the survey were 6 voluntary participants within a police department planning” in Epworth, Harare. The research has impacted “positive social change by educating, unveiling current prevalent barriers, and identifying where further research needs to be conducted” on issues to do with child trafficking.

## DECLARATION FORM

This is to clarify that this research project prepared by B210065B , entitled: An analysis of the menace of child trafficking in Domboramwari Epworth and submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Bachelors honors degree in Peace and Governance complies with the regulations of the University and meets the accepted standards with respect to originality and quality.

Chairperson signature

DR Kurebwa ...Date /10/2025



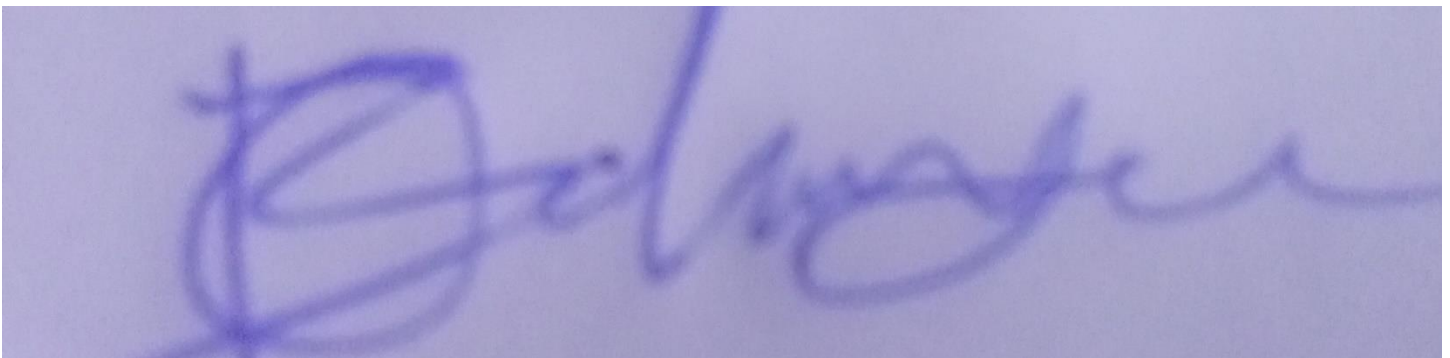
Supervisors Signature

DR Nyoni ....Date 18/10/2025



Student's signature: Owen Banhu

Date..... 21/10/2025.....





## **DEDICATION**

This dissertation is dedicated to my family

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I acknowledge and extend sincere gratitude to my dissertation supervisor Dr. Nyoni, Committee Chairman, Dr Jeffrey Kurebwatira, as well as Bindura University Research Reviewers. Their support and working tirelessly alongside , guiding me to achieve positive social change by extensively contributing their time and efforts to make a difference in the world with their contributions within the academic community and the world in which we live.

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**ACRONYMS**

MSA	- Modern Slavery Act
NGO	- Non Governmental Organization
TAZI	- Twins Association of Zimbabwe
UNICEF	- United Nations International Children's Education Fund
UNODC	- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
ZNPA	- Zimbabwe National Prosecuting Authority



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## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

Globally, about 70 percent of victims of child trafficking are young girls who are disproportionately affected as they are the most preferred victims that are regarded to be profitable as an estimate of about \$150 billion is generated annually by traffickers.

Child trafficking has also impacted across the continent of Africa as a whole, with “the East and Horn of Africa region facing significant challenges related to Child trafficking. According to data from the Counter-trafficking Data Collaborative from” (2002-2022) “in the Continental East and Horn of Africa region , children make up 12 per cent of persons trafficked from the region” indicating how the menace of child trafficking has not only affected individual nations at national level , but rather affected the whole continent of Africa. According to “The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (2022) has played a significant role in exposing the various trends of child trafficking in Africa”, with the support of the African Union Policy Document on Trafficking in Persons (2 022) data indicating on the agenda of child traffickers to use children as much as below the age of 15 being sexually exploited, used for forced labor in Agriculture and mining sectors.

Center for Child Law (2021), gives reference on how child trafficking has become a central concern in South Africa which is regarded as one of the major hotspot destination of child traffickers. Data presented in by South African Human Rights Commission (2018) indicates that children being trafficked in South Africa constitutes of (60 %) young girls below the ages of 15

“for sexual exploitation and (35%) of trafficked young boys as young as 13 years of age” being trafficked in South Africa mainly for forced labor in mines and agricultural activities.

It is also vital to note the factors that have led to the increase “of the menace of child trafficking in Zimbabwe which includes Zimbabwe’s economic situation which has been worsening progressively over the years”, has led to perpetrators of child trafficking having their easy way to trafficking children as they can easily convince children of greener pastures outside of their mother land.

## **1.2 PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

The study seeks to expose the difficulties upon which victims of child trafficking have endured in Zimbabwe and to unveil the hidden agendas of child traffickers as well as providing possible solutions to the insurgence of child trafficking.

## **1.3 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

Child trafficking has been a challenge across various parts of Zimbabwe and it has been a gendered issue with more children particularly girls below the age of (18) being trafficked more than their male counterparts. Therefore there is need to dig deep into grainer details and expose various activities of child trafficking in Zimbabwe as “there is a lot of hearsay and tittle-tattle around child trafficking in Zimbabwe”. Zimbabwe Youth Council, (2021) asserts that “Children mostly young girls below the age of (18) are being ensnared into the complex web of trafficking by the empty promises of trafficking networks of a better life, but rather with an underreported aim of trafficking is for ritual purposes”. The consequences of child trafficking in Zimbabwe has led to young women mostly below the age of (18) being involved in child sex work , children being exposed to early child marriages , unwanted teenage pregnancies as well as “a resurgence

Trafficking in Zimbabwe “is associated with several short and long-term biological, socio – economic and developmental consequences of children”, which is clear evidence of how the menace of child trafficking greatly affects educational development of children, “robs society of balanced and empowered human capital essential for sustainable development”. The specific problem is that negative impacts of child trafficking in Zimbabwe, has led to young children particularly women being exposed to sexually exploitation which has also exposed them to higher risks of HIV infections as girls as young “as 12 years are being sexually exploited” in foreign land, with Migration Council of Zimbabwe (2022) giving statistics of an estimated 4,200 incident infections on younger victims. Powel, (2022) focuses their studies on challenges faced by female victims and other samples do not include male victims. This study looks on both male and both female victims of child trafficking in Zimbabwe.

#### **1.4 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

- To get a clear understanding as well as creating solution on the challenges being faced by victims of child trafficking
- To get a deeper understanding the effectiveness of the measure that can be undertaking to decrease the abduction of young children
- To Understanding a wide overview of the various actions the government has undertaken to solve the challenge of child trafficking
- To get clear overview on both “the government and non-governmental” organizations partnership is effective in solving the challenge of child trafficking.

#### **1.5 RESEAECH QUESTIONS**

- What are the measures that can be undertaken to prevent the increase in the abduction of young children?
- What action has the government taken to ensure that imposed child trafficking laws are fully adhered to?
- Is there significant relationship between the government and non-governmental institutions in partnering to solve the effects of child trafficking?

### **1.6 ASSUMPTIONS**

- Child trafficking has multiple effects on community social security and affects the nation at large.
- Only children below the ages of 10 to 14 years are vulnerable to effects of child tracking as they are regarded major targets of traffickers.

### **1.7 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

The study plays a significant role in terms of exposing the various inhuman treatments, such as forced labor as well as sexual exploitation being inflicted upon younger children as early as the ages between 9 to 12 years. Therefore this study will assist the responsible authorities of Zimbabwe to devise mechanisms to protect the livelihoods of younger children and enact stiffer laws to protect the younger generations from falling victims to child traffickers.

The study plays an insight role which is of great significance in providing an understanding into what contributes to the increase in cases of human trafficking in Zimbabwe, Authorities as well as ordinary citizens of Zimbabwe will be better equipped to understand and master the changes that needs to be developed and also in terms of amending the “Child abduction Act Chapter (5:05) and the criminal Law Codification and Reform Act Chapter (9:22)” which have

proven to be rather ineffective in addressing the menace of child trafficking in Zimbabwe .

The study provides an in-depth analysis which is of great significance in making further research on the challenge of child trafficking in Zimbabwe will also encourage law makers and security departments to champion policy changes that further enables authorities to counter child trafficking perpetrators strategies of trafficking children as the study provide relevant information of strategic entries as well as modes of operations of child traffickers which will make law enforcement agents to operate being equipped with full knowledge of traffickers operations and agendas. This study may also benefit parents that are exposed to designated areas where child traffickers operate, as the study exposes different mistakes being made by parent in terms of providing much security to their children which makes them vulnerable to child traffickers.

This study is also of great significance as it will also provide well equipped information for the government and responsible authorities to take corrective measures and strategies on how best the menace of child trafficking can be counters , for example the study exposes major boarder points such as Stopover and Epworth , Domboramwari which are bases of child traffickers to ferry young children to neighboring countries like South Africa , hence the study by providing well researched information will ensure that the authorities of Zimbabwe will enforce tight securities at boarder pointes well as capture perpetrators of child trafficking and ensure justice to be served for our younger generations. Therefore this study plays major significance to the responsible authorities to with well-equipped research information to tighten security to combat the menace of child trafficking as well as of great importance to the livelihoods of children of Zimbabwe as their vulnerabilities to child traffickers will also be exposed.

### **1.8 DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY**

The research will more particularly apply to issues of children being trafficked and



barriers “personally placed by the researcher on the study within the researchers control to set specific boundaries to achieve the research’s overall objective”, Fountouki, (2022). As “the scope of the study investigated the subject matter of child trafficking and establishes boundaries within children’s age groups, the locations and the specific areas of child trafficking in Zimbabwe. Due to the study being conducted within a greater metropolitan area” of Harare and the child trafficking unit in Harare, “the study participants are limited to the specific region of the capital. Due to the nature of working towards preventing child trafficking by law enforcement” in parts of the country , it is therefore difficult during the study to disclose

## **1.9 LIMITATIONS**

The research “Limitations are the present weaknesses, also known as restrictions, within the study outside the researcher’s control” Theofanidis, (2022). Limitations of this study are encountered as law enforcement officers statistics on child trafficking in Zimbabwe could not “disclose information that would place child trafficking survivors in jeopardy of being victimized”, therefore certain pieces of information vital to the research could not be disclosed. The research geographically will not cover far reaching areas of the country such as Masvingo rural, Gokwe rural as well as others rural areas in Zimbabwe where child trafficking remains a menace. Throughout the research it is difficult to identify observable populations and behaviors as primary data collection in the trafficking field seems to only focus on current victims therefore neglecting former victims of child trafficking. Another limitation is the inability to carry investigations particularly on getting reliable information from survivors of child trafficking as fears of victimization , thus the hidden nature of the populations during the study limits the credibility of the research therefore resulting in few reliable estimates on child trafficking .Another limitation during the study is that it proves to be challenging to defend ethically an investigation , identifying victims

, interviewing them as well as collecting reliable data about ongoing abuses, exploitation as well as coercion of children into child trafficking .

### **1.10 DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS**

- **Child trafficking**

child trafficking refers to a situation whereby a person recruits , transports , transfers , harbors or receives a child less than 18 years of age for sexual exploitation , forced labor or services , slavery or practices similar to slavery , servitude or the removal of organs” (Albright et al , 2022).

- **Trafficking in persons**

Trafficking in persons refers to the recruitment, transportation, or use of force or other forms of coercion of abduction, of the abuse of power to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for exploitation”. (Dahlstrom, 2022).

- **Sex trafficking**

Sex trafficking is a form of modern day slavery in which individuals perform commercial sex through the use of force , fraud or coercion and sex trafficking exists within diverse and unique sets of venues”. (NHTH, 2021).

- **Commercial sexual exploitation**

Commercial sexual exploitation of children: is a range of crimes whereby victims of trafficking are used as sexual objects by the perpetrators of child trafficking. Dandurad (2017).

### **1.11 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Before conducting the interviews, elders of villages and other traditional leaders are informed of the researcher’s objectives in their areas of origin for permission to be granted to conduct the research and interviews. Confidentiality and anonymity is also ensured for all participants in

during the research which implies that all participants during the research will be conducted in accordance with their concern clearly following the principle of ethical research

### **1.11 DISSERTATION OUTLINE**

In order for the research to get a vivid understanding of the different mechanisms used by Epworth, Domboramwari local Authorities in reacting to the challenges being faced by local Epworth communities as a result of child trafficking, the dissertation will be divided into a number of vital chapters to clearly articulate the purpose of the research.

**CHAPTER 1:** The chapter “gives a brief overview of the research’s background, challenges associated with the research, aims of the research as well as the research’s’ importance **Chapter**

**2:** This chapter creates a theoretical foundation of the study by the way the chapter reviews pertinent literature on the effects of child trafficking, resilience by community members as well as different coping mechanisms

**Chapter 3:** This chapter illustrates “the research methodology and research design as well as the research’s qualitative approach and data gathering techniques of the study”.

**Chapter 4:** This chapter outlines the results of focus groups, different interviews and observations showing different vital themes pertaining to coping mechanisms used by Epworth communities against child trafficking.

**Chapter 5:** This chapter “provides an analysis of the research findings”, implications for community’s resilience in light of the body of previous literature of the study

## **CHAPTER TWO**

## **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 INTRODUCTION**

Cases of human trafficking have been “a global phenomenon that seems like an impossible feat to end due to the ever-changing nature and expansion in defining”. The research on the challenges of Child trafficking in Zimbabwe particularly Epworth, Harare has raised a lot “more questions than resolutions and illustrates many barriers identified within various Instances”. Therefore although the literature in this research chapter “identifies barriers, each is a particular subset of the system, and numbers continue to rise within each system”, on how young children between ages of 5 to 15 years of age are being lured into the webs of child traffickers. Therefore this chapter of the research has a literature that “proposes an investigation of the system rather than a particular instance of human trafficking” in various parts of Zimbabwe including Epworth, Harare. Thus this chapter of the research Looked “at the complete system of child trafficking rather than individual parts works toward identifying the barrier of child trafficking itself”, and aims to understand where the barriers of child trafficking in Zimbabwe have originated from as well as what has been done by previous researches “to resolve the barrier, and what resolution has been reached to prevent the human trafficking of children ages 5–17 from happening” in Zimbabwe.

### **2.2 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

The research is guided by Human needs and Society Outcries Theory. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (2022) presented statistics on the various activities of human trafficking at a Global level” which recruitment, transportation, harboring exercising

control by exploiting a person typically through sexual exploitation or forced labor. Rural areas have been vulnerable to perpetrators of child trafficking since people live on the outskirts of communities with limited security unlike urban areas, therefore lack of security responses as well as child trafficking mitigation mechanisms in rural areas have exacerbated the increase in cases of child trafficking, leaving children in vulnerable state easily being victims to perpetrators of child trafficking. According to Methew (2017) the continuous abduction of children has contributed immensely to the outcries of young children as well as affecting societal and human needs of peace and security within communities.

Human needs and societies outcry theory further acknowledges the role of authorities to maintain security and make corrective measures to ensure that communities are protected from perpetrators of child trafficking for their security to be guaranteed. Hence according to Jefferson (2019) this theory implies that child trafficking has led to vulnerabilities of children below the ages of 8 to 14 and these vulnerabilities have led to underdevelopment, conflict and social insecurities within communities. Therefore security of children must be met for peace and substantive fear to be eliminated from societies where ordinary citizens reside and ensure that the future of children is guaranteed for their safety.

## **2.3 THE CONCEPT OF CHILD TRAFFICKING AT GLOBAL LEVEL**

Canadian Department of justice (2022) reflects on how child trafficking at a global level has become a very serious criminal offense, as evident by its publication in (2023) presents data which shows an approximate of over 20.9 million victims of child trafficking globally with the US as a major destination amounting to over \$49.9 billion annually as profits from illegal child trafficking activities. Issues of “Human trafficking consists of more than solely sex trafficking, though many Organizations tackling the global phenomenon have solely placed their focus on sex

trafficking”.

Farrell (2020) notes, “labor trafficking is less identified than sex trafficking because law enforcement officials have tended to focus primarily on sex trafficking” , showing how various statistics and publications on child trafficking at a global level have emphasized more on the primary objective of child trafficking being more on sex trafficking tendencies excluding parts of the labor tendencies. This shows how (stats Canada, 2022) presents statistics on how in (2022) a number of about “206 reports of child trafficking in Canada with 93% of the victims being female, 47% between the ages of (18 and 24) and 25% under the age of 18”.This shows how child trafficking has been a major challenge at a global scale whereby across different continents “Children as young as six years of age are being forced to work extensive hours in dangerous settings such as in quarries, mines and factories”.

## **2.4 THE CONCEPT OF CHILD TRAFFICKING IN AFRICA**

According to Raphael (2022), globally children accounts for 20% of all the human trafficking victims worldwide and at a global level “one (1) in three (3) identified victims of child trafficking is a child”. The massive increase in the cases of child trafficking has continued to be presented by The theory of child trafficking is also complimented by “(UNODC) Global Report (2022) on trafficking in persons shows an 11 percent increase in the percentage of victims of child trafficking”, with the East and Horn of Africa region being perceived as major designated child trafficking hotspots. As per “According to data from the counter- trafficking data collaborative from (2002-2022), in the East and Horn of Africa region children make up 12 percent of the persons trafficked from the region, with between (2018-2022), IOM in the region assisting over 4,000 survivors of child trafficking” .These reports and statistics vividly depicts the severity “of the challenges of child trafficking at a global level and” how child trafficking has become a world

concern.

In Zimbabwe's case, Marshal (2023) gives reference on how “throughout the discovery process of this research, explicitly searching for literature relating to child trafficking, law enforcement, policies, procedures, barriers, a greater metropolitan area within Epworth child trafficking unit, child trafficking prevention”, in Epworth, Harare as well as Zimbabwe as a whole. All the literature identified when the study was conducted only embraced two to two areas namely Domboramwari and Stopover in Epworth, and “most of the literature was significantly based on the psychological impacts child trafficking had on the victims”. Chikumo (2021) reflected on the magnitude of the challenge of child trafficking in Zimbabwe and indicated on how “One of the significant advantages of conducting this study was to add to the literature and look at the phenomenon of child trafficking from a systems standpoint in order to improve the area of prevention by identifying policies and procedures that implicated barriers to law enforcement officials within a human trafficking unit within a greater area”, of Epworth, Harare.

## **2.5 CONCEPT OF CHILD TRAFFICKING MITIGATION STRATEGIES**

As noted by the International Organization for Migration 2024 child trafficking in rural areas constitute “children between the ages of 13 and 17 form the largest groups of child victims accounting for 46.6% of cases reported at the time of IOM registration”. Therefore governments efforts to be successful there is need to “prioritize evidence based actions that address the specific drivers and vulnerabilities in different child trafficking contexts. Child trafficking preventative measures should focus on increasing resilience, reducing vulnerability and raising awareness in communities about the dangers and signs of child trafficking”. Maxwell (2022) gives reference on how educating children and parents on the dangers of child trafficking can reduce the impacts

of trafficking's from being diverse. For example there is need to educate victims and community members especially educating children regardless of their backgrounds to ensure their safety.

## **2.6 THE CONCEPT OF CHILD TRAFFICKING**

Rose (2022) reflects on how Child Trafficking is mainly centered on “children being procured, relocated and forced into exploitation usually for labor or sexual exploitation”. The concept of child trafficking focuses mainly on the effects and the impacts of child trafficking on children and seeks to give a clear picture on how children may feel distressed and alienated due to their separation from their families. As outlined by the Palermo Protocol (2002), the concept of child trafficking is centered on “anyone who is involved in the recruitment, movement, containment receipt or the forced labor and exploitation of children illegally is a party to child trafficking”, “with the Modern Slavery Act (MSA) (2015) outlining that anyone who has played a role in the facilitation of any part of the movement” of another person for exploitation has committed an act of offence against the right of a child.

At the global level “according to ECPAT between (2020) and 2021, 60% of the victims of child trafficking in countries such as the UK were mainly British descent with” global human trafficking agenda about 90% of the victims being women whom are often chosen for sex trade.

## **2.7 THE CONCEPT OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

The “Model Programs Guide literature review on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of trafficking of Children/Sex Trafficking” (2022), gives reference on how “any minor involved in a commercial sex act with or without the use of force is considered a sex trafficking victim” in human trafficking. In (2015), “there were 14,262 labor-trafficking victims identified worldwide. According to a 2022 study by the International Labor Organization (ILO), there were about 5.5



million children (aged 17 and below) trafficked globally for sexual exploitation” , between (2022 and 2022).

The “department of Justice’s National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and interdiction, publication in 2010) and updated in (2016)”, addresses sexual exploitation in child trafficking as involving the recruitment ,transportation as well as solicitation of a person under the age of 18 for the purposes of commercial sex acts. Larson (2022), reflects on how at a Global level countless young girls have been “victims of sexual misconduct and exploitation which are violations that are pervasive, cutting across all nations and societal strata”. In the Global context sexual exploitation in Child trafficking has involved “torture and all forms of violence against children”, which has led to all forms of “harmful practices, such as child , early and forced marriages as well as female genital mutilation , which place children at risk of experiencing child sexual exploitation abuse and violence”. The concept of sexual exploitation shows how child trafficking at a global level has been an act of “gross violation of children rights and global public health problem”, therefore as a result of child trafficking, young children being exploited sexually have been exposed to sexual infections such as HIV/AIDS as well as other sexual diseases which are detriment to the health of children.

## **2.8 THE CONCEPT OF FORCED LABOUR**

The “Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of” 2022 defines labor trafficking as “the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force or fraud or coercion for the purposes of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery”. A “common model that is used to determine if an individual is being labor trafficked is the “Actions Means-Purpose” (AMP) model (Polaris Project 2012). In

the AMP model, “actions” include inducing, recruiting, harboring, transporting”, providing, or obtaining an individual. The component “involves using force, fraud, and/or coercion. Finally, the “purpose” aspect is related to the reason an individual is being exploited, which, in the case of trafficking, is for labor or other services” (Polaris Project 2021).

Mateu , (2023) reveals how as a result of child trafficking , at a global level , forced labor has been a severe violation of human rights affecting about “27.6 million of children both boys and girls in all countries and all economic sectors. Children as a result of Child trafficking across the Globe have been forced to labor in illicit sectors with Walk Free (2023) statistics showing that about 32 % of child forced labor exploitation took place in the service sectors excluding domestic work” with children trafficked being “18.7 percent in manufacturing , 16.3 percent in construction ,12 ,3 percent in agriculture” as well as 8.2 percent in domestic work showing how of a great magnitude of forced labor trafficked children have been involved in globally.

## **2.9 THE CONCEPT OF EARLY CHILD MARRIAGES**

Child marriage is “any legal or customary union involving a boy or a girl below the age of 18” (Parsons et al., 2019, p. 12). This is analysis or definition of early child marriages in child trafficking is also “considered by both United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Fund for Population Analysis (UNFPA)”. Boyden (2021 p. 511) gives reference on how early marriage in child trafficking “as any union between individuals under the age of 18 years, this being the minimum legal age of marriage and the age of majority” , being forcefully forced to engage into early child marriage activities through child trafficking processes. The (2019) “Pan African Forum against the Sexual Exploitation of Children in Morocco that forced child marriages are a form of commercial sexual exploitation of Children”.

## 2.10 SOCIAL CONSTRAINTS TO CHILD TRAFFICKING MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Social constraints to mitigate the effects of child trafficking often involves family separation as well as parents or caregivers falling into trafficking, leading to disruption of “family reunification which is essential to keep children from falling into trafficking”. Therefore family separation as noted by (2022) has been a major drawback to the efforts of solving child trafficking with specific regions also being affected “such as South –East Asia sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America being affected” , therefore child trafficking mitigation measures should focus on uniting families , “raising awareness about the dangers and signs of child trafficking”.

Point Loma Nazarene University (2020) used pre and post assessment tools to collect data through descriptive and inferential statistical analyses with the use of qualitative thematic analysis was conducted to triangulate key findings on the effects being experienced by victims of child trafficking as well as devising measurable solutions to curb the challenge of child trafficking. Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (2017) conducted research on child trafficking and proposed for the prevention of child trafficking through education programming at schools as their (20016-2017) research showed that at a Global level schools have been major targets of child traffickers , hence efforts needs to be invested through the development of education curriculum and its implementation in school settings. Therefore there is need for education mobilized training across most affected countries for children to be aware of the dangers on their surroundings. Boal (2020) after his researches on the effects of child trafficking proposed a solution for the use of essential frameworks , Models and approaches , to ensure a public health approach to prevent child trafficking as well as calling for Multidisciplinary collaboration with community’s engagement, thus using an interactive and creative model is essential in solving child

trafficking to enhance community awareness.

### **2.10.1 POLITICAL CONSTRAINS ON CHILD TRAFFICKING MITIGATION**

Chelsea (2020) , research on challenges of child trafficking reveals that “most abduction prevention strategies should focus on teaching children safe responses to lure from strangers as the “US Department of justice gives reference on how an estimate of 58,200 children are victims of nonfamily abductions” whereby children are being taken by the use of force , threats. In 2016, the U.S. Department of State (2016) began reporting on the number of labor-trafficking victims

Identified across the globe” whereas its statistics in 2017 gave a clearer understanding on the number of children involved in labor trafficking as “there were 14,262 labor-trafficking victims identified worldwide”. These statistics plays a crucial role in devising mechanisms and strategic planning on how to counter the challenge of child trafficking as evident by statistics According to a 2020 “study by the International Labor Organization (ILO), there were about 5.5 million children (aged 17 and below) trafficked globally (both for sex and labor) between 2017 and 2018”, clearly giving an understanding on the magnitude of child trafficking at a global level forcing responsible authorities to act accordingly. Therefore these statistics by different platforms gives an evolving view of trafficking therefore urging “policymakers to consider child victims of human trafficking as resilient individuals who are survivors they are vulnerable, but not necessarily helpless” (Freedom Network USA 2022). This perspective “also recognizes that victims of child trafficking have different needs based on age, gender, and socioeconomic background. To account for these differences and promote resiliency, services should be

Individualized, incorporate indigenous/cultural healing practices, and emphasize empowerment (President’s Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in

Persons”.

## **2.11 SUMMARY OF THE CHAPTER**

The chapter showed how child marriages, forced labor have been major challenges affecting children in the hands of child traffickers. The concept of sexual exploitation shows how child trafficking at a global level has been an act of “gross violation of children rights and global public health problem”, therefore as a result of child trafficking, young children being exploited sexually have been exposed to sexual infections such as HIV/AIDS as well as other sexual diseases which are detriment to the health of children.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

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

#### **3.1 INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this qualitative research study “is to discover whether, and to what degree, barriers to child trafficking are being presented to law enforcement officials by law enforcement policies and procedures in a human trafficking unit within the area of Epworth”, Domboramwari “to Prevent trafficking of children between the ages (5 to 17) within various marginalized areas of

Zimbabwe. The focus was placed on identifying barriers created by law enforcement policies faced by law enforcement officials in areas” such as Epworth Domboramwari in Zimbabwe “to combat the human trafficking of children ages 5–17. At a global level in 2021, the U.S. DOS (2021) reported that the human trafficking industry had grown to generate an estimated \$150 billion per year globally from a global perspective, in 2020, there were 109,216 victims identified, of which 28,538 were within the United States” and globally.

### **3.2 RESEACH PHILOSOPHY**

The philosophy guiding this study was 30nterpretivism basing on how understanding reality on child trafficking can be constructed by social interaction between both victims of child trafficking as well as various authorities that seek to find a lasting solution to the menace. At a global level ,Bryant (2018) of Midlands state University reflected on how his beliefs on child trafficking is based on the assumption that children are being trafficked for the purposes of ritual killings , with young girls being used for corporeal extractions and other symbolic elements such as young girls underwear’s , with Nigerian National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons NAPTIP (2020) providing beliefs on how in March 2020 , the Oba of Benin Kingdom in Southern Nigeria has used young trafficked girl child to perform rituals to neutralize the oath curses on various elders to invoke curse laid upon various native doctors .Doomernik (2020) , presented statistics of his researches on child trafficking provided assumptions on how enslavement and exploitation continues across the globe and reflects on how the term child trafficking has become a contemporary catch all phrase to include a variety of abuses. Martinez (2017) ,Provided an overview on how child trafficking has been as a result of “global slave trade of the colonial era to the thinking that supports the current systems of neoliberalism and global capitalism” , therefore Jeff (2019) provides assumptions on how child trafficking at global level

has been as a result of rationalization of the global slave trade in the colonial era which are still present today , laying a belief that child trafficking has been in the “rationalization of exploitation of children for global profit making today”.

### **3.3 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

Throughout the research, data collection methods were used such as interviews and field observations to understand survivors of child trafficking experiences, thoughts, behaviors and concepts through the use of verbal and written data. The purpose of using interviews and field observations “is to discover whether, and to what degree, barriers to child trafficking are being presented to law enforcement officials by law enforcement policies and procedures in a human trafficking unit within the area of Epworth to Prevent the trafficking of children between the ages (5 to 17)”, within various marginalized areas of Zimbabwe. Therefore this section of the research is going to give a vivid explanation of how the research used these tool in collecting data.

### **3. 4 RESEARCH DESIGN**

This study uses a qualitative research design which is a natural process which get a vivid picture on the effects of child trafficking in the everyday lives of Epworth local communities, with qualitative data used during the research employed a variety of different methods and analysis which includes questionnaires, interviews and also observations which all allowed the researcher to get a vivid insight on the exact nature of child trafficking in Epworth, Harare .The qualitative research design used “aims at addressing the following research question: What existing law

enforcement policies do law enforcement officials within a human trafficking units in Zimbabwe perceive as barriers to preventing human trafficking of children ages 5–17”. I “sought to understand the phenomenon by utilizing the individual perceptions of barriers presented by law enforcement policies to human trafficking law enforcement officials within” larger marginalized areas of Zimbabwe, therefore I used a qualitative methodology. Martinez (2019) argued that “the barriers within policies and procedures to law enforcement officials were additionally analyzed to determine what barriers are presented to those who are serving within a human trafficking units in a greater parts of areas in Zimbabwe to become more effective in the prevention of human trafficking of children who range within the ages of 5 to 17”.

### **3.5 TARGET POPULATION AND SAMPLE**

In this study the targeted population was children ranging from ages of between (5 to 17) years, which are the ages of populations mostly affected by child trafficking. The study by engaging with the population of younger children, it also aimed at working with the population of elderly members of communities, parents as well as other private players who have enough knowledge about child trafficking activities around various parts of Zimbabwe. The researched used a qualitative research approach in gathering information from the diverse population it worked with in order to gather viable information on the series of child trafficking activities from various areas of Epworth, with the researching using a random sampling technique in selecting exact affected areas to target certain populations to gather non exaggerated information on various activities of child trafficking. Through the random sampling technique a targeted population of about (80 to 90) participants both young children as well as elderly members of communities are targeted for the research to gain viable information on activities surrounding child trafficking in Zimbabwe



### **3.6 SAMPLING METHOD**

The research uses Stratified random sampling technique as Braveman (2021) defined sampling “as a process that is used in statistical analysis in which a group of observations are extracted from a larger population”, which allows information to be collected through a smaller number of participants. The research therefore used sampling technique that allowed the researcher to select the participants who would represent the whole Epworth population in responding to the research questions.

#### **3.6.1 Purposive sampling**

In this study, a “purposive sampling is used” to gather viable information on challenges being faced by victims of child trafficking as well getting an understanding on how perpetrators of child trafficking are taking advantage of vulnerable children. According to Marko (2022) , stratified random sampling technique that allows the researcher to rely on his own judgment in terms of choosing or selecting people that can participate in the study and the study was conducted with the inclusion of population that included individuals and groups of community members who were engaged in Epworth child trafficking hotspots who were affected directly by challenges of child trafficking. These groups consisted of local community members, “government officials, and representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) who were all involved in” making the quest of solving the challenges of child trafficking a success. The diversifying of the population in the study was crucial for providing both qualitative and quantitative reflections into the effectiveness of different strategies the research seeks to initiate to achieve a total subjugation of child trafficking activities in Zimbabwe.

By using the quantitative method of research, the study used sample collection of households from various child trafficking hotspots from Epworth. A stratified random sampling technique was used during the research to ensure participative inclusion of various demographic groups, including those from different, cultural groups, income levels, and gender groups to

prevent gender stereotyping in conducting the research. Markol (2017) views on the effectiveness of sampling in conducting researches was used to conduct a sample size of approximately 150-180 households was targeted. During the research this sample size of 45-55 proved to be large enough to gather much needed results of the study as well as maintaining the necessary depth of analysis on the most child trafficking affected populations in Epworth. By using the qualitative research technique, the study selected an approximate key informants of about 280, including ordinary citizens of Epworth community, various government officials, and available civic society groups and staff that had a willing to positively contribute towards devising mechanisms to deal with the menace of child trafficking in Zimbabwe.

### **3.7 DATA COLLECTION METHODS**

Data was collected through interviews, focus group discussions and field observations. The “focus within the development of the email survey questionnaire was placed on specific keywords from within the research question”, Barmol (2017) who supported the effectiveness of questionnaires in research led to the research using “developed email survey questionnaire which sought to understand participants’ understanding of human trafficking, the definition of human trafficking, and the children within human trafficking. The email survey questionnaire also sought to understand what prevention means; what barriers are being faced; what barriers have been corrected; how to further prevent and deter these barriers in place and how to overcome these barriers within the area of law enforcement, politically, to expand knowledge not only locally, state-wide, but to assist globally. The email survey questionnaire” also served as an effective tool to uncovering the reasons for “the system is failing within the area of prevention and the decline of human trafficking statistical numbers pertaining to children between the ages of 5 and 17 within a greater area” of Epworth in Zimbabwe.

### **3.7.1 QUALITATIVE DATA ANALYSIS**

The qualitative data was gathered from the use of semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions. Basing Jude (2022) views on the importance of transcripts on a research, the transcripts of the research were read multiple times so that the researchers was familiarized with the content of the research. The research also made of Codes and these were assigned to recurring issues, different research patterns, and significant statements related to climate change adaptation. These themes were developed inductively, meaning that they emerged directly from the data rather than being predetermined by the researcher.

For instance, the data revealed by participants played a significant role in giving a vivid explanation on the effects that child trafficking has had both on families as well as communities at large, such as limited access to financial resources, lack of awareness about available technologies, and inadequate support from local government institutions. These challenges were grouped as barriers to mitigation of the challenges of child trafficking which provided a comprehensive understanding of the challenges faced by households in Epworth Domboramwari.

### **3.7.2 SEMI STRUCTURED INTERVIEWS**

These are conversations whereby the research uses a pre-defined set of guiding questions but allows flexibility to get exploration topics which are unanticipated. The research uses semi structured interviews to to collect data from samples of various leaders of research areas such as councilors and in some instances traditional leaders. These interviews are important in terms of providing structured and adequate data collection which is ideal for cross-case comparisons of research questions.

## **3.8 VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY**

Validity according to Mark (2019) refers to the extent to which “the research instruments

measure what they are intended to measure, and the results” can be trusted to reflect the actual reality of the research context. This section outlines the strategies implemented to ensure the validity of the study. This section of the research seeks to reveal different methods and steps taken throughout the research to ensure that facts presented during the research are valid.

### **3.9 CRITERION VALIDITY**

Criterion validity was used throughout the study to ensure the accurate gathering of information during the research, to accurately measure the concrete outcome of research findings. Mark (2018) justifies the use of criterion validity in conducting researches to ensure the evaluation of how well these can predict a concrete outcome and therefore during the study criterion validity was used to discover and establish effective measurement that are widely valid, for example the research was conducted using a criterion specifically of children between the ages of 8 to 15 years with both young boys and girls being favorable criterion during the research. Therefore with the research using criterion validity has played a significant role in understanding the challenges being faced by trafficked children with the research taking into consideration of both boy and girl children, therefore avoiding issues of discrimination during the research.

### **3.10 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Ethical considerations also played a significant role with in ensuring that research is conducted in a manner that is respectful, effective, and also protecting the interest as well as integrity of all participants within the research. Therefore this study was based within different ethical guidelines to ensure the safeguarding of all the participants, ensure the relevance of the research, and ensure the authenticity of the research findings.

### **3.11 CHAPTER SUMMARY**

This chapter vividly outlined a research methodology employed in giving an understanding

of the various challenges as well as mitigation opportunities to end child trafficking in Epworth Domboramwari , Zimbabwe. The research, combined both qualitative and quantitative data collection techniques to ensure effectiveness in providing a vivid understanding of the subject matter on child trafficking. With the research philosophy which was grounded in pragmatism, allowing for exploration to understand different perspectives on both parents and communities at large on the dangers of the acts of child trafficking. The highlighting of the research design, focusing on the case of child trafficking in Epworth Domboramwari area has enabled the researcher to examine the various challenges being faced by the community members of Epworth Domboramwari , as a result of child trafficking. The research was based on different data collection tools which included surveys, interviews, and focus group discussions, immaculate information regarding a specific number of participants for each research method being provided. Therefore this chapter was concluded on how the research took into consideration the importance of ethics throughout the research to ensure authenticity of information gathered with child trafficking affected area of Epworth, Domboramwari..

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

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

#### **4.1 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents the findings of the research conducted to analyze the effects of the menace of child trafficking in Epworth, Harare, Zimbabwe. These findings have been presented and analyzed “in relation to the research objectives and questions outlined in Chapter One of the study. Data collection was collected through a mixed-methods approach”, Questionnaires by way of incorporating surveys administered to different households in Epworth, semi-structured

interviews with local authorities, government officials, and community leaders, and focus group discussions with ordinary members of Epworth local community members. The data in the research are presented in a logical sequence, with the quantitative findings from the surveys presented first, followed by the way of qualitative findings derived from the interviews and focus group discussions as well as other data gathering techniques used during the research.

## **4.2 ASSUMPTIONS OF THE STUDY**

### **4.2.1 GENDER OF THE RESPONDENTS**

In the research there was high number of men participation than that of females in terms of their responding to the research questions as out of the sample of about 90 people a total of 75% of the participants were males and about 26% of participants being females .The lower in numbers of women participation was as a result of ignorance from women to comply with researchers questions despite women constituting a larger population in Epworth than men , they were outnumbered in terms of responding to the researchers questions.

### **4.2.2 RESEARCH FINDINGS**

The research discovered that a total of 5,836 children of the ages between 8 to 13 years of age with 75.5% of children being trafficked for sex constituting young girls .According to data gather through qualitative data collection , families of victims of child trafficking in Epworth, Domboramwari gives reference on different methods of abductions children are being taken which includes runaways , friendships of children with strangers , as well as promises of money to young children .During the research data collected showed that during abductions in Epworth , 16 % of trafficked children were provided with drugs or alcohol.

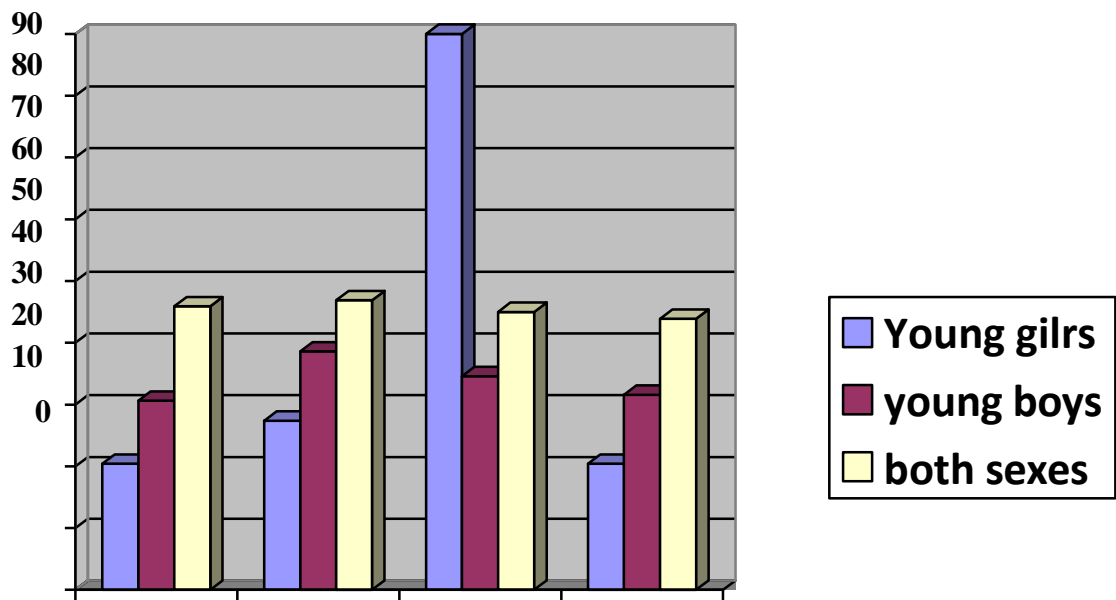
According to statistics by a local authority member on child trafficking John (2025) *Within 5,836 victims of child trafficking in Epworth, Domboramwari , only 1,441 victims were identified since 2016 to 2014 and from these 1,441 identified victims 98.9% constituted male survivors with only about 36,7 percent of identified survivors being boys showing how young girls have been the most preferred targets by traffickers in Epworth which has been one of the major hotspots for child trafficking in Zimbabwe.*

Showing how devastating the magnitude of child trafficking has been on the lives of children as well as the community at large.

#### **4.3 GRAPH SHOWING DIFFERENT GENDERS AMONGST CHILDREN WHO ARE FAVOURIBLE VICTIMS OF CHILD TRAFFICKERS.**



A larger number of children in Epworth who are affected by child trafficking have been young girls between the ages of as early as 7 to 15 years of age and young girls have been favorable victims for traffickers, as they are often considered more profitable in the global lucrative sex trafficking industry. Therefore the statistics in the graph below puts more responsibility on Epworth local Authorities to take further precautionary measures to deter perpetrators of child trafficking by ensuring strict authority is maintained to deter perpetrators of child trafficking.



2018-  
2020

### **Figure 1.2.1 age of affected children (n= 90)**

#### **Source: Primary data**

Graph 4.1 shows data gathered which clearly highlight's how young girls have been favorable victims for child traffickers the young girl trafficking of between 2021-2022 Constituting about 90% of child trafficking. Epworth local Authorities on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January (2025) also indicated on their data that

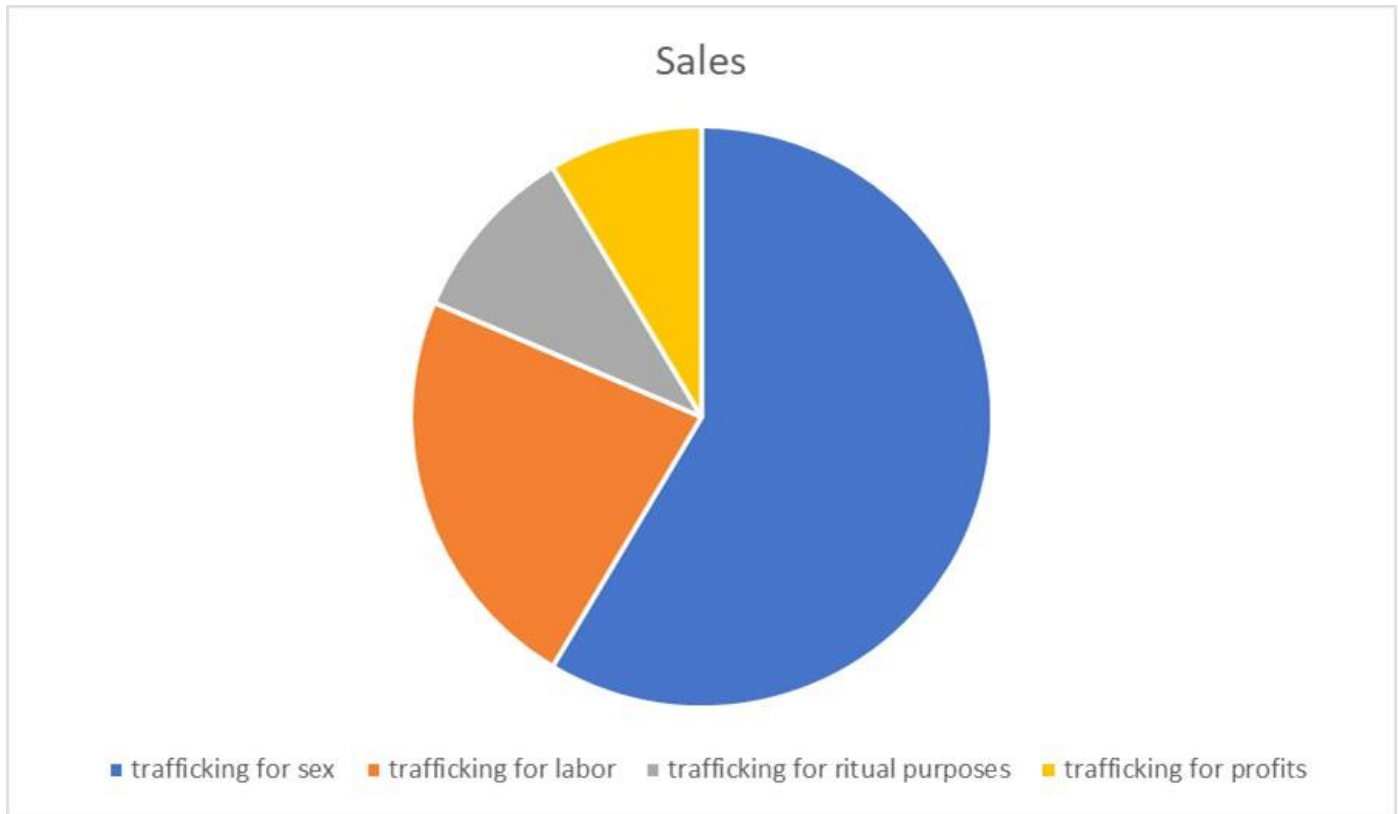
*Due to child trafficking mitigation strategies by Epworth local Authorities cases of child trafficking have dropped to 45 % in 2024, therefore indicating the crucial role of local authorities to mitigate the challenges of child trafficking in Epworth.*

Further reliable information was also disclosed by the secretary to Epworth local Authority chief of staff where He said

*About 1500 young girls according to Domboramwari, Epworth police were trafficked between the ages of 8-15 years of age for the assumed purpose of sex trafficking.*

This information vividly highlights how young girls have been favorable victims of child traffickers leading them to being more vulnerable than their boy counterpart.

#### **4.4 CHART SHOWING DIFFERENT LEVELS ON MOTIVIES OF CHILD TRAFFICKERS IN EPWORTH, HARARE**



**Source: primary data**

Chart shows the major intentions of child traffickers with over 65% of child trafficking in Epworth being the purpose of sex trafficking with young girls being favorable victims of child traffickers, 15% being traffics for labor with boys being favorable victims of child traffickers, 10% being trafficked for ritual purposes outside Epworth and also 10% being trafficking's for profits, clearly showing how challenges child trafficking is in Epworth. A local Epworth resident

whose child fell victims to child trafficker's gives information sex trafficking has been a menace where he mentioned

*Cases of child trafficking have increased drastically over the past years, with only a period of two months from January to February in 2025 Epworth recorded of about 80% increase in the trafficking of young girls between the ages of 15-17 years.*

This information helped the researcher to get a glooming picture on the levels in which child trafficking has affected local communities in Zimbabwe with Epworth being not exception.

#### **4.5 On the 25 of January 2025, interview with Epworth local authorities revealed the following statistics.**

About 90% of child trafficking has been for sex trafficking Over 7, 200 girls between 11 to years of age are favorable victims for traffickers. Epworth police officer Inspector Phiri mentioned that:

*Since 2017 to 2024 Epworth local authorities recorded a 70% increase in child labor trafficking About 30 percent of child trafficking have been recorded for ritual purposes Epworth, 2024 statistics indicated child girls are more favorable for traffickers with an estimate of 70 percent young girls to 45 percent of boys being trafficked since 2022.*

He mentioned that there is limited financial resources to officials to effectively implement child trafficking resistance mechanism and carry out road shows to advertise on the dangers of child trafficking in Epworth, therefore limited financial resources has hindered Epworth local Authorities capabilities to reduce the acts of child trafficking since 2017.

#### **4.6 LEVEL OF EFFECTS OF CHILD TRAFFICKING ON COMMUNITIES**

IN (2017) 62 % of trafficked children were girls constituting of about 1500 girls trafficked in Epworth with a year in 2017. According to Epworth local authorities about 1,500 families have relocated from Epworth since 2017 to 2016 due to fears on the increase in levels of child trafficking. Statistics provided by headmaster of primary school 2025 shows how 70% of community primary school has been affected recording less than 50% primary school enrolments. About 7 primary schools closed in 2020 due to a 70% increase in cases of child trafficking in primary schools with authorities revealing about 2000 child trafficking cases in Epworth 2020. About 80 % of high levels of child insecurities has resulted in about 5 of a total of 6 primary schools in Epworth being registering less than 40% child enrolments per year due to parents fearing sending their children to school as a result of increase in child trafficking. 70% of affected families in Epworth has not gained closure since 2017 as victims of child trafficking have not been discovered.

Local Authorities revealed how 80% of trafficked children for traffickers are between the ages of 13 to 17 years of age. About 60 % of family displacements have been recorded with 4 out of 7 families in Epworth relocating since 2017 till 2014 as a result insecurities arising from child trafficking. 60% of Families displaced as a result of child trafficking in Epworth have not been reinstated into the community.

#### **4.7 THE NATURE THAT CHILD TRAFFICKING HAS TAKEN IN EPWORTH**

Child trafficking has taken a toll on the livelihoods of Epworth community members, during the research Local Authorities particularly ZRP Domborawari police station on 25

January 2025 gives reference on how devastating the nature of child trafficking has taken on the people's lives in Epworth as a total of about 500 families in 2022 have relocated from Epworth from the most child trafficking affected areas of Chiwodzera , therefore urban poverty has also exacerbated issues of child trafficking with statistics showing how 62% of households in Epworth being classified as poor and 16% as very poor.

#### **4.8 STATISTICS ON SERVICES PROVIDED AND CHILD CENTERED PROGRAMS IN EPWORTH**

**Figure 4.8.1 Assessment of the success of action taken in Epworth on child trafficking**

QUESTION	RESPONSE	PERCENTAGE
Has Epworth local Authorities managed to provide effective policies to mitigate child trafficking?	Yes	70%
Has Epworth law enforcement agents made arrests of perpetrators of child trafficking since 2017?	Yes	60%
Is there cooperation between authorities and local Epworth community members?	No	80%

#### **4.9 DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS**

The research findings during the study demonstrated that more strategies to curb the

challenge of child trafficking needs to be implemented in Epworth, Harare, Zimbabwe, and that some of the strategies carried by Epworth authorities have had a positive impact on community resilience towards child trafficking, well-being, and environmental sustainability. The implementation of community local Authority cooperation, early warning systems for communities to be aware of child trafficking hotspots in Epworth have all contributed to improve the ways in which local community members have implemented different methods to safeguard the welfare of their children in Epworth and protect them from being victims of child traffickers. However, the research also highlights several challenges, including limited resources, lack of technical knowledge, lack of cooperation from local members , and as well as ignorance . Local government in Epworth plays a critical role in facilitating or hindering the implementation of these strategies to curb child trafficking.

#### **4.10 CHAPTER SUMMARY**

This chapter presented as well as analyzed the findings of the research, showing quantitative data from surveys and qualitative data from different interviews and focus group discussions. The chapter found that Epworth local Authorities have implemented several measures to curb child trafficking such as making the community whistle blowers on cases of child trafficking , providing early warning in areas of hotspots for child trafficking as well as carrying out night patrols in areas much affected by child trafficking such as Domboramwari. The findings showed that the strategies have had a positive impact on the community's livelihoods, with community members testifying to the reduction in cases of child trafficking therefore yielding a positive outcome. However, there are challenges, including limited resources, lack of knowledge, and ignorance from non-affected members of Epworth community. The chapter also highlighted the role of local Authorities in Epworth in supporting efforts to mitigate the challenge of child

trafficking, but they was need to improve authorities and community members cooperation in working hand to glove to solve the challenge.



## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **5.0 DISCUSSION, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS AND AREAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH**

#### **5.1 INRODUCTION**

The chapter gives a summary to the whole study of the research and revisits the research objectives as well as providing a discussion of the data analysis done so as to provide an illustration of the major research findings. The chapter also gives a conclusion on the findings of the research as well as research recommendations, it also gives recommendations on how the data collected throughout the research can be used for future researches that can be done on the issues of child trafficking. Issues of child trafficking policy making and designs can also be influenced such as the policies to do with mitigating the impacts of child trafficking as well as minimizing some child trafficking barriers where possible can also be influenced.

#### **5.2 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

Chapter one of the research provided a focuses on different areas of the research which includes background of the study, research objectives, “research questions, assumptions and also providing an insight of the significance of the study as well as limitations and delimitations were” also put into consideration in the first chapter. The first chapter of the research provided “an evaluation of the literature review findings that relate to the research question. From the interpretation of the findings, limitations of the study, and recommendations to the study's implications, the research has presented the ability for positive social change as a result of this study”. The purpose of the first chapter in using research questions, limitations and delimitations of the “study is to explore the perceptions of law enforcement officials within a greater

metropolitan area human trafficking unit in Epworth, Domboramwari to discover whether, and to

what degree, barriers are being presented by law enforcement policies” especially policies designed by law enforcement unit of Epworth police station “and procedures within human trafficking areas to the prevention of trafficking of children” between the ages of 5–17.

The second chapter of the research provided an insight on Human Trafficking Unit within a greater metropolitan area of Epworth, through investigations using data provided by Epworth ZRP (2025) it was discovered that law enforcement and the general populace works diligently together in their efforts to combat the phenomenon of human trafficking. The second chapter through collecting a few preliminary data through explaining and relating to the literature review and analyzing past studies on the challenge of child trafficking in Epworth has enabled the research to discover ways to combat child trafficking in Epworth there is still room for improvement as the general population of Epworth continues to work hand in glove with law enforcement, therefore “the literature reflected and the study has confirmed the existence of barriers within law enforcement policies and procedures”.

Chapter three of the research established methodology which was used by the researcher in carrying out the study that is qualitative methodology with the chapter using research methods such as interviews and field observations were used to explain target populations , sampling as well as data collection methods and ethical considerations that were used during the course of the research.

Chapter four of the research consisted of data collection as it was research concentrated chapter which provided presentation of data which was based on the finding gathered during the research .And also chapter five which is the last chapter of the research provides a summary of the whole research or study, conclusion of the findings basing on the objectives which have been laid

down or indicated in the first chapter and finally giving recommendations of the study.

### 5.3 CONCLUSIONS

The first objective of the research was to give a clear understanding as well as creating solutions to the challenges being faced by victims of child trafficking in Epworth, Harare. The first research objective “indicated the prevalence of barriers in existence, and law enforcement officials in Epworth tend to only focus on after-the-fact solutions rather than before-the-fact preventative stances” in their strategies and policy formulation to end the challenge of child trafficking. This “results in a more reactive rather than proactive approach to resolving the phenomenon of human trafficking” in Epworth as well as other parts of Zimbabwe as a whole. This study has vividly illustrated the perspectives of law enforcement officials serving within a human trafficking unit of Epworth, Harare “pertaining to the area of policies and procedures that were formulated by Epworth republic police as a law enforcement department that is responsible for presenting barriers to the human trafficking of children ages 5 to 17”, ZRP (2024).

The study by understanding the challenges faced by victims of child trafficking has also provided a confirmation that law enforcement officials in Epworth have continued to perceive policies and about 120 procedures as being responsible for “presenting barriers to a human trafficking challenge for law enforcement officials working towards the prevention of human trafficking children ages 5–17 in a greater” part of Epworth, Harare as well as Zimbabwe as a whole.

The second objective of the study was to have a deeper understanding on the effectiveness of different measures that can be undertaken to reduce the abductions of young children in Epworth , Harare research comes to a conclusion that child trafficking is a major concern to the people of

Zimbabwe , particularly the people of Epworth , Harare as child trafficking is setting constraints and challenges to the livelihoods of young children

#### **5.4 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The study “was a qualitative case study designed to address the gap identified within the literature surrounding if and to what degree barriers are being presented to law enforcement officials by law enforcement policies and procedures working to prevent the human trafficking of children ages (5 to 17)”. The study provided the following recommendations which need to be considered so as to provide effective measures to counter the challenges of child trafficking in Epworth, Harare:

- Further research on challenges of child trafficking “would also benefit from being able to conduct the same study in an in person semi-structured interview format utilizing confidentiality in order to ask more probing questions and gather a more in-depth answer”, from families of victims , members of Epworth local communities “to fully understand what barriers and to what extent the barriers are affecting law enforcement officials serving within a human trafficking unit within” Epworth and Zimbabwe as a whole.
- There is also need to act on the challenges of child trafficking which “would benefit by utilizing multiple child trafficking affected areas either within the same state or within multiple states where the numbers are continuously rising in order to grasp a more comprehensive” understanding of the barriers being faced and to what extent these barriers hold an impact on the prevention of child trafficking children ages 5 to 17.
- Attention should also be given to ensure grassroots level participation of members of local communities throughout the formulation of strategies to counter the challenge of child trafficking

in Epworth as well as ensuring that the voices and concerns of families of victims of child trafficking are taken into full consideration. Epworth local Authorities should consider taking into considerations the quarries that local members of communities have in terms of how they have been affected by child trafficking which will also be a way in which local authorities can receive viable information from local members of the community relating to operations of some community members who may be involved in acts of child trafficking.

## **5.5 AREAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH OR STUDY**

- \* The social effects of child trafficking to community members in child trafficking hotspots areas
- \* The various factors influencing the increase in cases of child trafficking in Zimbabwe
- \* The barriers to the success of various programs and initiatives to solve the menace of child trafficking.

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## **APPENDIX 1:**

### **INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

My name is Owen Banhu and I am a student at Bindura University of Science Education studying for a degree in Peace and Governance. I am carrying out a research entitled An analysis of the menace of child trafficking in Zimbabwe .A case study of Domboramwari Epworth, Harare. The purpose of the interview is to gather your experiences as well as your perspectives on the impact child trafficking has had on the livelihoods of children between the ages of 8 to 15 years of age as well as the impacts child trafficking has had on the livelihoods of the entire community of Epworth as well as how poverty has contributed towards exacerbating the challenge of child trafficking on the whole Epworth community. Therefore your participation as well as sharing your insights during the interviews of the research comprehensive understanding can be gained on the overall research process on the challenges being faced by community members as a result of child trafficking.

#### **Questions:**

- 1) What are the challenges being faced by survivors of child trafficking?
- 2) What are the measures that can be undertaken to prevent the increase in the abduction of young children?
- 3) What action has the government taken to ensure that imposed child trafficking laws are fully adhered to?
- 4) Is there significant relationship between the government and non-governmental institutions in partnering to solve the effects of child trafficking?

**Thank You.**

## **APPENDIX 2:**

### **INTERVIEWS GUIDE FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AT LOCAL LEVEL**

My name is Owen Banhu and I am a student at Bindura University of Science Education studying for a degree in Peace and Governance. I am carrying out a research entitled An analysis of the menace of child trafficking in Zimbabwe .A case study of Domboramwari Epworth, Harare.The purpose of the interview is to gather your experiences as well as your perspectives on the impact child trafficking has had on the livelihoods of children between the ages of 8 to 15 years of age as well as the impacts child trafficking has had on the livelihoods of the entire community of Epworth as well as how poverty has contributed towards exacerbating the challenge of child trafficking on the whole Epworth community. Therefore your participation as well as sharing your insights during the interviews of the research comprehensive understanding can be gained on the overall research process on the challenges being faced by community members as a result of child trafficking.

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- 1) What are the challenges being faced by survivors of child trafficking?
- 2) What are the measures that can be undertaken to prevent the increase in the abduction of young children?
- 3) What action has the government taken to ensure that imposed child trafficking laws are fully adhered to?
- 4) Is there significant relationship between the government and non-governmental institutions in partnering to solve the effects of child trafficking?

**Thank You.**

### **APPENDIX 3:**

#### **INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR EPWORTH LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADERS**

My name is Owen Banhu and I am a student at Bindura University of Science Education studying for a degree in Peace and Governance. I am carrying out a research entitled An analysis of the menace of child trafficking in Zimbabwe .A case study of Domboramwari Epworth, Harare. The purpose of the interview is to gather your experiences as well as your perspectives on the impact child trafficking has had on the livelihoods of children between the ages of (8 to 15) years of age as well as the impacts child trafficking has had on the livelihoods of the entire community of Epworth as well as how poverty has contributed towards exacerbating the challenge of child trafficking on the whole Epworth community. Therefore your participation as well as sharing your insights during the interviews of the research comprehensive understanding can be gained on the overall research process on the challenges being faced by community members as a result of child trafficking.

#### **Questions:**

1. How much of a problem is child trafficking in Epworth?
2. In what form has the challenge of child trafficking taken on the livelihood of Epworth community members?
3. What strategies have you witnessed being implemented in your community to curb child trafficking?
4. What is your observations on the impacts of child trafficking on bot children and the community at large?

**Thank You.**

**APPENDIX 4:**

**AN OBSERVATION GUIDE OF THE RESEACH**

Date: January 2025

Area: Domboramwari, Epworth Harare

- To observe and understand the events of child trafficking being experienced in Epworth
- To understand the ways in which Epworth community members have been affected by the challenge of child trafficking.
- To understand the extent in which the security of local members of Epworth community depend on local authority protection
- To observe and understand the strategies being implemented by local authority of Epworth to curb the challenge of child trafficking
- To observe the factors leading to the exacerbation of the challenge of child trafficking in Epworth.
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