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ZIMBABWE'S URBAN INFORMALITY UNDER GLOBALISATION: UNPACKING
DRIVERS, OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN BINDURA TOWN.

A RESEARCH

BY

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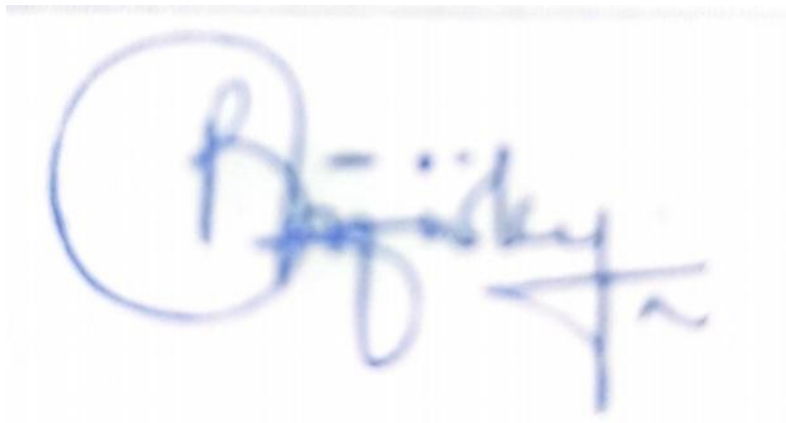
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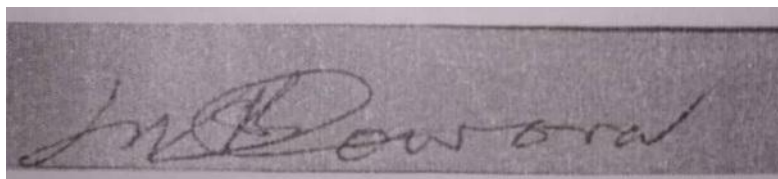


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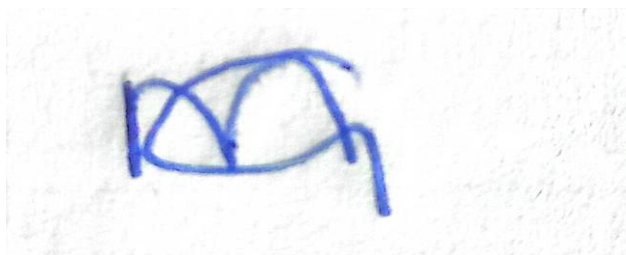
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DEDICATION

I dedicate my dissertation work, to my family and friends. A special feeling of gratitude to my loving mother, Zvinei Chari whose words of encouragement and push for tenacity ring in my ears. My aunt Chiedza has been a steadfast presence in my life, and I cherish her unwavering support and love.

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ABBREVIATIONS

UNDP.....United Nations Development Programme

IMF.....International Monetary Fund

ILO.....International Labour Organisation

GDP.....Gross Domestic Product

ESAP.....Economic Structural Adjustment

LEDRIZ.....Labour Economic Development Research Institute of Zimbabwe

ABSTRACT

This dissertation explores the intricate landscape of urban informality in Bindura Town, Zimbabwe, within the context of globalisation, examining its drivers, opportunities, and challenges. While existing literature predominantly focuses on informality in major African cities, this study addresses a significant gap by systematically investigating how globalisation's triple dynamics economic flows, socio-cultural diffusion, and governance paradigms transform informal settlements and economic activities in intermediate urban centers. The study pursue three key objectives: (1) To explore the drivers of urban informality in the context of globalisation in Bindura Town, (2) To identify opportunities presented by globalisation on urban informality in Bindura Town. 3) To examine specific challenges posed by globalisation to the urban informal sector in Bindura Town. Employing a phenomenological approach, this study utilised in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, and participant observations to gather rich qualitative data from informal vendors and related stakeholders. Key findings reveal that global economic trends, social networks and cultural norms and weak regulatory framework are significant drivers of urban informality. Informal vendors face substantial challenges, including vulnerability to economic shifts, competition from imported goods, and social displacement. However, opportunities emerge from globalisation, as vendors increasingly leverage digital platforms to access broader markets and adapt to changing consumer preferences. The implications of this research highlight the urgent need for targeted policy reforms that enhance support for the informal sector, promote inclusivity, and recognise the contributions of informal workers to local economies. By addressing the gaps identified in the regulatory and support frameworks, the study contributes to a deeper understanding of how urban informality can be effectively integrated into the economic development strategies of Bindura Town, ultimately fostering resilience and sustainable growth in an increasingly globalised environment.

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CHAPTER ONE: ORIENTATION OF THE STUDY

1.1 Introduction

Globalisation has transformed the Zimbabwe's economic landscape, influencing urban development and informality. In Bindura urban informality is characterised by unregulated economic activities and inadequate access to basic services. This transformation has created both opportunities and challenges for local communities, driven by economic, political and social cultural globalisation. These drivers have led to significant global economic trends and weak regulatory framework, compelling communities to navigate these complexities of integrating into global markets while addressing the pressing needs of their informal economies. Globalisation has presented opportunities to urban informality through integration into global value chain and policy innovations and global best practices. The urban informal sector faces significant challenges, including social economic challenges and regulatory framework challenges. The chapter is divided into ten sections which consist of the background of the study, problem statement, research objectives, research questions, and significance of the study, delimitations, assumptions, limitations, definition of key terms, and chapter summary. Below is the detailed discussion of key aspects of this research study.

1.2 Background of the Study

UN-Habitat (2018) indicated that the United Nations estimated that in 2018, 55.28% of the total population of the plane of 7.7 billion live in urban areas. The report further indicated that one billion people live in slums and informal settlements, representing about 30% of the world's urban population. Recently, cities of the Middle East are witnessing a tremendous transition of socio-economic, spatial, and political milieu in which urbanization processes, formally or informally, have played a major role in shaping those cities (Soliman, 2021). Though the nature of informal economy varies among sub-Saharan African countries, the sector provides jobs for the larger population who could not otherwise be employed in the formal sector (Meagher, 2016). It was found that Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest rate of total early-stage entrepreneurial activity and nascent entrepreneurship compared with other continents (World Bank, 2023, Gibson and Flaherty, 2022). Regional Economic outlook (IMF, 2017) estimated that the informal economy of

Sub-Saharan Africa contributes between 25% and 65% to the subcontinent's GDP and accounts for total non-agricultural employment between 30% and 90%.

Globalisation refers to the process by which businesses, cultures, and governments from different countries become more interconnected and interdependent, often leading to the exchange of goods, services, ideas, and information across international borders (Baldwin, 2017). Furthermore, UNU-WIDER (2021) stated that, globalisation has facilitated the flow of information, goods, and people contributing to the growth of informal settlement as rural populations migrate to urban areas in search for better opportunities. Banks, Lombard and Mitlin (2020) aver that, globalisation exacerbate informality in developing countries. On the other hand, Masuku et al (2023), defines urban informality as the unregulated and often unauthorised development of urban areas, including informal settlements and economies. Globalisation by nature encourages countries to adopt greater trade openness and financial integration and has both positive and negative effects on informality (Baldwin, 2017).

In Zimbabwe, globalization has had a profound impact on urban landscapes, contributing to the prevalence of urban informality, particularly in areas like Bindura (Chirisa et al., 2017). The combination of economic challenges and rapid urbanization has fuelled the growth of informal settlements and activities (Kamete, 2017; Wu et al., 2019). The decline of traditional industries has left many without formal employment, forcing individuals to seek alternative means of survival. In cities, street vending has become a prominent livelihood, as vendors offer a variety of goods to meet the immediate needs of consumers, (Brauneis and Patt, 2015). Chombo and Simatele (2019) carried a study on Harare's informal economy; it explores how informal sectors such as street vending and informal trading serve as crucial sources of livelihoods for many residents. Additionally, Chari and Mhlanga, (2021) in their study of "Gender and Informality in urban Zimbabwe: The struggle of women in the Informal Economy" , highlights the unique challenges women face as they engage in informal work, such as harassment, exclusion from certain markets, and limited access to support networks. Dunga and Mavhunga (2021) on their study of housing and urban informality, examines how informal housing developments are often characterised by inadequate infrastructure and lack of legal recognition.

However, the literature on urban informality in Zimbabwe, particularly in the context of globalization, remains insufficiently developed, revealing a significant research gap. Existing

studies have predominantly focused on broader economic trends, neglecting the intricate connections between urban informality and globalization. This gap is particularly evident in urban centers like Bindura, where the interplay of global economic forces and local informal practices shapes the livelihoods of traders and artisans. The absence of empirical evidence focusing on the drivers, challenges and opportunities presented by globalisation within the framework of urban informality points to the need for targeted research that examines local contexts and experiences,(Chatiza , 2016). Moreover, current literature lacks comprehensive analyses of the implications of globalisation for urban planning and governance in Zimbabwe's informal economies. While some scholars such Chombo and Simatele (2019) have initiated discussions on the challenges posed by globalization, few have thoroughly explored its transformative potential for enhancing the governance structures that address urban informality. Key issues such as the effectiveness of international partnerships, the adaptation of global best practices, and their applicability to local contexts remain underexplored.

Thus, there is a pressing need for empirical research that unpacks the drivers of urban informality in Zimbabwe, as well as the opportunities and challenges these processes present. Specifically, the study aims to provide a nuanced understanding of how globalisation influences urban informality with the view of designing policy frameworks that can effectively integrate informal economic activities into sustainable urban development strategies.

1.3 Problem statement

In an ideal situation, the urban informal sector in Bindura Town would operate as a vital component of the broader economy, supported by inclusive policies that empower informal workers and foster equitable access to markets. However, the current reality starkly contrasts this ideal, as informal vendors face numerous challenges driven by globalisation. These challenges include fierce competition from imported goods, vulnerability to economic shifts, and social displacement, all exacerbated by weak regulatory frameworks that fail to adequately support or recognize the contributions of informal work. As a result, informal vendors often operate under precarious conditions, with limited opportunities for growth and sustainability. If these issues persist, the informal sector risks suffering from increased economic instability that could heighten poverty levels and lead to the marginalisation of workers, severely undermining local economies.

This situation not only threatens the livelihoods of vendors but also perpetuates social inequalities within the urban landscape. To address these challenges, it is crucial to implement targeted policy reforms that enhance the regulatory environment, improve access to markets for informal operators, and promote capacity-building initiatives. Engaging key stakeholders, including government officials, community organisations, and informal workers themselves, will be vital for co-creating solutions that bridge the divide between formal and informal sectors, ultimately fostering sustainable economic development in Bindura Town. A thoughtful, inclusive approach will empower informal workers, enhancing their resilience and capacity to thrive amidst the complexities of globalisation.

1.4 Research Objective

1.4.1 Main research objective

To examine the influence of globalisation on urban informal sector in Bindura Town; focusing on its drivers, opportunities, and challenges.

1.4.2 Sub-research objective

- 1) To explore the drivers of urban informality in the context of globalisation in Bindura Town.
- 2) To identify opportunities presented by globalisation on urban informality in Bindura Town.
- 3) To examine the specific challenges posed by globalisation to urban informal sector in Bindura Town.

1.5 Research Questions

1.5.1 Main Research Question

How does globalisation influence the urban informal sector in Bindura Town in terms of its drivers, opportunities, and challenges?

1.5.2 Sub-Research Questions

- 1) What are the drivers of urban informality in the context of globalisation in Bindura Town?
- 2) What are the potential opportunities of globalisation on urban informality in Bindura Town?

3) What are the key challenges faced by urban informal sectors in Bindura as a result of globalisation?

1.6 Significance of the study

The study is significant because it provides deep insights that enables the understanding of the complex relationship characterising globalisation and urban informality in Bindura. Through an examination of the challenges and opportunities presented by globalisation and urban informality, this research provides valuable insights that enable policy makers, urban planners, researchers and academics to find effective strategies to tackle globalisation-induced urban informality challenge in Zimbabwe. The findings of the study will enable these stakeholders to develop sound policies and strategies that enable the achievement of sustainable urban development and thus leading the improvement of the quality of life of urban residents in Zimbabwe. Furthermore, findings of this study will be used to address the gaps in the body of knowledge concerning the nexus between globalization and urban informality in developing countries. The findings of the study will have direct and indirect implications for Bindura Municipality informing the designing and implementation of effective programs to improve and transform urban informal settlement and economic activities through promoting formalisation and regularisation of informal activities. Effective implementation of development programs for city will enhance the overall liveability of the town. Findings of this study will provide a nuanced understanding of the Zimbabwean context. Globalisation research helps identify how international trade and investment can drive economic growth, reduce poverty, and improve living standards. Studies on the health impacts of globalization offer frameworks to understand how global interconnectedness affects public health. This can lead to better health policies and practices that address global health challenges. The study also highlights how globalisation can both positively and negatively impact the environment. By examining these effects, we can develop sustainable practices and policies that balance economic growth with environmental protection.

1.7 Assumptions

This study is guided by several assumptions that underpin the research methodology. The study focused on the Zimbabwe's urban informality under globalisation unpacking drivers, opportunities and challenges of globalisation in Bindura Town. This assumption has its roots in the phenomenological tradition that underpins this research. The phenomenological tradition

emphasizes the importance and the subjective nature and meaning-making (Creswell, 2016). Secondly, the researcher assumed that, the participants will provide honest, Clear and accurate accounts of their everyday lived experiences free from distortions and any biases. This assumption has its roots in the notion that participants will be willing to share their authentic experiences and opinions, given the established trust and good rapport during the data collection process, (Denzin and Lincoln, 2015). Lastly, the researcher assumed that, her own biases and assumptions will be acknowledged and bracketed throughout the research process and thus allowing for a more nuanced and objective understanding of the phenomenon under investigation.

1.8 Limitations

It is important to acknowledge several limitation that faced this qualitative study. Firstly, the study's sample size was relatively smaller. The accuracy of the result of this study was limited by the number of participants or observations in the study was perhaps too small to draw meaningful conclusions to a larger population. While the small sample size allows for rich and detailed insights, it may not be representative of the entire population of Bindura, and thus potential limiting generalisability of the findings of the study, to address this purposive sampling was employed.

Secondly the study relied on self-reported data from participants, which may be subjected to potential biases and social desirability issues. The researcher made use of multiple data collection methods such observation and indepth interviews. There were ethical constraints that the researcher faced during research that required the researcher to prioritise participant confidentiality, informed consent, and transparency throughout the research process. This was addressed by following the ethical guidelines and principles of discipline and by obtaining informed consent letters and used data sources that do not pose ethical risks or harm, such as anonymisation.

1.9 Delimitations

The delimitation served as a roadmap for the researcher to remain guided throughout the process. Woolfolk (2017), posit that delimitation helps the researcher to keep focused. This study was deliberately delimited to focus on urban informality in Bindura town, specifically among vendors, artisans and government officials, informal operators and few households. The study's methodological approach was also delimited to qualitative methods, including observations, focus group and in-depth interviews which provided rich and contextual data.

1.10 Definition of terms

Urbanisation is the process by which towns and cities are formed and become larger as more people move from rural areas to urban areas in search of better economic, social, and cultural opportunities (United Nations, 2020).

1.11 Summary

The chapter has provided an outline to the research of Zimbabwe's urban informality under globalisation. Globalisation has a multifaceted impact on urban informality, presenting both challenges and opportunities. Also, contained in the chapter were the background and context of the study, the problem statement, and significance of the study, goals and objectives of the study, research questions, assumptions and clarification of key concepts. The next chapter will look at the literature review

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the literature that has been reviewed as far as Zimbabwe's urban informality under globalisation: unpacking drivers, opportunities and challenges in Bindura Town is concerned. This chapter begins with an introduction, followed by defining globalisation, understanding urban informality, linking globalisation, theoretical framework. In addition, empirical evidence describing relevant research conducted by other researchers is embedded in this chapter. Finally, the chapter will conclude with a look at research gaps and chapter summary.

2.2 Defining Globalisation

Globalisation is a complex and dynamic process that involves the increasing interconnectedness and interdependence of the world's economies, societies, cultures, and political systems (Scholte, 2015). The economic dimensions of globalisation involve the integration of national economies into a global economy, characterised by free trade, foreign investment, and the emergence of multinational corporations (Dicken, 2015). In Zimbabwe, foreign direct investment has played a significant role, with Chinese companies investing heavily in the mining sector (Kamete, 2020).

In addition, the political dimensions of globalisation involve the increasing influence of international institutions, agreements, and norms on national policy-making (Held, 2019). In Zimbabwe, membership in international institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, has provided access to financial assistance and policy guidance (Chirisa et al., 2020). On the cultural front, globalisation involves the exchange of ideas, values, and cultural practices across national borders (Appadurai, 2016).

The social dimensions of globalisation involve the movement of people, ideas, and social practices across national borders (Castles, 2018). In Zimbabwe, migration has been a notable consequence, with many Zimbabweans moving to countries like South Africa, the UK, and the US in search of better economic opportunities (Makaye, 2020).

2.3 Understanding urban informality

The phenomenon of urban informality is global reality that manifest both in the cities of the development and developing countries (Lombard and Meth, 2016). It is broad concept which normally describes spatial, political and economic practices which are not formal such as street trading, and slum housing, (Bank, Lombard and Mitlin. 2022). Chatiza and Gotor, 2021) avers that, there are traditional and modern informality typologies.

Lack of minimum basic services (poor basic infrastructure and lack of social amenities is a common characteristic of both typologies. Traditional informality refers to the ways in which informal activities have been organized and structured in the past, often based on socio-cultural and historical characteristics. Modern informality is understood as the new and emerging informal activities that are driven by globalisation, technological revolution and rapid urbanization (Chatiza and Gotor, 2021).

In the context of labour concerns, urban informality can manifest as informal employment, where workers lack access to formal employment contracts, benefits and social protection, (ILO, 2018). ILO (2018) estimated that, 2 million workers worldwide are engage in informal employment, with the majority residing in developing countries. In terms of housing, urban informality can manifest as informal settlements or slums, where residents lack access to formal housing and basic services such as water, sanitation and electricity, (UN-Habitat, 2016). UN-Habitat (2016) estimated that, 1.6 billion people worldwide live in informal settlements, with the majority residing in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. Urban informality is also understood through the service provision lens, where informal service providers fill in gaps in formal service to provide services such as waste management, transportation and healthcare (Grossman and Honig, 2017).

The continued growth of urban informality in the Global South Cities is attributed to neo-liberal policies and structural adjustments and agricultural deregulation (Zapata Campos et al., 2022:3). Rising inequality, territorial concentration of poverty and the increase of informal settlements are viewed as shared urban challenges. Cities in the Global South acknowledge the importance of urban informality, but fail to embrace it, because they are entrenched in the legacy of colonial statutes that do not integrate informality into the formal cityscape (Chigwenya 2019).

Cities of the Global South are typically more diverse in ethnic, religious, and class terms than the towns or villages from which new residents originate (Bank, Lombard and Mitlin, 2022). It is worth noting that the Global South presents a much broader and complex scope of urban economic informality as opposed to the Global North (Thulare, Moyo and Xulu, 2021). Urban residents engage with a wider array of associations and institutions than their counterparts in the countryside, and interactions between citizens, associations, and state entities generate complex social and political networks in cities (Kamete, 2017, Bank, Lombard and Mitlin, 2022).

In countries like Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, urban economic informality has played an essential role in economic development, resulting in positive outcomes in narrowing income gaps, income distribution, poverty eradication, and GDP growth (Munya, Hussain and Njugana, 2015; Bank, Lombard and Mitlin, (2022). It is also important to understand that urban economic informality in these countries is characterized mainly by an unskilled labour force with either no or little formal education and skills, (Munya, Hussain and Njugana, 2015; Matamanda, 2020).

In Sub-Saharan Africa, urban economic informality has played a pivotal role in many impoverished communities regarding job creation, poverty alleviation, and the general up-liftment of living standards (Lunchun and Mingyu, 2019). In this study, urban economic informality in the Global South should be understood as a set of all legal informal economic activities, informal enterprises, and unregulated labour, which occurs as a result of earning a living or profit accumulation but occurs outside of the ambit of the regulatory framework put in place by government.

2.4 Linking Globalisation and Urban Informality

The relationship between globalisation and urban informality is complex. Globalisation has led to the exploitation of natural resources and imposed international governance and trade relationships that can marginalise countries in the Global South, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa. This has resulted in the growth of urban informality as people seek alternative livelihoods.

Furthermore, the nexus between globalisation and urban informality reflects the concept of ‘globalisation from below’ which highlight the ways in which informal economic activities, such as street trading and informal manufacturing (Chirisa et al, 2018). These activities are integrated into global value chains, often through informal networks and relationships (Grossman and Honig,

2017). In the context of Sub-Saharan Africa, urban informality in Nigeria has been driven by the country's integration into the global value chains, (Munya, Hussain and Njuguna, 2015). Similarly, in South Africa, urban informality has been driven by the post independent policies which saw the integration of informal business into global value chains through the relationship with the formal businesses (Skinner, 2018).

In Kenya, urban informality in cities such as Nairobi has been driven by the country's rapid urbanisation and its integration into global value chain, (Weru, 2018). In Zimbabwe and Tanzani, urban informality has been as a result of countries economic crisis and the subsequent absorbing of the informal business into global value chains as many informal businesses relied on cheap imports and exports to survive (Kjellberg, 2019).

2.5 Theoretical framework

World System Theory (WST), developed by Immanuel Wallerstein in 1974, serves as a crucial framework for analysing global socio-economic dynamics by categorising nations into three groups: core, semi-periphery, and periphery. Core nations are economically developed and dominate global markets, while semi-periphery nations occupy an intermediate position, often mediating between the two extremes. Periphery nations, like Zimbabwe, are less developed and depend on core nations for economic stability and growth. This categorisation helps elucidate how Bindura's peripheral status influences its local economic opportunities and challenges.

Numerous studies have explored the application of WST in various contexts. For instance, Masuka (2020) examines Bindura's reliance on core countries and the implications for local industrialisation, while Al-Roubaie and Alvi (2023) emphasise the importance of reducing information asymmetry for local actors in navigating global economic structures. These studies highlight WST's relevance in understanding the interconnectedness of global and local economies.

The strengths of WST lie in its holistic perspective, providing a comprehensive view of global economic relationships and emphasising the interdependence between countries. It offers valuable insights into power dynamics, revealing systemic inequalities in economic distribution, and suggests pathways for peripheral nations to challenge core dominance and pursue alternative development strategies. However, the theory also has limitations. Critics argue that it may oversimplify complex socio-economic interactions, leading to deterministic views of

development. Additionally, WST can neglect internal socio-political dynamics and cultural factors influencing development and may present a static categorisation that obscures the fluidity of economic roles.

Despite these limitations, WST remains a valuable framework for several reasons. It effectively contextualizes the challenges faced by peripheral cities like Bindura within broader globalisation dynamics. Its focus on economic inequality aligns with the urgent need to address disparities in urban settings, and it provides guidance for policymakers aiming to leverage local strengths while addressing systemic vulnerabilities. In conclusion, World System Theory offers a critical lens for analysing Bindura's socio-economic landscape, underscoring the importance of information access, regional cooperation, and local initiatives in fostering sustainable development and reducing inequality.

2.6 Drivers of Urban Informality in the Context of Globalisation

2.6.1 Economic Globalisation

Economic globalisation drives urban informality worldwide through trade liberalisation, foreign direct investment (FDI), and market integration, (Soliman, 2021). Trade liberalisation exposes local businesses to competition from cheaper imports, as seen in Mexico, where local farmers have turned to informal street vending due to competition from U.S. agricultural products. Increased import competition often leads to a rise in informal employment. Mitra, (2021) posit that while FDI can create jobs, it typically favors skilled sectors, leaving low-skilled workers in countries like India to seek informal work, such as construction or small entrepreneurship. Market integration links local economies to global trends, making them vulnerable to external shocks, (Lim , 2024). In Brazil, fluctuations in commodity prices destabilise the economy, pushing urban residents into informal work as formal opportunities decline. This lack of social safety nets exacerbates the issue, resulting in a significant rise in informal activities like street vending and casual labor, highlighting the challenges globalisation poses for stable employment.

Urban informality in Africa exists mainly due to a scarcity of resources. The increasing rate of urbanisation, characterised by deindustrialisation and economic challenges, creates an imbalance between urban resources and the population, (Matamanda, 2020). Multilateral institution such as Southern African Development Community,(SADC), has influenced urban informality in

Bindura through trade policies such as the African Continental Free Trade Area,(ACFTA) which allows its members to reduce tariffs thereby promoting market access. Reduced tariffs enhanced competitiveness among informal businesses, allowing them to penetrate new markets and diversify their offerings (Banga and te Velde, 2020). Driver of urban informality in Zimbabwe are complex and varied. The issue of informality in Zimbabwe has been exacerbated by the economic meltdown that experienced at the turn of the century where the industrial utilization went down to as 6%. This was due to the fast track land reform that resulted in international isolation of the country, (Chingwenya, 2020).The accelerated inflation which peaked at 213million percent also eroded the real incomes of the people in the cities of Zimbabwe and pushed the majority of urban people in poverty (UN-Habitat 2015).

In Zimbabwe Labour and Economic Development Research Institute of Zimbabwe (LEDRIZ) indicated that post independent government pursued social provisioning and populist agenda which led to unsustainable budget deficits, shortages of foreign currency, depressed investment and employment creation. In response to this, the Government introduced the Economic Structural Adjustment Programme at the behest of IMF and World Bank (LEDRIZ, 2016)

The adoption of neoliberalism in 1991 culminated in the implementation of the Economic Structural Adjustment Programme (ESAP) that increasingly resulted in the plummeting of employment, household earnings and living standards in cities, Chingwenya, 2020; Thulare, Moyo and Xulu, 2021). The situation during this period was also worsened by the ZANU-PF led government's gross mismanagement of the national economy which manifested in unfettered corruption and unbudgeted compensation pay-outs of Z\$50 000 in 1997 to increasingly agitated war veterans resulting in Zimbabwe's economic plunge (Chingwenya, 2020; LEDRIZ, 2016).

Several studies have concluded that ESAP exacerbated the challenges and did not reduce poverty and unemployment as its architects had hoped. . Unemployment peaked to over 84% meaning that the majority of people in the cities of Zimbabwe were without employment and they were surviving on the informal, sector (Chingwenya, 2020). In the absence of social safety nets and clear safeguard mechanisms to cushion vulnerable industries, a number of companies closed and, in some cases, people were retrenched (LEDRIZ, 2016; Chingwenya, 2020).

During the ESAP period, the country experienced massive de-industrialisation owing to the opening up of the economy to competing imports, which were cheaper and replaced subdued local production (LEDRIZ, 2016). ESAP-induced challenges forced many Zimbabweans to diversify their livelihoods by entering into the informal sector for survival (Chingwenya, 2020). The informal sector became the only surviving economic activity that even some of the formal institutions such as the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe were relying on the informal sector for most of its foreign currency supplies (Kamete, 2017).

Furthermore, the liberalisation of trade and investment policies has significantly contributed to urban informality in Zimbabwe. As countries embrace more open market policies, local industries frequently struggle to compete with cheaper imported goods, leading to job losses and economic instability, (Herrigel, 2020). Consequently, Zimbabweans impacted by these shifts often resort to informal activities such as street vending, small-scale entrepreneurship, and casual labour as a means to generate income and support their families (LEDRIZ, 2016; Chingwenya, 2020). For households with unemployed heads, this has translated to an increase in susceptibility to urban poverty and food insecurity. The appalling economic and political conditions have provided a fertile ground for the growth of informality and street trading in Harare. Street vending has become engrained in Zimbabwe's urban aesthetic (Graham, 2019).

2.6.2 Social and Cultural Globalisation

Social and cultural globalisation significantly influences urban informality on a global scale, reshaping cities and communities in diverse ways. As cities become increasingly interconnected through global networks, the dynamics of urban life are transformed, leading to the proliferation of informal economies and settlements, (Scoones and Murimbarimba, 2021). In the African context, urban informality is pronounced due to the continent's unique historical, social and economic landscapes. Mabogunje (2015), articulates that African cities often reflect the stark contrasts of wealth and poverty, with informal settlements emerging as a common response to the lack of affordable housing and basic services. UN-HABITAT attributes the emergency of urban informality to varying factors such as population growth and rural-urban migration, (UN-HABITAT, 2015). Unprecedented rapid urban sprawls in the outskirts of many urban and semi-urban areas have been another area of concern as the urban informality continues to grow (Bank, Lombard and Mitlin, 2022; Lubida et al, 2018).

In Zimbabwe, prevailing politico-economic crisis and increasing poverty has given rural and urban residents the impetus and legitimacy to transform urban spaces into space of survival, (Chingwenya, 2020). This rapid urbanization generates great social and institutional complexity in the Global South countries such as Zimbabwe, (Lubida, et al, 2018). Furthermore, social and cultural globalisation has changed urban life from being a unitary life style to diverse life styles that need expression in the city (Chingwenya, 2020). A central feature of informal urban spaces is ethnic diversity (Grossman and Honig, 2017; Michelitch, 2015). Ethnic diversity as social complexity, heightens ethnic and linguistic diversity, fluid population movement, and social and economic differentiation. Informal labour and commercial markets within cities can bring together workers, buyers, and sellers from diverse regional and ethnic origins (Grossman and Honig, 2017; Thachil, 2017). In such contexts, low-skilled migrants must often intensely compete, face-to-face, for work in construction, street vending, and other trades (Thachil, 2017).

2.6.3 Political Globalisation

Political globalisation serves as a critical driver of urban informality, influencing the governance structures and policy frameworks that shape urban environments worldwide, (Frost, 2023). As political power becomes increasingly decentralised and global governance mechanisms evolve, cities often find themselves navigating complex regulatory landscapes that can either facilitate or hinder informal economic activities (Sassen, 2018). Political globalisation is characterised by the increasing influence of international institutions, NGOs and multinational corporations on national and local policies (Moyo, Chirisa and Dirwai, 2020, Brass, 2016). Political globalisation has led to emergency of new forms of governance and regulations that often by-pass national and local government, creating opportunities for economic activities to thrive (Sassen, 2018).

Many African cities are situated in peripheral regions of the global economy, often characterised by weak institutional framework and limited governance capacity, (Rogerson , 2023). The informal sector in African cities often emerges as a response to ineffective state policies and the lack of formal employment opportunities, (Mabonguje , 2015). Political instability and corruption further exacerbate these challenges, leading to a landscape where informal settlements and economies thrive due to a lack of adequate regulatory oversight, (Nzazi, 2024).

In Zimbabwe, the launch of Economic Structural Adjustment Programme (ESAP) in 90s at the behest of International Monetary Fund and World Bank, led to significant increase in urban

poverty and informality (Hammar, 2017, Muchadenyika, 2020). It led to the privatisation of state owned enterprises, the reduction of public sector employment and the removal of subsidies on basic commodities. This resulted in a devastating impact on the livelihoods on urban residents, forcing many to resort to informal economic activities for survival, (Chirisa et al, 2017). The increase in number of foreign-funded NGOs and multi-national corporations in Zimbabwe has significant influence on the creation of economic opportunities, social capital leading to growth in informal trading (Moyo et al, 2020)

2.7 Opportunities Presented by Globalisation for Urban Informality

Globalisation can also lead to new opportunities for those who work in the informal economy in the form of new jobs for wagedworkers or new markets for the self-employed. However a collaborative effort on the part of grassroots organisations of those who work in the informal economy with sympathetic representatives of non-governmental, research, government, private sector, and international development organizations is needed to enable the most vulnerable segments of society to seize these opportunities (UN, 2019, Thulare, Moyo, Xulu, 2021). To achieve this, there is need to have a much more detailed picture of who is in the informal economy and what they are doing, as well as a more detailed analysis of how globalisation, particularly trade and investment policies, are affecting the employment arrangements and income sources of those who work in the informal economy (UN, 2019).

2.7.1 Integration into Global Value Chains

On the positive side, globalisation is providing many new economic opportunities for small businesses through increased access to global markets (Thochil, 2017). Global value chains refer to the international networks, suppliers and customers that collaborate to design, produce and deliver products and services, (Geriffi et al, 2019). Integration of urban informality activities in global value chains opens new markets, technologies and sources of finances that enable these informal economies to upgrade their services and products, (Kaplinsky et al, 2016). Leveraging global value chains, urban informality can improve the livelihoods of millions of people living in urban poverty. Global value chains often involve diverse products and services, offering consumers wider range of choices and potentially stimulating demand, (Miroudot and Cadestin, 2017). As argued by, Luong (2017), globalisation's impact on consumer preferences empower informal vendors to adapt and thrive in changing markets.

Today's business environment is complex and competitive and digital technologies have become an integral component of modern businesses (Nyemb, 2017). Organisations, day by day, are increasingly forced to adjust their affairs and be more agile. In order to compete with the market, each company does research, development and improvement over their business model on a regular basis (Jason and Yin, 2015).

This represents a lot of data to be collected and processed, due to this amount of work, in order to expand and automate they strongly rely on digital Information and Communication Technology (ICT) support. (Bresnana et al, 2015). Over the years, urban informality has evolved and its scale and scope have transformed to include thriving business enterprises where qualified people are employed and where high technology is used to facilitate production (Nyemb 2017).

Digital technologies and advancements offer many advantages, not only for external use to reach more potential clients, but as well as internal instrumental tools designed to improve, optimise and automate existing business processes. Globalisation, with its interconnected markets and technological advancements offers the potential for integration and upliftment of the informal sector into the global economy, (Simatele and Bolarinwa, 2024).

Mobile applications have become a cornerstone of modern business operations, driving significant impacts on customer engagement, operational efficiency, revenue generation, and market expansion (Jason and Yin, 2015). Digital technologies enables flexibility of doing business. Flexibility of informal employment allows individuals to respond quickly to economic changes, making it a buffer against economic shocks (Nyemb, 2017).

2.7.2 Development of Informal Networks

Magidi (2022) rightly articulate that Informal businesses, ranging from small-scale manufacturing to services, have created livelihoods for thousands of individuals, accounting for a significant portion of the city's employment. Entrepreneurial ventures, often driven by necessity and innovation, have sprouted in every corner, providing opportunities for self-employment, income generation and informal networks. Informal networks refer to unofficial relationships and connections that exists between individuals, businesses and communities in urban areas, (Huchzemeyer and Karam, 2016). The informal sector's adaptability and flexibility have enabled

it to respond swiftly to changing market conditions, making it a crucial component of the city's economic fabric (Chirisa, et al, 2017).

Furthermore, the adaptability and flexibility have enabled the access to resources, information and markets that may not have been available through the formal channels (Chingwenya, 2020). The development of informal networks can also facilitate the flow of remittances, goods and service between urban and rural life, (Oxfam, 2019). Development of informal networks is crucial opportunity presented by globalisation that enables urban informality to respond to peculiar societal challenge and thus provide access to resources, markets and information (Bank, Lombard and Mitlin, 2022, Oxfam, 2019).

2.7.3 Policy Innovations and Global Best Practices

The adoption of inclusive urban policies and global best practices is a significant opportunities presented by globalisation for urban informality (Lambard and Meth, 2016). Worldwide, cities are implementing innovative inclusive policies and strategies to address the urban informality concerns within their jurisdictions, (Chatiza and Gotor, 2021). City of Medellin, Colombia has implemented a range of innovative policies to address informality, including the creation of community-led planning initiative, (Brand, 2015). In Africa, City of Nairobi, has established a 'slum upgrading' program, which involves the provision of basic serviced to informal settlements, (Weru, 2018). In addition, the expansion of microfinance and access to credits has been a significant aspect of globalisation's impact on financial inclusion. Roy(2018) posit that access to credit is a powerful means of promoting economic development and reducing poverty, particularly for women and other vulnerable groups.

Furthermore, International partnerships have a crucial role in addressing informality in urban areas, (Oxfam, 2019). Global organisation such as United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat, World Bank are working with cities around the world to develop and implement tailor-made innovative strategies and policies to address urban informality. The UN-Habitat has launched the 'urban agendas' initiative which seeks to promote sustainable urban development and other challenges posed by urban informality, (UN-Habitat, 2016). World Bank has launched the 'urbanisation and infrastructure' program that seeks to support cities in the development of effective sustainable urban development strategies. These international partnerships provide critical support that enables local authorities such as Bindura to address challenges posed by urban

informality. Zimbabwean government has partnered with World Bank to develop and implement the 'urban development project' which seeks to support the development of tailor-made solutions for urban informality challenges in Zimbabwe, (World Bank, 2020).

2.8 Challenges posed by globalisation on urban informal sector

2.8.1 Socio-Economic Challenges

Globalisation intensifies impoverishment by increasing poverty, insecurity, fragmentation of society and this violates human rights and human dignity of millions of people, (Faist, 2017). The heightened interconnection of economies has facilitated the spread of illicit trade, informal labour practices, and limited regulatory oversights (Andreas, 2015; Hopper et al., 2017). Informal workers frequently struggle against the price undercutting driven imported goods supplied by multinational cooperation creating an uneven playing field, (Robson 2018). Informality driven economic growth may also mask the persistent structural challenges that underpin poverty and unemployment (Brown-Luthago, Reyes and Gubevu, 2016). Many of the workers employed informally are deprived of fundamental facilities such as social security and benefits. They are also confined to working in activities that have low productivity and also have lesser opportunities in terms of economic mobility (Lambard and Meth, 2016).

This precarious nature of informal work can result in low wages, unsafe working conditions, and vulnerability to economic fluctuations. Hence, while urban informality in Bindura plays a crucial role in the survival strategies of many individuals, it also highlights the urgent need for policies that address the rights and protections of informal workers, ensuring that they are not left behind in the evolving economic landscape shaped by globalisation.

Kamete, (2017) avers that the environments in which informal activities are operating is the highest mockery of human rights. Such planning approaches are no longer in sync with demands of the 21st urbanism (UN-HABITAT, 2015). In these precarious working conditions, women are most likely to suffer from lack of access to needed resources and information (Kamete, 2017). There is growing evidence to suggest that globalisation has served to increase the numbers of informal wage workers and to increase the insecurity of the existing informal workforce (LEDRIZ, 2016, Thulare, Moyo and Xulu, 2021). With the breakdown of a social contract between employers and employees, and the 'race to the bottom' as corporations move from country to country in search of

the lowest wage rates, workers are subject to low wages, lack of benefits, and lack of security in their workplace (UN-HABITAT, 2020). In Zimbabwe, the governments is now less able to respond to the vulnerable and disadvantaged sections of the workforce because revenues are decreasing as tariffs and taxes are reduced as part of the globalization process (Chingwenya, 2020; Branch Mamphilly, 2015).

The spread of urban economic informality has led to the deterioration infrastructure in Bindura (Chatiza, 2016). The rapid growth of urban economic informality has exposed the inabilities of local municipality to keep pace with this occurrence (Chatiza and Gotoro, 2021). Kamete, (2017) observed that planning in Zimbabwe is characteristically conservative, least compromising and strongly technocratic, which therefore give it very little room of flexibility in order to integrate the upcoming livelihoods of the urban poor. It therefore this kind of planning that denies the urban poor their rights to contribute in shaping the city according to the desires of their hearts.

Globalisation has contributed to limited basic infrastructure in urban informal sectors such as water supply and sanitation. The lack of access to these basic services has poses significant health risks to residents. scholar Ahmed (2018) states that A cholera outbreak in Bindura town has had a devastating impact in informal workers, forcing many to temporarily close their businesses due to the spread of disease. Urban informal spaces are often depicted as criminalised spaces, where residents face social ills and health risks due to lack of public services such as access to water, sanitation, electricity and spaces to store and prepare food (Brown-Luthango, Reyes, Gubevu, 2016). Despite all its positive contributions, the informal sector remains neglected by the planning systems to the extent that most of the informal activities are operating in life threatening environments resulting in precarious livelihoods (Kamete, 2017; Muchadenyika, 2020).

2.8.2 Environmental Challenges

The rapid growth of informal settlement in Bindura town, increased by globalisation, has led to significant challenges. Incompatible land uses, pollution and other challenges with different effects are identified as resulting from the agglomeration of people and activities in the urban areas (UN-HABITAT, 2016). In less coordinated ways, residents of informal settlements sometimes even generate illicit and haphazard patchworks of water and electricity connections to link themselves to city grids (Auerbach, 2017, Myer, 2016).

Rapid growth of informal settlements in Bindura has led to an increase in waste management and pollution concerns (Chisisa et al, 2017). This has resulted in the municipality's waste management infrastructure being overwhelmed by solid waste being generated. The sprawling of informal settlements and business stalls has resulted in unwarranted dumping of waste in undesignated areas leading to pollution of water resources and land degradation (Chirisa 2017).

More so, poor service delivery by the municipality has contributed to the spread of water borne diseases in Bindura's informal settlements. A study conducted by Mushawemhuka, et al (2020) found that the majority of households in Bindura's informal settlements relied on pit latrines, which were poorly constructed and maintained, leading to the contamination of ground water sources.

This challenge has serious implications for the health and well-being of residents in informal settlements. Environmental challenges in Bindura are exacerbated by climate change which result from globalisation through resource extraction and increased production and transportation, (Jackson, 2019). A study by Mubaya et al, (2019) found that climate change has led to increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events in Zimbabwe, including droughts and floods. This has increased the vulnerability of residents in Bindura's informal settlements, who often lack access to basic services and infrastructure.

2.8.3 Policy and Institutional Challenges

Globalisation significantly impacts the urban informal sector in Bindura town, presenting various policy and institutional challenges. The rise of informal economies is often fueled by global economic trends, which can undermine local regulatory frameworks, (Kohnert, 2022). Multinational corporations expand their operations, they can inadvertently increase competition for local informal enterprises, which often lack the resources to comply with formal regulations. De Soto (2016) argue that the informal sector thrives in conditions where formal institutions fail to provide adequate support, leading to a paradox where informal workers contribute to the economy yet remain outside the protection of regulatory systems. This creates a tension between the informal and formal economies, as informal workers often face harassment from authorities seeking to enforce regulations that they cannot meet.

Moreover, the lack of a cohesive regulatory framework exacerbates the challenges faced by informal workers in Bindura. For instance, studies by Chen (2017) highlight how policies that impose formalisation can alienate informal workers, who may fear losing their livelihoods due to increased costs and bureaucratic requirements. Policies that aim to integrate the informal sector into the formal economy often overlook the unique characteristics and needs of informal workers, leading to resistance and conflict, (Marti, 2022). This tension is evident in Bindura, where informal vendors struggle to navigate the complexities of local regulations while competing with formal businesses that benefit from government support. The existing pieces of legislation are only used to criminalise the operations of informal sector and their criminalisation means that they are outside the provisioning system of the municipality (Chirisa et al, 2017). The resulting friction not only hampers economic growth but also perpetuates social inequalities, as informal workers remain marginalized within the broader economic landscape.

2.9 Comparative Case Studies and Lessons from Other Regions

A study by McCormick, (2015) in Nairobi Kenya, has stated that globalisation has led to increased urbanisation and growth of informal livelihoods. Interviews shows that street vendors face challenges such as, harassment and lack of infrastructure, and limited access to finance. Soliman (2021), posit that informal sector often lack access to basic infrastructure, hindering their productivity and efficiency. As per research by Skinner (2018) a study in Johannesburg examined the opportunities presented by globalisation on informal traders using focus group discussion. Skinner (2018) states that globalisation has opened up markets and opportunities for informal traders to access goods and services from around the world. Chen (2021), articulate that access to markets enables informal workers to sell their goods and services generating income and improving their livelihoods. However, globalisation has increased competition from formal business and imported goods, making it difficult for informal traders to compete. The successful interventions highlighted in the study is the South African Informal Economy Policy, which recognises the importance of informal economy and provides support for informal workers.

In addition Annim, (2015) in his study, " Globalisation and informal sector dynamics in Accra Ghana," stated that informal sector operators have limited access to finance , inadequate unfavorable business regulations. The study highlights the success of initiatives that provide support to informal sector operators such as microfinance programs, business training, and

advocacy efforts. Wanyama, (2018) these types of interventions can help informal sector operator's access to resources, build capacity and improve their livelihoods. By leveraging insights from comparative analysis, policymakers in Zimbabwe can develop targeted interventions to address challenges such as limited access to finance, harassment and infrastructure constraints faced by the urban informal sector, fostering a more supportive environment for informal workers to thrive.

2.10 Research Gaps

The literature on urban informality in Zimbabwe, particularly in the context of globalization, remains insufficiently developed, revealing a significant research gap. Existing studies have predominantly focused on broader economic trends, neglecting the intricate connections between urban informality and globalization. This gap is particularly evident in urban centers like Bindura, where the interplay of global economic forces and local informal practices shapes the livelihoods of traders and artisans. The absence of empirical evidence focusing on the drivers, challenges and opportunities presented by globalisation within the framework of urban informality points to the need for targeted research that examines local contexts and experiences,(Chatiza , 2016)

Moreover, current literature lacks comprehensive analyses of the implications of globalisation for urban planning and governance in Zimbabwe's informal economies. While some scholars such Chombo and Simatele (2019) have initiated discussions on the challenges posed by globalization, few have thoroughly explored its transformative potential for enhancing the governance structures that address urban informality. Key issues such as the effectiveness of international partnerships, the adaptation of global best practices, and their applicability to local contexts remain underexplored. As a result, there is a pressing need for empirical research that unpacks the drivers of urban informality in Zimbabwe, as well as the opportunities and challenges these processes present. By filling this gap, the proposed study aims to provide a nuanced understanding of how globalisation influences urban informality and to inform policy frameworks that can effectively integrate informal economic activities into sustainable urban development strategies.

2.11 Summary

In conclusion, the literature review on Zimbabwe's urban informality under globalisation highlights a complex interplay of drivers, opportunities and challenges that shape experiences of informal workers in Bindura Town. Globalisation has catalysed economic participation in the

informal sector while also exposing workers to significant challenges related to regulation and market competition. Notably gaps in the existing literature regarding Bindura's unique context underscore the need for targeted research to explore these dynamics further. This chapter lays a groundwork for understanding the lived experiences of informal workers in Bindura, informing future policy interventions for equitable development in Zimbabwe's evolving urban landscape. The following chapter focus on the research methodology.

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter introduces the research design and methodology that was used as this research was being conducted. The study focused on the Zimbabwe's urban informality under globalisation unpacking drivers, opportunities and challenges of globalisation in Bindura Town. Research methodology aspect covered in this chapter include; research paradigm, research design, target population and sample size, sampling techniques, data collection instruments , data analysis as well as some ethical considerations.

3.2 Study Area and Justification

Bindura Town (Figure 3.1), located in Zimbabwe's Mashonaland Central province, serves as the study area for this research on Zimbabwe's urban informality under globalization. Bindura town is primarily known as a large scale commercial center located in Mashonaland Central Province in Zimbabwe. Bindura is situated 87 km northwest of Harare, the capital city. The climate condition of Bindura town experiences subtropical climate, with temperatures ranging from 16.5°C in winter 26 to 35°C in summer. Bindura District has a population of approximately 169841 (Zimbabwe National Statistical Agency, 2022). Bindura has experienced significant rural-urban migration, as driven by the pursuit of better economic opportunities, which has led to increased urban informality (Muchadenyika, 2020). Bindura Town exemplifies urban informality, characterised by informal settlement, street vending and informal mining activities. The selection of Bindura is justified by the town's struggles with informal settlements and uncontrolled urban sprawl, which are exacerbated by rapid rural-urban migration and globalisation. By examining the drivers, opportunities, and challenges of urban informality in Bindura, this study aims to contribute valuable insights that can inform policies and interventions, not only for Bindura but also for the broader district and province. The findings of this research will shed light on the impact of globalisation on urban informality, a phenomenon often overlooked by researchers and the public, despite its significant implications for sustainable urban development.



Figure 3.1: Bindura Town

3.3 Research Paradigm and Justification

This research is underwritten by the interpretivist tradition as identified by (Guba and Lincoln and Mertens, 2015). Interpretivist tradition values multiple perspectives and cultural complexities as source of new informed insights (Mertens, 2015). The interpretivist research paradigm offers a valuable framework for understanding complex social phenomena like Zimbabwe's urban informality under globalization. Its strengths lie in capturing multiple perspectives and cultural complexities, providing rich, context-specific insights into the drivers, opportunities, and challenges of urban informality. This paradigm assumes that truth is context-specific, acknowledging the role of social, cultural, economic, and historical factors in shaping reality. However, the interpretivist paradigm also has weaknesses and limitations. Its subjective nature can lead to researcher bias, and the focus on context-specific insights may limit generalisability. Additionally, the reliance on participant narratives may introduce issues of validity and reliability.

Despite these limitations, the interpretivist paradigm is well-suited for this research on Zimbabwe's urban informality under globalization. By adopting a discursive engagement approach, the researcher can reconstruct reality from participants' narratives, gaining valuable insights into the lived experiences of informal workers and the socio-economic context in which they operate. The paradigm's emphasis on contextual understanding enables a nuanced exploration of the complex dynamics driving urban informality in Bindura town. The research benefits from this approach, as it seeks to unpack the drivers, opportunities, and challenges of urban informality in a specific context, providing rich insights that can inform policies and interventions.

3.4 Research Design and Justification

A research design refers to total plan for how the research will be piloted, designed to answer the research questions (Stebbins, 2019). This study on Zimbabwe's urban informality under globalization: unpacking drivers, challenges, and opportunities in Bindura Town employs a phenomenological research design. The strengths of this design include providing rich, detailed insights into the challenges and opportunities of urban informality, prioritizing participant perspectives and experiences. By adopting this approach, the researcher can gain a nuanced understanding of the complex dynamics driving urban informality in Bindura Town. The phenomenological design allows for in-depth exploration of participant experiences, enabling the researcher to understand the lived experiences of informal workers and residents. This approach provides a detailed understanding of the drivers, challenges, and opportunities of urban informality.

However, this design has limitations. The subjective nature of phenomenology may introduce potential researcher bias, and the focus on individual experiences may limit generalizability. Additionally, interpreting participant narratives requires careful consideration to ensure accuracy and authenticity. Despite these limitations, the phenomenological research design is suitable for this study on Zimbabwe's urban informality. It enables the researcher to develop a deep understanding of the phenomenon, ultimately informing policies and interventions for sustainable urban development in Bindura Town and beyond.

3.5 Target Population and Justification

The target population for this study includes a diverse range of actors affected by globalisation and urban informality in Bindura, Zimbabwe. According to Saunders, Lewis, and Thornhill (2016), the

target population consists of individuals from whom a sample will be drawn to facilitate meaningful conclusions. Creswell and Poth (2018) emphasize that this population includes those with relevant knowledge and experiences related to the research phenomenon. Participants will consist of informal sector workers, such as street vendors, transport operators, and home-based entrepreneurs. Government officials and local policymakers will provide insights into regulations affecting the informal economy. Consumers interacting with the sector will also be included, along with artisans, private drivers, and informal residents living in settlements. This study aims to include both primary participants those directly involved in informal work, such as street vendors and transport operators and secondary participants those who influence or are affected by informality, such as government officials. This comprehensive inclusion ensures a holistic understanding of the research problem, capturing the diverse experiences and perspectives related to urban informality in the context of globalization.

3.6 Sample size and sampling technique

Sample size is a crucial part in the research process, as it has an impact on the accuracy of the sample (Holladay, 2016). A sample is a subset of the population from which observations and measurement are taken (Akhtar, 2016). The study employed the principle of thematic saturation to determine the appropriate sample size, guided by Saunders et al.'s (2018) framework which establishes saturation as the point where additional data no longer yields new thematic insights. This study initially targeted 14 in-depth interviews, 2 focus group discussions consisting of 8 participants.

However, the final sample size was dynamically adjusted using the stopping criterion proposed by Hennink et al. (2017), where data collection continued until three consecutive interviews or focus groups failed to reveal new themes. This resulted in a final sample of 8 in-depth interviews, including adult vendors and 1 focus group comprising of 8 participants (vendor, residents, private drivers, artisanal miners and government officials). This sampling strategy, as supported by Moser and Korstjens (2018), ensures both depth of understanding and representation of key subgroups while maintaining methodological rigor through continuous evaluation of data richness.

Non-probability sampling, specifically purposive sampling, was used in this research. Glaser and Strass, (2017) aver that, in purposive sampling the researcher uses their own judgement or knowledge to choose members of the sample. In non-probability sampling, the units are selected

to illustrate some characteristics that are related to the researcher's pre-approved criterion; thus, the sample is based on the investigator's assessment (Charmaz, 2016). In this research the researcher select non-probability sampling selects a sample that is either accessible, agreeable or relevant for the study, without necessarily, worrying about representativeness (Akthar, 2016). The study used purposive sampling in that it explicitly focused on key informants such as urban planners, community leaders and informal sector operators and informal traders and residents in informal settlements in Bindura.

In this study, purposive sampling enabled the researcher in locating participants. This was not to represent all of those in Bindura or all residents in informal settlements, but rather to build and share some narratives of how residents, informal sector operators and workers, have managed their life circumstances during the era of globalisation and shed light on the narratives and realities of their being seen as informal operators and workers.

3.7 Data Collection Instruments and Justification

Research instruments are tools used to collect data and fulfil the goals of a study, (Kabir, 2016). These instruments consists of techniques, processes and strategies used to collect data or evidence to unearth new information on a topic (Meriweather, 2016). Research instruments for this study consists of in-depth interview, focus group discussions and observations.

3.7.1 In-depth interviews

In-depth interviews (IDIs) were the core of the data collection strategy, providing rich, nuanced accounts of how globalisation manifests in the daily lives of informal workers. This approach allowed participants to construct narratives about their lived experiences and document individual adaptation strategies in changing economic contexts (Brinkmann and Kvale, 2015; Rubin and Rubin, 2020). The interview guide (see Appendix B) was designed to capture the life-history of participants, exploring how their work and living conditions have transformed over time due to globalising influences. The guide included open-ended questions that encouraged participants to reflect on their experiences, challenges, and survival strategies. The participant pool for IDIs was carefully composed to represent the diversity of Bindura's informal economy, including traditional market vendors, cross-border traders, home-based producers, and digital platform workers. This approach yielded deeply personal accounts that revealed both the challenges posed by global competition and the innovative survival strategies developed in response. The IDIs provided a

valuable counterpoint to the group dynamics observed in focus group discussions, offering a more nuanced understanding of the impact of globalisation on informal workers.

3.7.2 Focus Group Discussion

Focus Group Discussion (FGDs) were used to capture the collective norms, shared experiences, and group dynamics that characterize Bindura's informal sector response to globalization. This qualitative research method involves gathering a small group of individuals who share common characteristics or interests related to a specific topic (Kabir, 2016). The FGDs were designed to encourage interaction among participants, leading to the emergence of new ideas and insights that may not surface in individual interviews. The FGDs consisted of homogeneous groups, each composed of participants with similar characteristics, such as market vendors, artisanal miners, and transport workers. This approach created a space where participants could speak freely without power imbalances. The discussion guide (see Appendix C) included scenario-based exercises, such as asking participants to collectively brainstorm responses to situations they are experiencing, like adapting to a sudden influx of cheaper imported goods. These activities generated data about practical responses to globalisation pressures and revealed the social networks and collective knowledge that informal workers rely upon. The group settings proved especially valuable for identifying sector-specific concerns, such as transport workers' focus on fuel price fluctuations linked to global markets, or women traders' emphasis on balancing childcare with cross-border trading. The FGDs provided rich insights into the collective experiences and perspectives of informal workers in Bindura, shedding light on their responses to globalisation.

3.7.3 Participant Observation

Participant observation was a crucial component of data collection, providing direct documentation of behaviors, interactions, and spatial practices in Bindura's informal economy. This approach allowed the researcher to study "hidden" or taken-for-granted aspects of social life (Angrosino, 2016) and reveal discrepancies between stated and actual practices (DeWalt and DeWalt, 2015). The observation guide (see Appendix D) was designed to capture multiple dimensions of informal work, including the physical organisation of trading spaces, the use of globalised tools, daily commerce rhythms, and interactions between traders, customers, and municipal authorities. The researcher conducted systematic observations across key field sites, including major markets, transport hubs, and home-based production areas. Detailed field notes

recorded observations, and special attention was paid to moments of tension or conflict, such as encounters with law enforcement. These observations revealed unspoken rules and survival strategies not mentioned in interviews. The observational data served as a crucial validation mechanism for self-reported behaviours and captured the material and spatial consequences of globalisation that participants might not verbally articulate.

3.8 Piloting the instrument

Data collection is a crucial step in which the researcher must first evaluate the data collection tool to determine if the structure is acceptable, whether questions are clear and whether they will provide the necessary data (Makofane and Shirindi, 2018). Pilot study enables the researcher to determine if there are any adjustments to be made to the interview guide (Makofane and Shirindi, 2018). Before embarking on the main research data collection process, the researcher performed a pilot test by interviewing three participants who meets the inclusion criteria to participate in the pilot study. Thereafter the researcher made minor adjustments to the interview guide to improve data collection in the main research study. The data collected from the pilot test interview was however rich and relevant and was therefore included in the main research study findings.

3.9 Validity of the instrument

Validity of in-depth interview data is largely influenced by the appropriate selection of interviewees and their willingness to be honest. Gonzales (2015) also adds that ‘the quality of the information obtained during an interview is largely dependent on the interviewer’. Validity of research instrument ensures that the data collected accurately measures the intended constructs. To establish validity of instrument in this study, the interview guide underwent rigorous testing and evaluation through pilot study. The results of the pilot study indicated that the interview guide was clear, concise and effectively measured the intended constructs.

3. 10 Reliability of the instrument

In a qualitative research, reliability of instrument is established through measures such as member checking, peer debriefing (Denzin and Lincoln, 2016). To ensure reliability of in-depth interviews, the researcher conducted a pilot study with a small group of participants to test the interview protocol. The pilot study allowed the researcher to refine interview questions and ensure that they were clear and effective to be used to collect the desired information. Furthermore, the researcher

conducted member checking with participants to verify the accuracy of data and to check if the emerging themes and codes reflected the experiences of the participants (Creswell, 2016).

3.11 Data Collection Procedure

Koch, (2016) postulates that data collection involves the settings up of protocols and guidelines for each components of collecting data in the field. These components include, approvals, timelines, research instrument design, transcribing of interviews and pilot testing. Preparation for data collection involves elements to do with logistical arrangement for data collections (Gonzalez, 2015). In this study the researcher sought all the necessary approval from the relevant authorities before proceeding to carry out the data collection process. The researcher obtained a letter from the Sustainable Department (see Appendix E), and a letter from the Municipality of Bindura (see Appendix F) to seek a permission to conduct a study in Bindura Town. The researcher provide a consent letter, (see Appendix A) to the interested participants. It provide the insight on the research, and ethical issues such as privacy was guaranteed to participants. In-depth interview guide (see Appendix B) was structured giving the participants to share detailed nuanced insights regarding the challenges and opportunities associated with urban informality in Bindura Town. The guide was tested with a small group who are key informants and there was an adjustment to the questions. Purposive sampling was used to choose participants based on their expertise, and relevance to the study. The interviews took about 20 to 30 minutes and audios were recorded with the participant consent.

The researcher prepared an observation checklist (see Appendix D) before going to the field it consist of important factors to observe, these includes types of informal economic activities, market setup, and availability of foreign goods in the market. Observation were carried out about 120 hours, capturing important aspects by recording notes using smart phone.

Focus group discussion guide (see Appendix C) was prepared and tested to a small group with relevant information. Focus group enable the researcher to collect insights from multiple participants, providing a range of views and opinions. The researcher record the discussion to capture participant's responses and interaction. The results from the focus group, in-depth interviews and observations were integrated and provide a comprehensive understanding on Zimbabwe's urban informality under globalisation.

3.12 Data Analysis Techniques

Data analysis refers to a systematic search for trends, patterns, and repeated behaviours in information (Charmaz, 2016). Data analysis is a procedure of reducing data to a story and providing interpretations aimed at eliciting insights from it (Bitsch, 2015). Chilisa and Preece (2015) assert that, researcher in the interpretive paradigm most prefer to a plan an inductive data analysis which involves words and themes that are allowed to emerge from data itself and use the data from the literature to assist with the planning of data analysis. Since this study was guided by the interpretive research paradigm, it was necessary for the research to adopt thematic analysis with an inductive and latent approach for coding. One of the advantages and why thematic analysis will be used is that it effectively organises and displays data in detailed manner (Padgett, 2015). Thematic analysis enable the research to present research findings in a textual manner, extracting thick descriptions to support generalised observations.

Thematic analysis was chosen as the method for analysis. It has been argued that thematic analysis provides the basis of many other qualitative analyse (Guest, Manion and Mitchell, 2018). Thematic analysis has been described as underpinning most methods of analysis in qualitative research, particularly interpretative phenomenological analysis (Chilisa and Preece, 2015). Thematic analysis involve detailed line by line coding to generate themes and/or groups of meaning which outline the data. This is applicable to this study as the aim is to draw out themes of impact of globalisation on urban informality and then move onto interpret challenges and opportunities.

Qualitative data collected in this study was analysed using Padgett's five steps of thematic analysis.

These steps are as follows;

- Picking out unit meanings
- Grouping similar meaning into the same categories and naming these categories
- Coding each category
- Reorganising and refining coding
- Conceptually classifying the themes and presenting them

The use of thematic analysis in this study enabled the researcher to develop the themes that emerged from each and every interview conducted. Ideas and perspectives that had similar

meaning were categorised into themes that were created from the interview transcriptions. Necessarily, data was classified and grouped into categories in a systematic manner. The categorisation of data became an important tool for analysing information and picking out patterns that emerge and subsequently developing themes.

3.13 Ethical Considerations

Ethics are defined as appropriateness of the conduct of study of the researcher with respect to the rights of those who became subjects or affected by it (Denzin and Lincoln, 2015). To ensure that the rights of participants are considered the researcher the rights, needs, desire and values of informants and participants. The researcher obtained necessary approvals from relevant authorities, these include a letter from Sustainable Department and a letter from the Municipality of Bindura to conduct a study in Bindura Town.

The ethics of the study was considered through obtaining the informed consent letter. The principle of informed consent stipulates that research participants are being fully informed of the research scope, characteristics and implications of taking part in the research should give written consent (Wilson and Maclean, 2020). Informed consent refers to the permission given to the researcher by a research participants with full knowledge of the possible advantages and disadvantages of participating, (Cohen, Manion and Morrison, 2016). During the data collection process, informed consent forms were signed prior to commencement. The researcher ensured that all participants understood the implications of consent and that they had the right to withdraw and or withdraw their consent at any time.

In this study, it was important for the researcher to ensure that the identities of the participants who took part in the research remain anonymous and that confidentiality was maintained. When one has been assured of confidentiality, it means that the information shared will not be disclosed, at least without granted permission, (Denzin and Lincoln, 2015). To ensure confidentiality, in-depth interviews were conducted in private rooms. To ensure privacy and anonymity of respondents during focus group discussions, no names were used and any information which may reveal the identities of the participants was removed. Anonymisation is a techniques used by researchers to protect the study participant from any accidental breach of confidentiality (Wessenaar, 2016). In the study the researcher made use of pseudonyms to ensure anonymity of participants.

3.14 Summary

This chapter discussed the methodological consideration of this study. The research paradigm, research approach, research design and research methods and instruments selected for use in this study were discussed and the justification for using them explained. This chapter went further to define and explain target population, sample and sampling techniques that were used. The latter part of the chapter explained data analysis and ethical consideration of the study. Data analysis outlined the processes that were used to analyse data gathered in this study. Ethical considerations which were observed in this study include informed consent and ensuring confidentiality an, privacy and anonymity of participants. The next chapter will focus on data presentation, interpretation and discussion.

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the analysis, results and the discussion of data gathered from the field solicited through research instruments i.e. interviews and focus groups and observation. The respondents included government officials, vendors, private drivers, residents and artisanal miners. The data is presented in form of tables, pie chart and descriptions for clear illustration of the themes that came out from the study.

4. 2 Interview and focus group response rate

The principle of saturation was used in conducting interviews. Data saturation refers to the point in the research process when no new information is discovered in data analysis, and this redundancy signals to researchers that data collection may cease. (Saunders, 2017). Simply, it is

the point in a research process when sufficient information has been gathered to reach the essential conclusions and further data collecting will not yield insightful information Morse (2015) suggested that saturation is the most common guiding principle for assessing the adequacy of purposive samples in qualitative research (Morse, 2015). Eight (8) interviews and 1 focus group of 8 participants were conducted on government officials, vendors, residents, artisanal miners and private drivers. Therefore, the response rate was illustrated below (Figure 4.1), showing the 16 participants in this research.

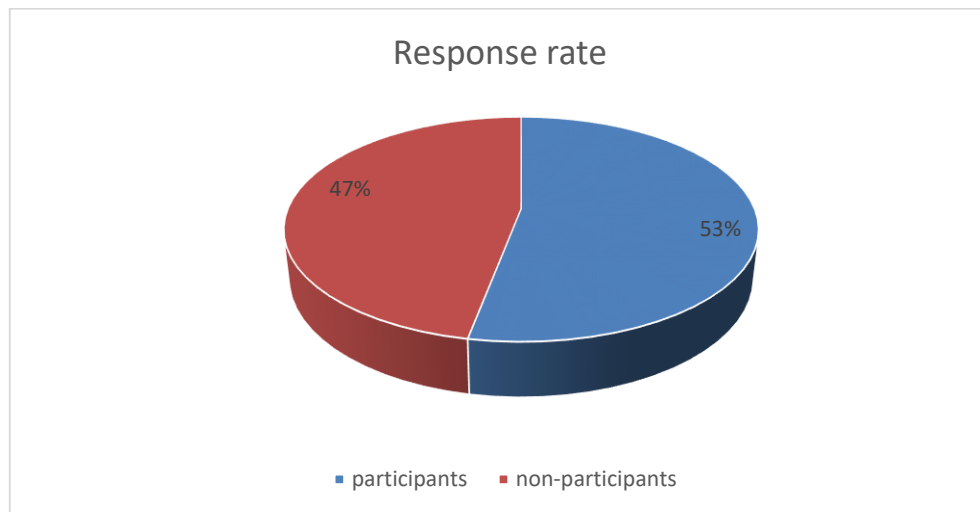


Figure 4.1: Response rate (Source: Author)

4.3 Demography profile of participants

Table 4.1 Demographic data of participants

	Sex	Age	Occupation	Education	Marital status
P1	M	30	Government official	Tertiary	Married
P2	F	36	Vendor	Tertiary	Married
P3	M	43	Private driver	Secondary	Single
P4	M	38	Artisanal miner	Secondary	Married

P5	M	25	Private driver	Tertiary	Single
P6	M	42	Vendor	Tertiary	Single
P7	M	26	Artisanal miner	Secondary	Married
P8	M	45	Vendor	Primary	Married
P9	F	31	Resident	Secondary	Married
P10	F	36	Resident	Secondary	Married
P11	F	26	Vendor	Tertiary	Single
P12	F	42	Resident	Tertiary	Married
P13	M	18	Private driver	Secondary	Single
P14	F	46	Vendor	Tertiary	Married
P15	M	34	Government official	Tertiary	Married
P16	F	40	Government official	Tertiary	Married

Source: (Author)

As depicted in the table above, the participants constituted of 9 males and 7 females. The age ranges of the participants had a minimum of 25 years while the maximum age was 46. Among the 16 participants, 3 were government officials, 13 informal operators that constitute 5 vendors, 2 artisanal miners and 3 private drivers and 3 were residents. On educational qualifications, one participants only had primary education qualification, 9 have tertiary qualification and 6 have secondary qualification. Therefore, this demography data shows that the participants were well qualified to understand what they were required to respond to so as to give accurate and valid answers.

4.4 Drivers of urban informality in the context of globalization in Bindura Town.

This section explores the drivers of urban informality in the context of globalisation in Bindura Town. Through responses that were given the drivers include, global economic trends, weak regulatory framework and social networks and cultural norms.

4.4.1 Global economic trends

The participants highlighted that competition and changing markets dynamics from globalisation drives urban informality in Bindura Town. Interview revealed that the influx of cheap imports from global markets has created challenges for local businesses but has also driven individuals towards informal entrepreneurship.

“Globalisation has pushed many of us into informal trade, as it is a way to survive and provide for our families in a challenging economic environment” (vendor: P 2)

These statement illustrates how globalisation perpetuates urban informality in Bindura town by providing access to markets.

Also vendors struggle against larger companies (MNC) that offer lower prices due to economies of scale. The influx of cheap goods, imported goods, especially from neighbouring countries and global suppliers, disrupt local markets. This economic competition forces many residents into informal sector, as they seek alternative means of income by selling goods that might have otherwise been offered through formal channels.

“Through globalisation I can now access cheap goods and participate in global market, but it has also forced many of us into informality due to lack of formal job opportunities” (vendor: P 6)

4.4.2 Weak regulatory framework

Participants noted that weak regulatory framework in Bindura contribute to the prevalence of urban informality. Focus group discussion with government officials highlighted the challenges in enforcing regulations to support formalisation.

“Our systems are overloaded we simply cannot manage all informal activities effectively” (government official, P 1)

This lack of oversight by default facilitates informal economic activities as individuals seek to bypass bureaucratic obstacles associated with formalisation. Observational data also revealed that many individuals face bureaucratic hurdles when trying to start formal businesses leading them to seek alternative means of income.

An interview highlighted frustration regarding length registration processes and high taxation, with a vendor stating,

“It’s easier to sell goods without a licence than to navigate the system. It is designed to keep us out.” (Vendor: P 8)

Through focus group the issue of corruption among government officials is a pervasive issue that drives informality. When officials prioritise personal gain over enforcing laws, it creates an environment where informal activities thrive.

“As a private driver, I have encountered numerous challenges, but none as frustrating as the corruption from authorities, they are more interested in extracting bribes than ensuring public safety” (private driver: P 3)

The above statement show how weak regulatory frameworks acts as a substantial driver of urban informality in Bindura Town. Strengthening regulatory frameworks is essential to address urban informality and promote a fair operating environment.

4.4.3 Social networks and cultural norms

The assessment shows that social and cultural norms influenced by globalisation also serve as drivers of urban informality, Globalisation has connected the town to global markets, enabling individuals to engage in informal entrepreneurship, such as artisanal mining. Local cultural norms and social relationships facilitate these informal activities, as individual rely on community ties and networks to access markets, resources and information. This blending of global influences and local norms has contributed to the growth of urban informality in Bindura Town.

“Globalisation has brought new ideas and connection to our community, but it also means we have to adapt to survive. We have learned new ways of mining and selling of gold to other countries, but it force us to work informally. Our cultural values of community support and resilience help us navigate this reality” (artisanal miner: P 4)

This highlights how social networks and cultural norms drive urban informality in Bindura Town by facilitating adaptation to global influences, fostering community support, enabling resilience in the face of economic uncertainty, ultimately shaping local practices and informal economic activities.

4.5 Opportunities Presented by Globalisation on urban informality in Bindura Town.

The second objective focused on identifying opportunities presented by globalisation on urban informality. Several key opportunities were highlighted by the participants:

4.5.1 Technological Integration

Many informal operators recognised the role of digital technologies in enhancing their businesses. The ability to market products online and access global supply chains through platforms like WhatsApp and Facebook was seen as a major opportunity.

"We can now sell our goods on Facebook, and people from other areas can buy. This is a big opportunity for us to grow our businesses" (vendor: P11).

"Using ecocash and one money has been a game changer for my business, I can receive payments from passengers instantly and it's safer than carrying cash" (private driver: P 5)

This technological opportunity reflects how globalisation can facilitate the growth of urban informality promoting employment in Bindura Town. By utilising digital platforms, informal operators can reach wider markets, grow their businesses, and potentially transition into the formal economy.

4.5.2 Networking Opportunities

Globalisation has facilitated the formation of collaborative networks among informal workers. Focus group discussion highlighted that through community organisations and informal associations, vendors are increasingly able to share resources, knowledge and strategies for navigating the informal business landscape.

"When we come together as vendors, we find ways to face challenges together. It's about sharing experiences and learning from one another." (Vendor: P 14)

The quote above highlighted that, collaborative spirit provide operational support and enhance resilient against external pressures.

4.5.3 Increased consumer demand

The globalisation of trade has fostered increasing consumer interest in local products. Focus group discussions highlighted that many consumers are looking for unique, locally sourced goods which informal vendors can provide.

“Globalisation has opened up new markets and increased demand for our products, people are looking for affordable goods, and we are able to provide them , it created opportunities for us vendors to grow our businesses and innovate” (vendor: P 2)

This quote highlighted how informal business grow through increased in demands of locally produced goods. The growing demand creates a favourable environment for informal workers to thrive in their business and emphasise that informal traders should focus on goods they have comparative advantage, thereby creating variety in the market place.

4.4.4 Financial inclusion

Globalisation has driven the development of microfinance, providing urban informal residents and workers with access to financial services, empowering them to invest in their businesses, manage risks, and improve their livelihoods. From focus group discussions participant highlighted that Microfinance has bridged the financial inclusion gap, fostering entrepreneurship, economic resilience and sustainable development in urban informal economies.

“Microfinance has been instrumental in transforming my business, with the loan I accessed, I was able to restock my stall and expand my operations. As a result, I am able to provide a better life for my family and contribute to the economic growth of my community”(vendor : P2)

“Access to microfinance has enabled me to upgrade my home with better infrastructure, including improved water supply and sanitation. This investment has not only enhanced our living conditions but also provided a safer and healthier environment for my family.”(Resident :P 10)

The above quotes revealed how microfinance has proven to be vital resource in the pursuit of economic resilience and social progress, enabling individuals to build better futures for themselves and their families.

4.6 Challenges Posed by Globalisation on urban Informal sector in Bindura Town

The third objective sought to assess the challenges posed by globalisation in the urban informal sector in Bindura. Key challenges reported by participants include;

4.6.1 Competition from imported goods

Informal operators indicated that globalisation led to the influx of cheaper imported goods, which made it difficult for locally produced products to compete.

"Imported goods are flooding our markets, and they are cheaper than what we can locally produce, it is hard to survive as a vendor when foreign products are readily available at lower prices, we try to compete but it is tough" (vendor: P 11).

This issue highlights the unequal competition between locally produced goods and imported products in the informal sector. While globalisation opens up market opportunities, it also creates an imbalance that disadvantages local businesses, particularly in developing economies where resources and access to production technologies are limited.

4.6.2 Vulnerability to economic shifts

Informal operators and residents of informal settlements also noted that global economic shifts cause vulnerability for informal workers in Bindura Town. Fluctuating global markets lead to changes in demand for locally produced goods, vendors and informal workers noted that their income become high volatile.

"When prices go up due to international markets forces, we feel the squeeze. Our customers cannot afford to buy and we lose sales."(Vendor: P 2)

"The unpredictability of economic shifts including fluctuation fuel prices, makes it difficult for me to plan and budget effectively, ultimately affecting my income stability."(Private driver: P 13)

This illustrates the fragile nature of informal employment in the face of economic changes, which undermine their financial stability.

4.6.3 Regulatory Challenges

Globalisation has also intensified regulatory pressure faced by informal sector workers. Through interviews and observations, it was noted that local authorities have become stricter in endorsing

regulations that specifically target informal vendors, often in an attempt to enhance the city's image to attract foreign investors.

"We are constantly being chased away from selling in good locations. The authorities say it's for city beautification but it feels like they want to push us out." (Vendor: P 14)

"We need to clean up the streets to create an attractive environment for investment, but this often comes at the expenses of informal vendors" (Government official: P 16)

The quotations reflects how globalisation impact on the regulations that governs informal activities in Bindura Town. The regulations contribute to vulnerability of informal workers, who may face displacement from their chosen locations.

4.6.4 Social Displacement

Globalisation's effect on migration was also noted as a significant challenge. Migration to urban areas; driven by both economic opportunities and social factors, led to overcrowding and inadequate housing, particularly in informal settlements.

"Many people from rural areas are moving here because they believe they will find work, but this only makes our living conditions worse." (Resident 1: P 9)

"Many of the informal operators are not from Bindura. They came to town because of the hope that the economy will be better, but instead, they face displacement from government policies, making it harder for them to establish a home and a livelihood." (Government: P11).

These quotations highlight the social displacement issues that arise due to globalisation's impact on local informal economies. In this case, economic migration, driven by the promise of better opportunities, leads to the displacement of individuals who may find themselves in precarious living situations. The researcher's interpretation is that globalisation exacerbates social displacement by promoting urbanisation without providing adequate support systems for informal workers. These individuals, who migrate to cities hoping for better living conditions, are caught in a cycle of uncertainty where they are unable to settle or integrate into urban life.

4.6.5 Health risk challenges

Globalisation has significantly contributed to urban informality in Bindura Town, resulting in various health challenges. The rapid urbanisation and in formalisation have led to poor sanitation and hygiene, inadequate access to clean water, and overcrowding, increasing the risk of disease transmission.

“As a vendor, we face health risks due to poor sanitation, lack of clean water, sanitation and overcrowding. These condition put us and our customers at risk” (vendor: P 8)

“Globalisation has increased urban informality, posing significant health risk challenges, we struggle to provide basic services like sanitation, healthcare and safety to informal workers” (government official : P 1)

These views from participants highlight how globalisation posed health challenges on both vendors and customers. They is need for interventions to the municipality of Bindura in to help create a conducive environment to informal workers.

4.7 Discussion of the Results

The primary aim of this study was to gain insights into Zimbabwe's urban informality under globalisation, unpacking the drivers, opportunities, and challenges faced by informal sector workers in Bindura Town. Guided by a phenomenological approach, the research provided an in-depth understanding of urban informality and highlighted key findings regarding the drivers leading to informality, the challenges posed by globalization, and the opportunities that arise from this complex interplay. The findings indicated that economic necessity, inadequate government support, and weak regulatory frameworks are critical drivers of urban informality in Bindura Town. Furthermore, vendors face several challenges stemming from globalization, including increased competition from formal businesses and multinationals, regulatory pressures, and economic volatility. However, the study also revealed that globalisation presents opportunities for vendors, such as access to global markets, increased consumer demand, and greater networking possibilities.

4.7.1 Drivers of Urban Informality in the Context of Globalization in Bindura Town

From the findings the researcher noted that the global economic trends significantly drive urban informality by reshaping labour markets. The participants described that the influx of cheaper

goods brought by globalization has provide an opportunity for many to engage into urban informal sector. This aligns with the findings reported in literature by Hopper et al (2017) who expressed that heightened interconnection of economies has facilitated the spread of illicit trade, informal labour practices and limited regulatory oversight.

Moreover, it was shown from the findings that weak regulatory framework in Bindura poses a significant barrier to formalisation and simultaneously acts as a driver for continued informality. Participants pointed that local regulations regarding business licensing, health standards and operating permits are inconsistently applied. They expressed frustration with bureaucratic hurdles involved in formalising businesses, thereby creating an environment that favours informal operations. From the findings vendors feel a sense of security in informal settings due to infrequent inspections by authorities. This sentiment resonates with research by Moyo and Chirisa (2020) who points out that weak enforcement lead to a culture in which informal work is perceived as acceptable, thus incentivizing individuals to remain in the informal sector.

Results emphasise social networks and cultural norms as critical drivers of urban informality in Bindura Town. The close-knit community structures in Bindura facilitate the pooling of resources and sharing of information among informal vendors. Many participants indicated that their informal networks provide emotional support and practical assistance in procurement, marketing and navigating market dynamics. Researchers like Chingwenya (2020) emphasize the importance of social capital in fostering networks that support informal economies, which aligns with the experiences shared by vendors in Bindura Town.

4.7.2 Opportunities presented by globalization on urban Informality in Bindura Town

The findings from this study noted that the rising penetration of mobile phones and internet access, small traders in Bindura Town are using social media platforms to advertise their businesses, negotiate prices and connect with suppliers. Participants highlighted that these technological tools have drastically improved their efficiency and market reach. This aligns with the work of Nyembi (2017) who discuss how technological integration enhance the operational capabilities of informal businesses. However, the difference is on how effectively these tools are being used which is influenced by disparity in access to technology among different demographics with younger

entrepreneurs being more adept at utilizing these tools compared to older, established vendors who struggle with technological adoption.

The study found that globalisation has enhanced networking opportunities enabling informal workers in Bindura to build relationships that lead to business growth and support. Participants pointed that these networks create a sense of solidarity among vendors and serve various purposes, from joint marketing effort to collective bargaining for better rates on supplies. This is in strong agreement with the results of the earlier research, including that of Bank, Lombard and Mitlin (2022) and Oxfam (2019) which states that development of informal networks is crucial opportunity presented by globalisation that enables urban informality to respond to peculiar societal challenge and thus provide access to resources, markets and information.

The study noted that financial inclusion through microfinance has enabled informal workers to transform their businesses. This mirrors with the findings in the literature that state how intervention through microfinance benefited informal workers. Wanyama (2018) argued that intervention such as microfinance has helped informal sector operator's access to resources, build capacity and improved their livelihoods.

The increase in consumer demand for diverse products noted in the research resonates with the findings in the literature that document how globalization create new market opportunities for informal vendors. As argued by, Luong (2017), globalisation's impact on consumer preferences empower informal vendors to adapt and thrive in changing markets. However, cultural factors determine specific consumer preferences in Zimbabwe, influencing how vendors innovate their offerings.

Cultural and geographical differences explain why this study's results diverge from other research. Bindura, as a provincial town in Zimbabwe, may face unique challenges related to globalisation that differ from those experienced in larger urban centres like Harare. The smaller scale of the informal economy in Bindura may allow for greater personal connections and adaptability, which could explain the more positive perception of globalisation in this context.

4.7.3 Challenges Posed by Globalisation on Urban Informal Sector in Bindura Town

From the findings the researcher noted that, informal vendors in Bindura Town, face unique barriers as a result of globalisation, particularly regulatory pressure stemming from a local

government attempting to maintain order in an increasingly informal economy. Participants expressed their frustrations regarding stricter enforcement of regulations that often appear targeted at informal workers rather than formal businesses, indicating an inconsistency in how policies are applied. This aligns with the study of Muchadenyika and William (2017) which states that the absence of an article policy framework for formalising the informal economy at the national level means it will remain a major obstacle to ensure structured and legal recognition of informal business operators. Annim (2015) state that informal operators face challenges due to unfavourable business regulations. However, differences emerge from the local political landscape and historical context which influences how governments approach informal sectors compared to other countries that adopt more inclusive policies.

The study also highlights that one of the major pressing challenges posed by globalisation is the vulnerability of informal workers to the economic shifts, which significantly affects their livelihoods. Informal vendors in Bindura reported experiencing heightened uncertainty due to fluctuation in currency and changes in global markets. These economic instabilities lead to unpredictable purchasing power for consumers, directly impacting sales for informal vendors. This finding aligns with literature highlighting how informal sectors are particularly susceptible to economic volatility. Moyo (2020) noted that informal workers often lack the safety nets that formal employees enjoy, making them more sensitive to external shocks.

In addition, the research finds that competition from imported goods is a significant challenge to informal vendors in Bindura Town. The informal workers compete with cheaper products brought in by multinational corporations and foreign suppliers. This competition leads to price wars where, informal vendors struggle to maintain profit margins while meeting consumer demands for lower prices. This finding mirrors the study by (Robson, 2018), where informal workers frequently struggle against the price undercutting driven by imported goods supplied by multinational corporations, creating an uneven playing field. A study by Skinner (2018) highlighted that globalisation has increased competition from formal business and imported goods, making it difficult for informal traders to compete.

The discoveries from the research, show that social displacement is a critical problem faced by informal workers in Bindura Town. The social groups find themselves economically marginalised and socially isolated due to the changing economic landscape. Informal workers in Bindura articulated

feelings of exclusion, as many residents are displaced from their traditional occupations and communities due to global economic pressures. This phenomenon is echoed in literature, where scholars such as (Lombard and Meth, 2016) states that informal workers are confined to working in activities that have low productivity and also have lesser opportunities in terms of economic mobility.

The insights from the research highlighted that health and risk challenges is a major problem encountered by informal workers in Bindura Town. The informal workers has highlighted that the lack of access to clean water and sanitation has exposed them and their customers to health risks and hinders the operation of their business. This align with literature where a scholar (Ahmed, 2018) states that A cholera outbreak in Bindura town has had a devastating impact in informal workers, forcing many to temporarily close their businesses due to the spread of disease.

4.8 Summary

This chapter presented the findings of the study, which explored Zimbabwe's urban informality under globalisation. Key finding highlighted that globalisation drives urban informality, present opportunities and challenges on urban informal sector. The drivers of urban informal sector were heightened as global economic trends, regulatory framework and social networks and cultural norms. The use of digital platforms and access to international markets were identified as key opportunities, while competition from imported goods and the lack of government support were significant challenges. The discussion compared these findings with existing literature, highlighting both convergences and divergences. The next chapter will conclude the study and provide recommendations for addressing the challenges and leveraging the opportunities identified.

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY OF RESEARCH FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter serves to synthesize the findings from the study on Zimbabwe's urban informality under globalization, specifically within the context of Bindura Town. It aims to offer a comprehensive summary of key findings associated with the study's objectives, provide a concluding analysis of the themes identified, and present actionable recommendations aimed at practitioners and policymakers. By reflecting on the challenges, opportunities, and drivers influences urban informality, this chapter seeks to inform strategies that can foster a more inclusive and resilient informal sector amid the pressures of globalization.

5.2 Summary of the study

This study examined the intricate relationship between urban informality in Zimbabwe, specifically in Bindura Town. The central problem addressed involved understanding how globalization influences informal economic activities and their implications for local communities. The primary purpose was to unpack drivers, opportunities and challenges associated with urban informality under globalization in Bindura Town. Using qualitative research methods data was collected through in-depth interviews with diverse range of key informants, observations and focus group discussion. Thematic analysis was employed to identify key themes and patterns in the data which was linked to the research questions and objectives, allowing for deeper understanding of globalization's influence on urban informality.

The key findings included global economic trends, weak regulatory framework and social networks and cultural norms which linked to objective 1. On objective 2 of opportunities presented by globalisation on urban informality increased consumer demand, technological integration, financial inclusion and networking opportunities are the themes that emerged. Vulnerability to economic shifts, regulatory challenges, health challenges, increased competition from imported goods and social displacement are challenges posed by globalization on urban informal sector in Bindura which is objective 3.

5.3 Conclusions

The findings of this study provide a comprehensive understanding of the influence of globalisation on urban informality in Bindura Town, thereby addressing the research questions and objectives.

5.3.1 Drivers of urban informality in the context of globalisation in Bindura Town.

The analysis revealed that the primary drivers of urban informality in Bindura are global economic trends, weak regulatory framework and social networks and cultural norms. Global economic trends drives urban informality as economic pressures arise from globalisation that constraint formal employment opportunities, prompting individuals to seek informal avenues for income. A lack of effective governance and enforcement of business regulations enables informal enterprises to thrive. The strong connections within communities and cultural acceptance of informal activities facilitate the growth of informal business practices. These factors create a conducive environment for urban informality in Bindura Town.

5.3.2 Opportunities presented by globalisation on urban informality in Bindura Town.

The study concluded that several opportunities were drawn from globalisation for urban informality in Bindura Town. Increased consumer demand by having access to diverse products from global markets to innovate their offerings to meet shifting consumer preferences. The development of networking opportunities enhances resilience among informal workers, underscoring the importance of connections in navigating challenges posed by globalisation. Through digital integration informal businesses are empowered to thrive by expansion of markets.

5.3.2 Challenges faced by urban informal sectors in Bindura as a result of globalisation.

The challenges posed by globalisation are profound and multifaceted, with findings indicating vulnerability to economic shifts, social displacement, and competition from imported goods, health risks and regulatory challenges. Informal vendors in Bindura expressed concerns about their susceptibility to global market fluctuations, which affect their sales and profit margins. Intense competition from imported goods increase struggling of informal vendors to compete with lower-priced alternatives offered by larger businesses. Health risk challenges has impacted on the business of vendors. The pursuit of global investment comes at the expense of informal vendors who are forced to operate in marginalised environment with restricted access to resources and opportunities, ultimately hindering their business growth.

5.4 Recommendations

Based on the conclusions drawn from the findings, the following recommendations are made:

- Policy makers should design inclusive policies that recognise and integrate informal workers into formal economy. This includes legal protection and social security.
- Investment in infrastructure that support informal businesses, such as market and access to finance to empower workers and enhance their productivity. Expand affordable digital connectivity in informal settlements.
- Civil society and International Development Partners should support capacity building programs for digital skills development in the informal sector for information access.
- Local and national governments should implement targeted import, controls on goods competing with local informal production.
- Researchers to conduct further studies on the impact of globalisation on urban informality in different contexts.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: PARTICIPANT CONSENT LETTER

PARTICIPANT CONSENT LETTER

STUDY TITLE

ZIMBABWE'S URBAN INFORMALITY UNDER GLOBALISATION: UNPACKING DRIVERS, OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN BINDURA TOWN.

Researcher: Goshomi Mavis. R

Supervisor: Dr. Mukwenyi

The Study objectives are as follows:

- 1) To explore the drivers of urban informality in the context of globalisation in Bindura Town.
- 2) To examine the specific challenges posed by globalisation to urban informal sector in Bindura Town.
- 3) To identify opportunities presented by globalisation on urban informality in Bindura Town.

I (or we) agree to participate in this study:

I understand that the purpose of the study and my role have been explained clearly to me. I recognize the importance of this study and see the value in taking part. Therefore, I willingly choose to participate without any concerns.

I know that I can stop participating at any time, and this will not affect me in any way.

I also agree to have my conversations with the researcher recorded. I understand that this consent form will be kept separate from the study materials to protect my privacy.

I have been told that once the research is finished, my parent ministry will receive feedback on the results.

By signing below, I confirm my willingness to take part in this study:

Full Name:

Signature:

Date:

Area /Ward:

APPENDIX B: IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW GUIDE

INTRODUCTION CONSENT

I am Mavis Rutendo Goshomi, an undergraduate student at Bindura University of Science Education, conducting research titled: **ZIMBABWE’S URBAN INFORMALITY UNDER GLOBALISATION: UNPACKING DRIVERS, OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN BINDURA TOWN**. This study is part of my academic requirements for the Degree in Development Studies. The information gathered will be used exclusively for academic purposes and will remain confidential. Participation in this research is entirely voluntary, and there are no subsequent benefits for those who choose to participate.

SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE PARTICIPANTS

1. **Age:** (a) 18-25 [] (b) 26-32 [] (c) 33-40 [] (d) 41-48 [] (e) 49years+ []
2. **Sex:**.....{female}.....{male}
3. **Marital status:** (a) Married [] (B) Not married [] (C) Divorced [] (d) Widowed []
4. **Education:** (a) Tertiary [] (b) Secondary [] (c) Primary []
5. **Occupation**.....

SECTION B: DRIVERS OF URBAN INFORMALITY IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBALISATION IN BINDURA TOWN

1. How do you think globalisation has influenced the growth informal economic activities in Bindura Town?
2. How do social factors contribute to the growth of informal economic activities in Bindura?
3. How existing policies contribute to the prevalence of informal economic activities in Bindura Town?

SECTION C: OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED BY GLOBALISATION ON URBAN INFORMALITY IN BINDURA TOWN

1. What new business opportunities have you noticed arising in Bindura Town due to globalisation?
2. How has globalisation changed the way you operate your businesses?

3. In what ways has globalisation influenced your access to resources?
4. What support systems have emerged in response to globalisation?

SECTION D: CHALLENGES POSED BY GLOBALISATION TO URBAN INFORMAL SECTOR

1. What challenges do you face as an informal trader or vendor in Bindura due to globalisation?
2. How has globalization affected the prices and quality of goods and services in the informal sector?
3. What risks and uncertainties do you associate with globalization, and how do you cope with them?
4. What support do you think is needed to help informal traders adapt to the challenges posed by globalisation?

APPENDIX C: FOCUS GROUP GUIDE

INTRODUCTION CONSENT

I am Mavis Rutendo Goshomi, an undergraduate student at Bindura University of Science Education, conducting research titled: **ZIMBABWE'S URBAN INFORMALITY UNDER GLOBALISATION: UNPACKING DRIVERS, OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN BINDURA TOWN.** This study is part of my academic requirements for the Degree in Development Studies. The information gathered will be used exclusively for academic purposes and will remain confidential. Participation in this research is entirely voluntary, and there are no subsequent benefits for those who choose to participate.

SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE FOR PARTICIPANTS

1. Length of involvement (a) 6 months to 1 year (b) 1- 2 years (c)2- 5years (d) 5years + []
2. Household size...
3. Length of residence(a) 1-5 years (b) 6-11 years (c) 12- 17 years (d) 17+ []

SECTION B: DRIVERS OF URBAN INFORMALITY IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBALISATION IN BINDURA TOWN.

1. What role do policies and regulations play in shaping the informal economy in Bindura Town?
2. How does globalisation, including trade and investment patterns, influence the growth of informal economic activities in Bindura Town?
3. How do global cultural trends, lifestyles influence your business decisions in the informal economy of Bindura Town?
4. What economic challenges in Bindura Town drive individuals to engage in informal economic activities?

SECTION C: OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED BY GLOBALISATION ON URBAN IN BINDURA TOWN

1. What opportunities do you believe have emerged for street vendors in Bindura Town due to globalisation?
2. In what ways has globalisation changed your business practices?
3. Can you discuss any community support systems that have arisen around the opportunities provided by globalisation?
4. Are there specific changes in your financial situation that you attribute to globalisation?

SECTION D. CHALLENGES POSED BY GLOBALISATION TO URBAN INFORMAL SECTOR

1. What are the biggest challenges you face as a vendor, artisan or informal market trader in Bindura due to globalisation?
2. How has globalisation affected the prices and quality of goods and services in your market?
3. What risks and uncertainties do you associate with globalisation and how do you cope with them?
4. What support do you think is needed to help vendors, artisans and informal market traders adapt to the challenges posed by globalisation?

APPENDIX D: OBSERVATION CHECK LIST

INTRODUCTION CONSENT

I am Mavis Rutendo Goshomi, an undergraduate student at Bindura University of Science Education, conducting research titled: **ZIMBABWE’S URBAN INFORMALITY UNDER GLOBALISATION: UNPACKING DRIVERS, OPPORTUNITIES IN BINDURA TOWN.** This study is part of my academic requirements for the Degree in Development Studies. The information gathered will be used exclusively for academic purposes and will remain confidential. Participation in this research is entirely voluntary, and there are no subsequent benefits for those who choose to participate.

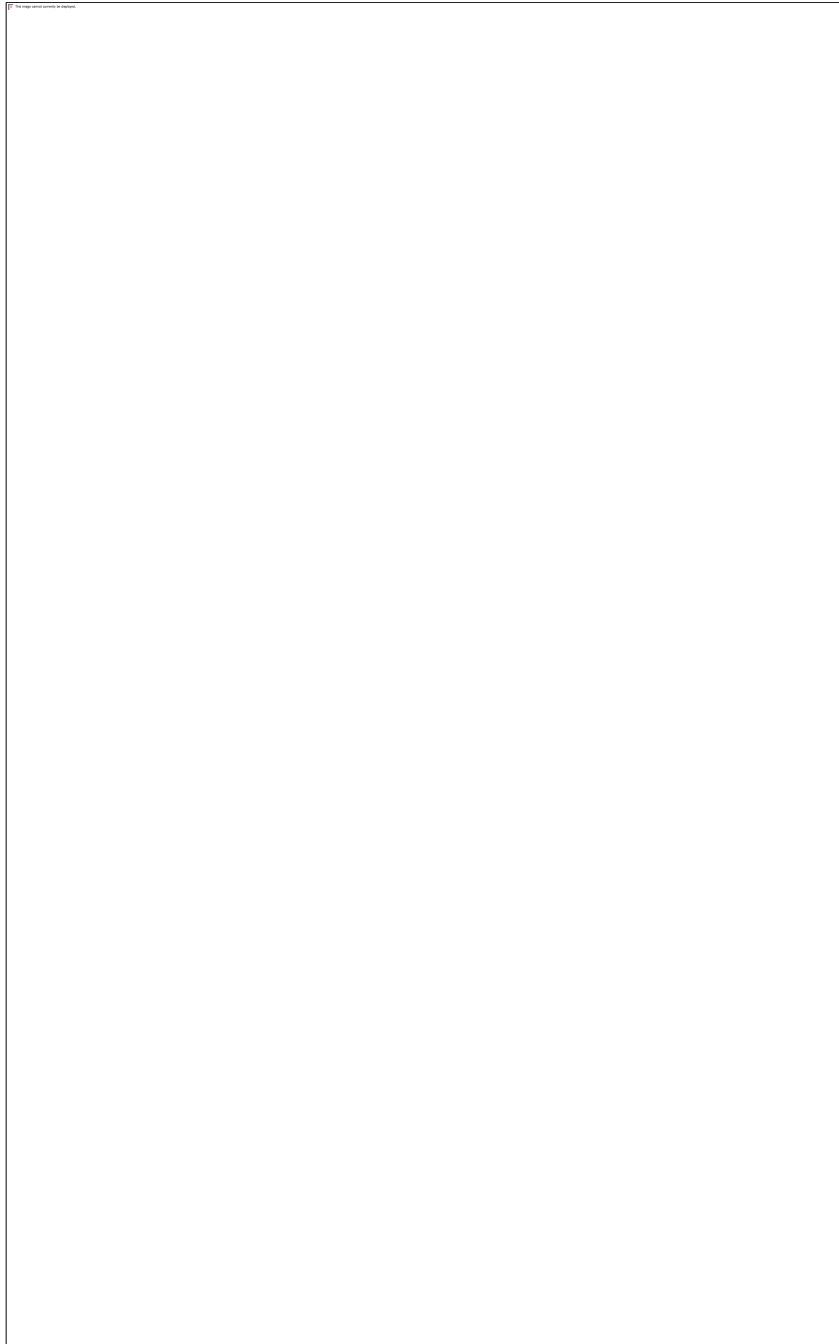
SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE FOR PARTICIPANTS

1. Gender (male or female)
2. Type of employment (vendors, artisans and traders)

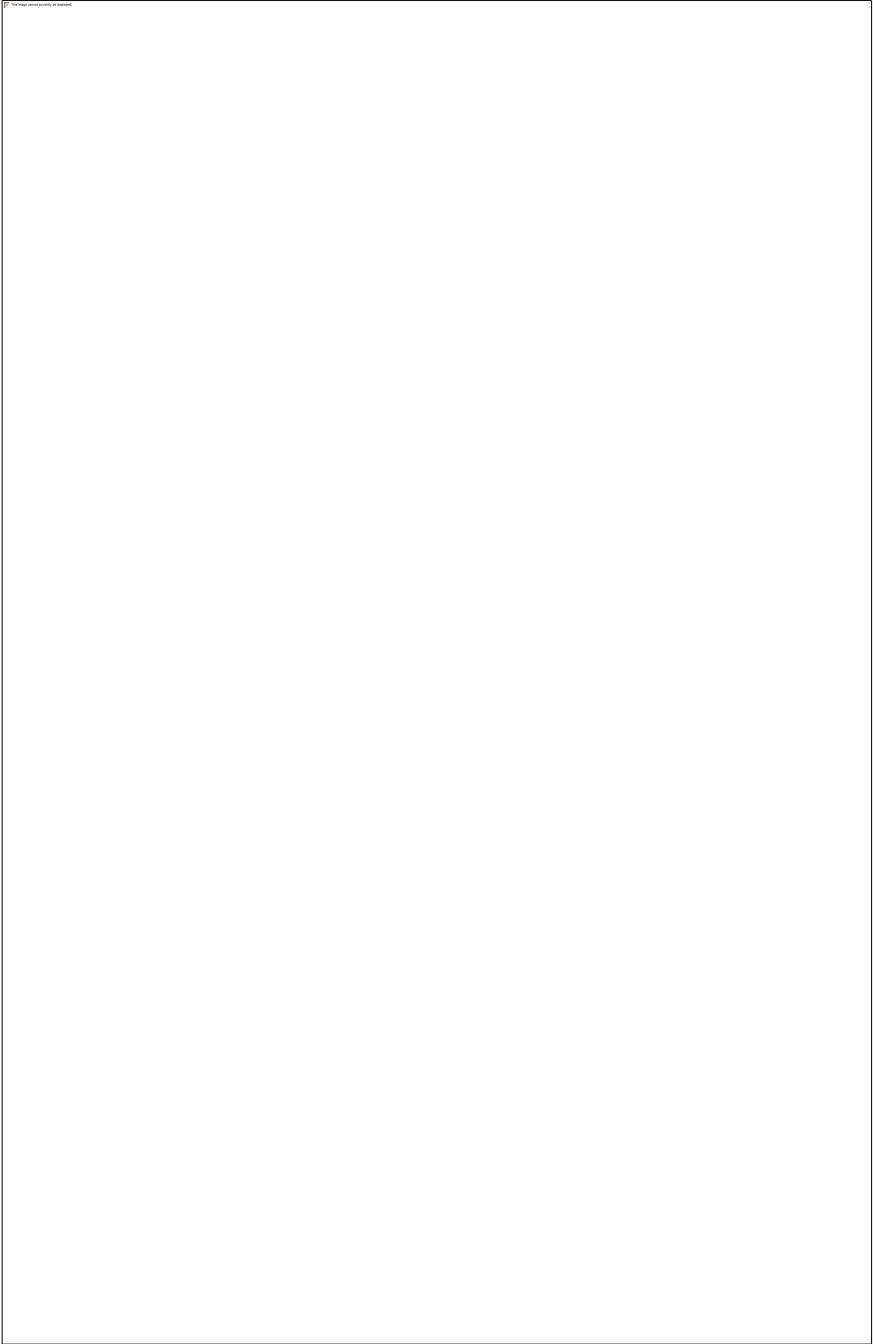
Item	Comments
SECTION B : DRIVERS OF URBAN INFORMALITY • Economic globalisation i. Access to digital tool by informal workers ii. Availability of imported goods versus locally produced iii. Types of informal activities iv. Price and quality of goods and services • Social and cultural globalisation i. Observation of social exclusion and marginalization ii. Quality of housing and communal spaces in informal settlements iii. Available of vocational training programs within the community iv. Presence of global brands in local markets v. Influence of immigrant cultures on local traditions • Political globalisation i. presence and effectiveness of local authority regulations ii. existence of organisations advocating for rights of informal wokrs iii. level of participation and engagement of informal traders and vendors in local governance iv. availability and accessibility of government services and support for informal sector v. observation of corruption and bribery	
SECTION C: CHALLENGES POSED BY GLOBALIZATION TO URBAN INFORMAL SECTOR.	

i. observation of foreign goods and service dominating local markets ii. presence of multinational corporations and their impact on local businesses iii. effects of global economic trends and fluctuations on informal traders and vendors iv. observation of environmental degradation or exploitation v. presence of health and safety risks associated with informal trading and vending	
SECTION D : OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED BY GLOBALISATION ON URBAN INFORMALITY IN BINDURA TOWN i. Availability of digital tools in the market ii. Observations of partnerships or collaborations between informal sector and formal businesses or organizations iii. Availability of foreign goods in the market.	

APPENDIX E: RESEARCH SUPPORT LETTER



APPENDIX F: PERMISSION LEETER FROM BINDURA MUNICIPALITY



APPENDIX G: SIMILARITY REPORT

