

BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION
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The Challenges to Women's Participation in Politics Within Urban Settings: A Case Study of Chitungwiza Ward 24

By

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Abstract

This research investigates the obstacles encountered by women in engaging in politics within urban settings, with a particular emphasis on Chitungwiza, Zimbabwe. In spite of worldwide initiatives promoting gender equality and enhancing women's representation in political arenas, considerable challenges remain. The research identifies significant obstacles, including cultural norms that often discourage women's participation in politics, as well as institutional limitations that hinder their access to political resources and roles in decision-making. Furthermore, the research underscores the effects of economic inequalities, which can hinder women's capacity to campaign effectively or attain political office. Through qualitative interviews and surveys, the results indicate that women in Chitungwiza face systemic discrimination, including harassment and violence, which further complicates their political ambitions. The research culminates with recommendations for policy actions designed to enhance women's engagement in politics, emphasizing the importance of community awareness programs and supportive legal structures to promote a more inclusive political environment.

DECLARATION

I, Simbarashe Nigel Makuve (B213682B), declare that this research is my own original work and has not been submitted elsewhere for examination. I confirm that all sources used in the research have been properly acknowledged and referenced.

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A hand-drawn diagram of a neuron. It features a central cell body (soma) with a nucleus containing a nucleolus. Several dendrites extend from the cell body, and a long axon extends from it, covered by a myelin sheath.

Supervisor's Signature

Date: 21 September 2025

Chairperson's Name: Dr Kurebwa

Chairperson's Signature.....

Date...../...../.....

Dedication

This dissertation is dedicated to my late father, Artwell Makuve, who was unable to witness my completion of university education. It is challenging to comprehend how I have advanced in my life without your presence, yet I hope that wherever you are, you take pride in my achievements. I still remember our conversations about your enthusiasm and anticipation for my graduation. You expressed a wish to see my development and success in life. Completing college without you feels like an unfulfilled triumph.

This dissertation serves as a tribute to my father for his unwavering support and guidance throughout my life. Your teachings have been instrumental in shaping my identity and have equipped me with the essential tools for success. Your spirit will continue to guide my journey, and I strive to honor you with every decision I make. Rest in peace, father, knowing that your lessons continue to have a positive impact on my life.

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List of abbreviations and acronyms

ACPDT	Africa Community Publishing Development Trust
CBOs	Community-Based Organizations
CM	Chitungwiza Municipality
IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union
LGDA	Lower Gure Development Association
MPs	Members of Parliament
MY	Ministry of Youth
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
UN	United Nations
UA	Urban Area
ZANU PF	Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front
ZimStats	Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency

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CHAPTER ONE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women emphasizes that the involvement and participation of women in various sectors, including politics, have notably increased. GLOBALLY, the challenges of gender inequality and the insufficient representation of women in political leadership roles have emerged as critical issues in recent decades (Paxton et al, 2013). The United Nations and other international bodies have promoted the increased participation of women in political arenas as an essential element for attaining gender equality and sustainable development (UN Women, 2020). At present, women occupy merely 25% of the positions in national parliaments around the globe (IPU, 2022). Although some advancements have been made in specific regions, inequality remains, especially in nations where cultural and traditional obstacles hinder women's political involvement.

Empirical studies suggest that, despite the many advantageous results linked to with increased female participation in politics—such as enhanced governance quality, more responsive policymaking, and improved social and economic development (Duflo, 2012; Paxton et al., 2013; Matland, 2015)—the pursuit of gender parity in political representation remains a formidable challenge in Africa (Kabeer, 2015). According to (Tenu, 2019) further contextualizes these challenges by examining the broader implications of cultural stigma on women's political aspirations in Ghana. Through qualitative insights, (Tenu, 2019) illustrates how societal perceptions and cultural beliefs serve as formidable perform as effective barriers against women

joining politics. The fear of public ridicule and societal backlash often deters women from seeking leadership roles, thereby perpetuating gender disparities in political representation. This research highlights the necessity for institutional reforms aimed at breaking down these cultural obstacles, contending that without substantial changes in societal perspectives, the involvement of women in politics is expected to remain limited. In Africa, 24% of women occupy parliamentary positions, as reported by (IPU 2022).

In Africa, the literature on women's involvement in politics indicates a complicated dynamics among cultural, social, and economic barriers that dissuade their participation, especially in urban settings. Osman & B. Abdulai, (2018) present a gateway in understanding the same through their work on local leadership in Ghana. They lay down that women's entry into local leadership continues to be extremely low owing to entrenched biases in culture, economic disparities, and the dominating domestic burdens which women are likely to undertake. The authors argue that despite the absence of formal regulations preventing women's involvement, a myriad of obstacles—ranging from financial constraints to societal attitudes—continually undermine their political aspirations. This study underscores the necessity for systemic changes to enhance women's political empowerment.

Building on this discourse, (Dodo & Mpofu, 2019) delve into the specific context of female youth activism in Zimbabwe, illuminating the systemic discrimination that young women face within political structures. Their findings suggest that patriarchal belief systems significantly marginalize female youth, despite existing mechanisms aimed at fostering their political involvement. Interestingly, the study reveals that experiences of election-related violence can paradoxically catalyse political engagement among female youth, suggesting a complex relationship between adversity and activism. The authors advocate for educational reforms and

media campaigns to bolster confidence and participation among young women, emphasizing the ability of Women's political participation to bring about change in society, facilitate democracy, and encourage good governance. Equitable involvement of women in politics has been considered an important element of democratization efforts and attempts to implement corrigenda for the prevailing gender-discriminatory policies that have been produced due to patriarchal political systems. Adoption in Zimbabwe of international and regional instruments led to the creation

Policies and strategies designed to guarantee that women occupy a significant position in the political arena at both national and local government levels are vital. Quotas have been instrumental in enhancing the representation of women within the legislative branch of government and in numerous local governments, thus ensuring their participation in decision-making processes. The percentage of councillors increased by more than five percentage points in both 2013 and 2018, rising from around 16 percent to 24 percent and subsequently to 32 percent, respectively. However, the presence and active engagement of women in local politics continue to encounter various challenges.

It is also found that powerful forces of socialization and cultural values shared by men and women result in the self-exclusion of women from political activities. Various legislations have been passed by Parliament to resolve women's political anomaly and have sometimes been used as panaceas to reduce this anomaly. Women have been getting quotas for political positions in Parliament and special economic aid programs to promote their political careers. Women themselves have taken part in activities to fight for their rights. Notwithstanding all these efforts, overall, women in the country, and particularly those in urban areas, are still in a marginalized position. Women who are in low-status jobs in the trade unions in Harare and in other towns are

few, and they are in low-paid positions. Indeed, we find that 46 percent of all women are concentrated in the sex sector, where conditions are generally appalling

Local political participation is a stepping stone for many women to gain networks, organizational experiences, policy and decision-making responsibilities, and competitive qualifications in order to scale the political ladder to higher national and international political achievements. This paper examines women's participation in political activities in urban Chitungwiza Ward 24 and unpacks local-level constraints affecting their active involvement in politics. The main objective of this study is to highlight the different socio-economic challenges that prevent women from contributing positively to the development of their communities through local political participation. Authentic transformative change can take place if these obstacles are removed.

The study examines the impact of limiting gender role stereotypes that have historically confined women to domestic spaces, thereby hindering their engagement in political activities. Women living in urban settings generally have better educational and employment prospects compared to their rural counterparts, which would suggest that they should be more politically active. However, this assumption does not hold true. In fact, urban women have been less outspoken and underrepresented in political spheres since the period of independence. The ongoing limited participation of women in national politics has reinforced prevailing notions about women's inability to operate effectively in public domains, thereby legitimizing the persistent inequalities that obstruct the achievement of women's empowerment objectives within established liberal democracies. Together, these articles illustrate the myriad challenges women face in engaging politically within urban environments. They emphasize the critical necessity for focused

initiatives aimed at overcoming the cultural and structural barriers that hinder the increased representation and involvement of women in political processes.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Despite constitutional guarantees of equality, women residing in urban areas, such as Chitungwiza Ward 24 in Zimbabwe, face significant obstacles in engaging in political activities. This research focuses on the barriers that impede women's political participation, particularly within the framework of Chitungwiza Ward, examining the socio-cultural, economic, and institutional factors that this paper addresses. According to Zim Stats, women make up 54% of the population in Zimbabwe, yet their representation in politics remains inadequate. Only 22 women, representing 10%, were directly elected to the 210-member national assembly. The Constitution allocates 60 reserved seats for women in the National Assembly, which has contributed to an increase in women's representation to 31.5%. Nevertheless, women continue to face substantial challenges to their political engagement, including violence, negative societal attitudes, and limited access to resources.

1.3 Aim of the Study

This research aims to explore the barriers that hinder women's involvement in political activities within urban regions of Zimbabwe, with a particular focus on Chitungwiza Ward 24 as a case study.

1.4 Research Objectives

1.4.1. Identify the factors contributing to the insufficient representation of women in local government in the city.

1.4.2 Determine the influence that an increase in women councillors in urban areas has on governance and the urbanites

1.4.3 To identify effective measures to ensure that more women participate in electoral politics at all levels and the impact of those measures in all their dimensions, including governance improvement.

1.5 Research Questions

1.5.1 What socio-cultural factors limit women's political participation?

1.5.2 In what ways do economic limitations affect women's involvement in politics?

1.5.3 What institutional obstacles hinder women from attaining leadership roles?

1.5.4 What strategies can be employed to address these challenges and improve women's participation in political activities?

1.6. Assumptions of the study

1.6.1 It is assumed that there is existing data and there available on the challenges of participation of women in Chitungwiza ward 24 politics, including their representation in various political roles, such as parliamentary, local government, and executive positions.

1.6.2 It is assumed that there are identifiable and documented barriers and challenges that have been reported or studied which deter women from active engagement in Zimbabwean politics, including cultural, economic, and political factors.

1.6.3 It is assumed that research and evidence already exist which have examined the influence of women's involvement in Zimbabwean politics on the quality of political representation, governance, and policymaking, and that this can be evaluated.

1.6.4 It is presumed that there exist crucial evidence-based policies and recommendations capable of fostering and improving the active involvement and representation of women in Zimbabwean politics. Furthermore, it is suggested that these strategies can be formulated by leveraging best practices and experiences from different contexts.

1.7. Importance of the Study

The research will be of considerable importance in tackling the existing deficiencies concerning the challenges encountered by women in urban political participation, as well as in investigating how women in urban settings can surmount these barriers. The outcomes of this study will carry implications for the effective implementation of the Electoral Act aimed at improving women's representation and involvement in both local and central government elections within urban environments, in addition to prompting public policy to conduct gender inequality evaluations. Moreover, the research will offer valuable insights for female politicians regarding the strategies they ought to employ to navigate these challenges, thereby enabling stakeholders to acquire a more profound understanding of the actual issues, with the potential objective of formulating knowledge-based interventions to mitigate the obstacles they may confront in their quest for political aspirations.

Lastly, Finally, the research findings will be useful to other researchers because they can utilize them as a reference guide; thus, it can be made available for discussion, testing, or further research on the topic. The study will also be of great value to those institutions that are interested in shaping more and quality women's political engagement in urban areas because it will document future advocacy concerns for the electoral and constitutional reform agenda. Results will be useful to developing on the available body of knowledge as well, and to establishing the foundation for additional conservation and sustainability of development within cities in general and Zimbabwe as a whole.

1.8 Delimitations

The research is limited to the case of Chitungwiza Ward 24 and the Harmonized Elections of 2023 alone. The research does not seek to provide comparative studies with other nations or electoral cycles. The primary emphasis of the study is the entry barriers of women in politics in Urban districts, especially in elected positions. It does not address gender and politics in depth, for instance, gender violence in politics.

1.9 Limitations of the study

1.9.1 This study may face several limitations, including concerns regarding generalizability, the presence of sampling bias, difficulties encountered during data collection, restrictions imposed by time constraints, and limitations associated with available resources.

19.2 In order to overcome these limitations, the study emphasizes the context-specific maturity of its results, calls for caution in transferring the results to other electoral contexts, and recommends follow-up research using comparative studies across countries or rounds of elections.

1.9.3 Transparency is also emphasized by the study as a key to detecting probable bias, using stringent data verification procedures, showing data limitations, and providing opportunities for collaborations with in-country specialists.

1.10. Definition of essential terminology

1.10.1 Urban Council

These are municipal councils or city councils. Urban councils refer to a council formed in respect of an area which is delineated as an urban area in the warrant forming the council (Zhou, 2012).

1.10.2 Political Participation

Political participation refers to the involvement of citizens and groups in a political system's or society's political processes and activities. Political engagement may manifest through various avenues such as casting votes in elections, participating in political campaigns, joining political parties, and attending public meeting., protests, or demonstrations, and political advocacy of particular policies or causes. Political participation is the foundation of democratic government.

1.10.3 Politics

Politics is the process, institutions, and activity through which individuals and groups of a society make collective decisions, distribute resources, exercise power, and govern themselves.

Politics encompasses the acquisition and application of power, policy and legislative making, and the governance of conflict and interest in a political system.

1.10.4 Gender Mainstreaming

Gender mainstreaming represents a strategic approach designed to incorporate gender considerations and viewpoints into the fundamental aspects of policy formulation, planning, and decision-making processes. The primary goal is to advance gender equality by guaranteeing that the needs, interests, and experiences of both women and men are consistently recognized and addressed.

1.11. Structure of the Dissertation.

The dissertation is organized into five chapters, as outlined below:

Chapter One: Introduction

This chapter aims to provide an introduction and the necessary background pertinent to the study. It details the objectives and purpose of the study, articulates the problem statement, specifies the aims and objectives of the research, formulates the research questions, and examines the delimitations and limitations related to the research.

Chapter Two: Literature Review and Theoretical Framework.

This chapter presents a critical examination of the theoretical bases and literature review that support the study. It includes the relevant texts and literature concerning the impact of central government intervention on the performance of urban councils, with a particular emphasis on a case study of Chitungwiza Municipality. In this chapter, the researcher offers an extensive

summary of the existing literature and research undertaken by other scholars about the effects of central government intervention on the performance of urban councils.

Chapter Three: Research Design and Methodology. This chapter emphasizes the research philosophy, research designs, data collection techniques, sampling methods, and various data presentation strategies that will be utilized in the execution of the study.

This chapter elucidates and details the processes through which information and data were gathered in an effort to understand the effects of central government intervention on the operations and performance of Urban Councils.

Chapter Four: Presentation and Analysis of Data, along with Discussion of Findings.

This section focuses on analyzing the data and presenting the results acquired throughout the research.

Chapter Five: Conclusions, Recommendations, Suggestions, and Future Research Directions.

The final chapter includes a summary of the conclusions and recommendations that have been drawn from the comprehensive study.

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1. INTRODUCTION

This chapter offers a thorough examination of the literature review and theoretical framework that supports the research. It includes texts and literature pertinent to the obstacles that hinder women's involvement in politics within urban environments, with a specific emphasis on Chitungwiza Ward 24, and is anchored in feminist theory. The objective is to critically evaluate existing empirical research, theoretical frameworks, and academic critiques to contextualize the study and pinpoint gaps. The chapter commences with a definition of feminist theory, delineating its core principles and prominent advocates. It also addresses critiques of feminist theory, emphasizing its shortcomings and possible paths for future development. By documenting trends and patterns across various geographical contexts, the chapter aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the varying degrees of women's participation in political processes. Furthermore, it explores the barriers to women's political engagement, which range from structural and institutional challenges to sociocultural norms and stereotypes. In this section, the researcher conveys the findings of other scholars regarding the difficulties encountered by women in political participation.

2.2. Theoretical framework

In examining the complex power relations of women engagement in political life, some theoretical perspectives provide sharp insights. They include Intersectionality Theory, Political

Representation Theory, Structural Functionalism, Critical Theory, Empowerment, and Feminist Theory. While each of these perspectives brings unique perspectives and analytical tools to the study, this research specifically adopts the feminist theory as its guiding framework. The rationale for this choice is elaborated upon in detail below:

2.2.1. The feminist theory

The feminist theory is very broad and encompasses a range of views that are all united in their shared aim: to Examine and evaluate the disproportionate allocation of power and privilege as it relates to gender (Crenshaw, 2019). Essentially, feminist theory is under the belief that gender is an assigned category that intersects with other identity positions and systems of power (Beauvoir, 2016). Feminist thought has evolved throughout history and encompasses a wide range of perspectives; numerous influential authors have played a crucial role in shaping feminist theory. Notable figures include Simone de Beauvoir, Kate Millett, and bell hooks (Millett, 2014; Beauvoir, 2016; Hooks, 2018).

Although feminist theory has managed to defy gender norms as well as promote gender equality, it has not been without its critics based on a host of arguments. The most common among these criticisms are essentialism as well as silencing the minority voice (Hooks, 2020). Within the context of with consideration of the effects of women political engagement in Chitungwiza, ward 24 feminist theory provides an effective framework for analysis of gendered power relations and representation (Walby, 2018). Furthermore, intersectional feminist theory can illuminate the overlapping dynamics of oppression and privilege that influence women's political activism in Zimbabwe (Crenshaw, 2019).

2.2.2 Non-Governmental and Civil Society Organizations

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) play a crucial role in fostering and implementing participatory democracy. Their trustworthiness stems from their ability to engage constructively and responsibly within communities. NGOs have launched and broadened various initiatives within local government structures. In some instances, they have become essential components of local public administration, as individuals often direct their requests for assistance to these organizations (Chatiza, 2020). Additionally, NGOs have explored alternative service providers in sectors such as health, education, and agriculture, which sometimes operate under privatization policies (Fisher, 2018). Zimbabwe boasts a vast network of NGOs that have significantly contributed to poverty alleviation through micro-credit programs. Prominent NGOs, such as Plan International, CARE International, Christian Care, World Vision, and the Sustainable Agriculture Trust, wield considerable influence in rural Zimbabwe. These organizations have empowered youth and women's groups to engage with their respective governments. Moreover, these coalitions have facilitated the transfer of skills from NGOs to their partner governments. They have also collaborated with or provided financial support to public sector institutions, enabling them to fulfill their goals (Chatiza, 2016). The Africa Community Publishing Development Trust (ACPDT) and the Lower Gureve Development Association (LGDA) serve as examples of organizations that have focused on rural women and the promotion of effective local governance

Significantly, these entities have integrated advocacy and capacity-building initiatives into their operations. Substantial resources have been dedicated to social mobilization within project committees, with several being organized as Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) (ACPDT, 2020). Additionally, there is a wide array of local and national organizations devoted to articulating

the social and economic rights of individuals, improving access to decision-making processes, and generally contributing to the democratization of society.

2.2.3 Women's Participation in Politics at the National Level

The involvement of women in political activities at the national level in Zimbabwe has been increasing each year. According to author Sara Mududu (2014), the country has made significant progress towards achieving gender equality in politics, with women taking on various leadership positions within the government, parliament, and political parties.

Despite these advancements, women still face numerous obstacles to full political participation, manifested through societal and cultural expectations that reinforce gender stereotypes and limit their access to networks and resources (Moyo, 2017). Additionally, Zimbabwe's political culture has long been characterized by violence, intimidation, and patronage, which disproportionately affects women and hinders their involvement in politics (Kadenge, 2020).

However, there are notable examples of women who have broken through these barriers and made significant contributions to Zimbabwean politics. For instance, Joice Mujuru, a former Vice President, and Oppah Muchinguri, a former Minister of Defence, have demonstrated that women can hold high level positions and make a meaningful impact (Mashingaidze, 2019).

2.2.4. Chitungwiza political participation among women, ward 24

A case study focusing on Ward 24 demonstrates that women have achieved success in a primary election. Mavis Gumbo has claimed victory in 2023 as a parliamentary representative for Ward 24. The governing party, ZANU PF (Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front), has not only endorsed gender-related matters but has also proactively pursued gender equality and empowerment through the appointment of Oppah Muchinguri as the Minister of Defense, along with other important political positions. Civil society organizations and women's groups have been instrumental in promoting women's rights to political representation in Ward 24, Chitungwiza. The participation of women in peacebuilding and reconciliation initiatives has further enhanced their visibility and impact within the political sphere (Tripp, 2015).

The rise in the representation of women within the political sphere of Ward 24 has greatly enriched the diversity of perspectives and voices contributing to decision-making processes. Female parliamentarians have advocated for the rights of marginalized communities and have brought attention to issues affecting women and children (Tripp, 2015).

2.2.5 Obstacles to Women's Engagement in Politics

A significant obstacle to women's involvement in politics in Zimbabwe is the deeply rooted culture of gender stereotypes and patriarchy that sustains gender discrimination.

Women are socially conditioned to prioritize domestic responsibilities over political aspirations and are often encouraged to adopt submissive and obedient roles in relation to men (Moyo, 2017). This cultural bias effectively prevents women from pursuing careers in politics and sustains the male hegemony within the political sphere.

Another hindrance is denial of learning and training opportunities, which also prevents women from acquiring skills and knowledge they require to be political leaders (Mududu, 2014). Zimbabwean women access education less, with lesser opportunities for tertiary level studies and leadership development. This holds them captive from political competition with men and continues to have gender discrepancies in representation in politics.

Women in Zimbabwe also experience serious economic constraints to political engagement. Political campaigns are very costly, which women do not have (Kadenge, 2020). Women also carry a disproportionate cost of household expense payment as well as childcare, thus having fewer economic resources that they can put into politics. This gender economic imbalance perpetuates women's underrepresentation in politics.

Violence and intimidation are also major impediments to women's political engagement in Zimbabwe. Political parties' members of both sides have experienced physical and psychological assault, sexual abuse, and harassment (Mashingaidze, 2019). The perpetrators of the violence aim at keeping their power and control in politics. Violence and intimidation keep the majority of women from engaging in politics.

Finally, Zimbabwean political life is consistently undermined by clientelism and patronage that recreate male dominance and limit women from becoming part of political power (Mvududu, 2014). Political parties are inclined toward male candidates and promote gendered stereotypes, limiting the chances of women to move up to political leadership. This highlights the inadequate representation of women in political spheres, consequently restricting their capacity to influence policy and decision-making.

2.2.6. The Impact of Women's Participation on the Quality of Political Representation and Governance

The participation of women in Zimbabwean politics has significantly improved the quality of governance and political representation. In spite of numerous obstacles, women have made a notable impact on Zimbabwe's political landscape, particularly in promoting gender equality and social justice (Mvududu, 2014). The female Members of Parliament in Zimbabwe have focused on critical issues such as education, health, and economic empowerment, which are essential for human development (Moyo, 2017). Moreover, they have been instrumental in promoting stability and peace in Zimbabwe, especially during the politically turbulent period of 2018 (Kadenge, 2020). Research has shown that women in Zimbabwean politics have contributed to enhanced government accountability and transparency, as well as improved service delivery in health and education sectors (Mashingaidze, 2019). Additionally, women leaders have advocated for the rights of marginalized groups, including women and children (Mvududu, 2014).

Last but not least, gender engagement in political matters in Zimbabwe has also enhanced the standards of political representation and governance. Notwithstanding numerous challenges women have encountered, they have contributed immensely to advocating for gender equity, social justice, and good governance in Zimbabwe. According to Mvududu (2014), "Women's political participation is necessary for attaining democratic governance and gender equality in Zimbabwe."

2.2.7. Chapter Summary

This chapter provided a comprehensive review of the literature, concentrating on the evaluation of women's involvement in Zimbabwean politics through the lens of feminist theory. The aim of this chapter was to explore existing empirical studies, theoretical frameworks, and critical perspectives to contextualize the research and identify gaps in the literature. Initially, the chapter offered an overview of feminist theory, detailing its core principles and highlighting prominent advocates. It also considered the criticisms of feminist theory, acknowledging its limitations and the necessity for further development. Subsequently, the theoretical framework was applied to investigate the topic, elucidating its importance in the analysis of women's political participation in Zimbabwe. Ultimately, the chapter broadened its scope to assess the degree of women's political engagement at regional, continental, and local levels. By examining trends and patterns across diverse geographical contexts, it sought to provide a comprehensive understanding of the varying levels of women's involvement in political processes.

Furthermore, the chapter explored the barriers to women's political participation, which encompass structural and institutional obstacles, in addition to socio-cultural norms and biases. This examination sought to highlight the intricate challenges that women encounter in their efforts to engage in political activities.

Following this, the chapter analyzed the effects of women's political participation on the quality of political representation and governance. Through the evaluation of empirical data and theoretical frameworks, it aimed to reveal the transformative potential linked to improving female representation within political decision-making bodies.

In summary, the chapter reiterated the main findings and provided an overview of the key arguments presented. It emphasized the significance of the identified research gap and outlined the structure for the subsequent chapters, along with the investigation and analysis of the empirical study. The upcoming chapter will detail the comprehensive methodology employed in this research, which encompasses several essential components.

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND DESIGN

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Chapter Three provides a comprehensive analysis of the research topic concerning the representation and participation of women within urban or local government structures. This chapter includes an extensive literature review that analyzes various intellectual traditions relevant to the topics of representation, participation, and local governance. The review addresses the definitions, sources, and applications of representation, participation, and local governance, especially in connection with pertinent legislation, institutions, and policies, thus promoting a solid understanding of how these concepts are interrelated. Furthermore, Chapter Three will explore the experiences of women in urban environments concerning local governance, emphasizing the intricate and multifaceted aspects of representation, participation, and local governance.

Recognizing the intricate challenges associated with gender and local governance, an interdisciplinary approach is deemed essential. The literature review conducted in this study utilizes an interdisciplinary perspective, amalgamating a variety of references to create links among different fields, thereby addressing the existing disparities between various traditions of experience and knowledge.

The theoretical framework underpinning this research is founded on several models and theories of representation, including Pitkin's theory of political representation, the critical mass theory, and various forms of institutional participation. This model considers both intrinsic and instrumental motivations for women's engagement in urban political processes, thus establishing the theoretical foundation from which the primary issues are operationalized.

Chapter Three will also delineate relevant policies and legislation concerning women's involvement and representation in local government across international, continental, regional, and

national spheres. Initially, the chapter will present these policies within a theoretical context, subsequently transitioning to an examination of their practical ramifications in Zimbabwe, informed by the prevailing laws and policies governing local governance. The literature review encompasses a comprehensive assessment of various sources, including books, reports, peer-reviewed articles, and select online materials, to establish the analytical framework that underpins the empirical research conducted in Zimbabwe.

Numerous research studies affirm the importance of women's engagement in political processes. Each study offers compelling arguments for acknowledging the impact of gender equity on political participation and serves as a foundational rationale for the ongoing discourse advocating for improved female representation in politics. Feminist political science posits that gender is crucial for understanding the dynamics of current political systems and critically examines the conversations surrounding this topic.

3.1 RESEARCH PHILOSOPHY

Central to any research initiative is a foundational philosophy that shapes the methodology utilized. Research philosophy encompasses a framework of beliefs and principles that steer researchers in the design and execution of their investigations. According to Gill (2019), there are three primary research philosophies: positivism, interpretivism, and pragmatism. Positivism is grounded in the belief that reality can be objectively quantified and elucidated through quantitative methods, whereas interpretivism posits that reality is subjective and is best understood through qualitative approaches. Pragmatism serves as a cohesive framework for these two perspectives,

suggesting that both qualitative and quantitative research methodologies are essential for cultivating a comprehensive understanding of reality. This study employs a pragmatic approach, aiming to integrate both qualitative and quantitative methods during the research process to create a mixed-methods study. The underlying rationale is that employing diverse research paradigms can contribute to a more nuanced understanding of the complex issues being examined.

Pragmatic research is founded on the belief that the most suitable research methods are contingent upon the study's context and the research objectives, a concept highlighted by Johnson and Onwuegbuzie (2004). This adaptability enables researchers to modify their methodologies in response to the progression of the study, thereby accommodating emerging insights and discoveries.

3.2 MIXED METHODS

There are numerous justifications for considering the mixed methods strategy, particularly its relevance and foundation in addressing real-world issues. The synthesis and comprehension of findings through various methodologies are crucial for attaining a thorough understanding of research problems and challenges. Molina (2012) asserts that a mixed methods strategy is particularly advantageous for tackling more complex research issues. Creswell et al. (2018) note that the primary premise of mixed methods research is predicated on the notion that the integration of quantitative and qualitative approaches, when utilized together, provides a more holistic insight into research problems and complex phenomena than relying solely on a single method of inquiry.

Although utilizing a single method may offer specific advantages, integrating various approaches prompts reflections on the improvement of resources, time, and expertise. Nevertheless, the study emphasizes the ecological effects of small-scale and artisanal practices.

mining, thoroughly investigating these effects through mixed methods. This indicates that such a complex issue must be addressed using a comprehensive approach.

3.3 RESEARCH DESIGN

In examining the issue of women's involvement in politics during the 2023 Harmonized Elections in Chitungwiza, Ward 24, an exploratory design is considered the most suitable approach. This is attributed to the insufficient number of comprehensive empirical studies concerning women and politics in this area. Stebbins (2023) posits that exploratory research is especially appropriate for topics with minimal previous exploration, as it utilizes open-ended techniques that can evolve throughout the research process. Political and social research demands such flexibility due to the intricate and ever-changing nature of culture, institutions, and gender (Robson, 2022). To address the challenges posed by these systemic complexities, researchers often adopt a mixed-method study design that integrates both qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis techniques. By combining these approaches, a more complete understanding of the elements influencing women's political participation is achieved.

Qualitative methods encompass a range of techniques, including but not limited to, comprehensive interviews, group discussions, participatory observation, and document analysis. These methods allow researchers to explore the subjective lived experiences, motivations, and perceptions of women. Such approaches are essential for identifying the socio-cultural and institutional barriers to women's mobilization, as well as for investigating their coping strategies, aspirations, and involvement in governance activities.

At the same time, a quantitative aspect is incorporated through the deployment of standardized questionnaires directed at selected respondents. These tools are crafted to collect demographic information, measure the frequency of political engagement, assess access to political resources, and evaluate perceived institutional support. The integration of these methodologies enables data triangulation, thereby enhancing the reliability and validity of the study's findings and providing a holistic understanding of the research issue (Creswell & Poth, 2018).

3.4 POPULATION AND SAMPLE OF THE STUDY

The emphasis of this investigation includes a wide range of stakeholders who are involved, either directly or indirectly, in the political environment of Chitungwiza, particularly in Ward 24. The key focus is on women who contested in the 2023 Harmonized Elections and both those who won and failed. The research also draws the participation of women from political parties, politicians, women's advocacy group representatives, gender and governance expert scholars at the local level, political analysts, and media professionals. This representativeness of the participants guarantees that the diverse voices are engaged and this adds depth to the data and allows the researcher to grasp the complex socio-political dynamics that underpin the political engagement of women.

The purposive samples 15 informants from all these diverse groups. The size of the sample has been deemed sufficient in the context of the exploratory and qualitative nature of the study. It is sufficient enough to enable a reasonable but adequately different number of informants to enable in-depth interaction and thematic saturation on data collection. The sample used enables the application of the mixed methods strategy. Qualitative data is mostly gathered through interview and focus group conversation with the women participants and civil society groups, tapping first-

hand experience and situational information. Quantitative data is gathered from structured questionnaires and used to identify patterns and prevailing issues or trends among the participant groups.

Through the use of this mixed methods research with the chosen participants, the research seeks the richness of qualitative information and universality of quantitative findings. Through this intersection of methodology, not only is validity and credibility given to the findings but strong footing is offered in understanding the genuine concerns of women politicians in Ward 24 of Chitungwiza during the 2023 elections.

3.4.2 SAMPLING TECHNIQUES

Due to the qualitative focus of this study and the requirement for comprehensive insights, purposive sampling is utilized as the main sampling method. This methodology enables the researcher to select participants who are most inclined to provide valuable and pertinent information based on specific characteristics associated with the research question. Purposive sampling proves particularly advantageous in qualitative research as it promotes a deeper exploration of complex experiences and perspectives.

For the selection of academics, political analysts, and media personnel, snowball sampling is utilized. This technique involves existing study participants recruiting future participants from their networks, allowing the researcher to access individuals who may be challenging to identify through conventional methods. Snowball sampling is especially useful in qualitative research contexts where specific knowledge or experience is required.

3.4.0 Probability Sampling

Probability sampling denotes techniques whereby each individual in the target population is given a known chance of being chosen for the sample. Every member of the population has an equal probability of selection, thereby enabling statistical inferences about the whole population.

3.4.1 Non-Probability Sampling

Non-probability sampling methods do not utilize random selection, which results in the inability to guarantee that every individual within the population has an equal chance of being included in the sample. These methods are typically employed when obtaining a random sample is either impractical or challenging.

In contrast, probability sampling ensures that each individual in the population possesses a non-zero, identifiable probability of being chosen for the sample, with techniques such as simple random sampling offering equal opportunities for all units. Conversely, non-probability sampling does not necessarily depend on random selection, indicating that not every member of the population has a chance of being selected, as exemplified by quota sampling and stratified sampling. The key difference resides in the randomness of the selection process, with probability sampling providing known and equal opportunities for all members of the population, while non-probability sampling does not.

3.4.2 Simple Random Sampling

This method of sampling entails selecting individuals or items from a population such that every possible sample of a specified size has an equal probability of selection. It is straightforward to implement and imposes no restrictions on the researcher.

3.4.3 Systematic sampling

In systematic sampling, the items are picked at equal interval from a list of the population in ascending order. This sampling process is simple and offers some randomness with guaranteed equal representation of the population.

3.4.4 Stratified sampling

This method involves splitting the population into subgroups or strata according to some characteristic and then sampling each of these strata. It can be performed using random or systematic sampling and makes sure that each subgroup is adequately represented within the sample.

3.4.5 Purposive sampling

This method involves the intentional choice of study participants according to specific traits or qualities that align with the research objectives. It is commonly utilized in qualitative research to gain an in-depth comprehension of particular groups or individuals within a population.

3.4.6 Convenience sampling

In convenience sampling, individuals are chosen as they are easily available and can be reached. Though convenience sampling is easy, it is not likely to represent the entire population equally and can lead to sample bias.

In summary, sampling techniques are essential in research and are crucial for ensuring the validity and generalizability of findings. The choice of a sampling method is influenced by various factors, including the objectives of the research, the traits of the population, and specific research

requirements. Probability sampling methods provide a strong basis for making statistical inferences, while non-probability sampling techniques are mainly used in situations where random selection is not feasible.

3.5.0 Data collection approaches

The following qualitative data collection approaches were employed.

3.5.1 In-depth interviews

Female political candidates, elected parliamentarians, voters, and important Zimbabwean politics players were interviewed using semi-structured interviews. The approach provided a rich detail into participants' personal experiences, drives, struggles, and perceptions about women's political participation Kvale & Brinkmann, (2015).

3.5.2 Focus Groups

Focus group interviews were conducted with diverse groups, encompassing women's rights organizations as well as members of political parties. These focus groups established an environment that facilitated dialogue among participants, enabling them to reflect on their common experiences and viewpoints. This process helped to clarify the fundamental causes of the existing trends and differing opinions (Morgan, 2017).

3.5.3 Document analysis

Document analysis of appropriate documents including election reports, political party manifestos, news reports, and policy documents will be undertaken. Document analysis offers contextual information and aids triangulation of data that has been collected using interviews and observations Bowen, (2019).

3.6.0 Validity and Reliability

3.6.1 Validity

Validity refers to the extent to which a research study accurately assesses its intended goals. It fundamentally assesses whether the study successfully captures the phenomenon being examined. There are several forms of validity, including content validity, which guarantees that all aspects of the concept under investigation are evaluated, and construct validity, which investigates how effectively a measurement aligns with the theoretical construct it aims to depict.

3.6.2 Reliability

Reliability pertains to the consistency and stability of the outcomes achieved in a research study.

It reflects the degree to which similar outcomes would be achieved if the study were conducted again under the same conditions. Essentially, reliability evaluates the consistency and trustworthiness of the research findings.

It is important to recognize that while reliability is a prerequisite for validity, a measurement can be reliable without being valid. Nonetheless, reliability remains essential. This distinction highlights the nuanced yet significant differences between these two concepts in the realm of research.

3.7.0 Ethical considerations

Ethical considerations hold paramount importance in qualitative research. A variety of ethical guidelines must be adhered to when conducting studies that involve human subjects. The

research was comprehensive in its ethical framework, ensuring that participants were informed about the objectives of the study to secure their informed consent. A thorough explanation of the key components of the research was provided prior to the participants' engagement.

Furthermore, the research committed to accurately, honestly, and faithfully presenting findings, avoiding any form of deception towards the participants. The confidentiality of the data and the anonymity of participants were safeguarded by using pseudonyms in the reporting of interviews. The researcher followed principles of honesty and transparency regarding conflicts of interest, research methodologies, and results, as emphasized by Jones (2023), which fostered trust among participants and the broader research community.

The researcher ensured that no participant was compelled to partake in the study. All participants voluntarily consented to participate without any undue influence from the researcher, thereby ensuring voluntary participation among the targeted respondents in this investigation. Bannister (2019) posits that researchers should strive to minimize or eliminate any potential harm to participants, for example, by implementing security measures to safeguard sensitive information and ensuring that participants are not subjected to risk. The researcher took measures to ensure that no harm or danger came to any respondent or participant. As a result, the research did not cause harm to anyone, nor did it endanger any individual during the research process. Respect for the participants, their opinions, views, and beliefs was maintained by the researcher.

As Chadwick (2020) highlights, prior to collecting data from participants, it is imperative for researchers to obtain informed consent. Furthermore, data collectors are required to elucidate the study's objectives, potential risks and benefits, as well as the intended application of the data.

This communication serves to inform participants and secure their agreement to engage in the study.

The participants were not subjected to any form of coercion regarding their involvement in the research. The researcher took care to ensure that participants granted their informed consent concerning their participation in the study. To facilitate this, the researcher provided all necessary information pertinent to the research, including the study's aims and the conditions under which participants would be engaged.

Moreover, the researcher guaranteed the confidentiality of the information collected. This guarantee signified that the data obtained would not be shared with any external entities without the explicit consent of the participants. The information gathered was kept in the utmost confidentiality and stored securely to ensure that no data was inadvertently or otherwise revealed to third parties.

3.7.1 Protection of participants and informed consent

Informed consent of participants ranks among the most highlighted research ethical issues. This entails informing participants on comprehensive information regarding the study, such as its purpose, procedure, likely risks, benefits, and their rights as participants. Informed consent ensures individuals voluntarily consenting to the study in their complete understanding of what the study is about.

3.7.2 Confidentiality and privacy

Privacy and confidentiality of research participants are of utmost importance. To some extent, researchers ought to protect the identity and personal information of participants, such that their data is handled with care and confidentiality and used only for the purposes intended as outlined in the study.

3.7.3 Avoiding harm and beneficence

Scientists must try to limit the ability to do harm to participants and try to maximize benefits. What this means is appropriately balancing risk and benefit of a study and doing everything to limit possible harm to participants.

3.7.4 Integrity and transparency

Institutional integrity in research processes is called for. This entails that research outcomes be reported accurately, there be disclosure of interests' conflict, and the process of conducting research be done fairly and objectively.

3.7.5 Respect for participants and communities

Upholding the rights, dignity, and autonomy of participants is of utmost importance in ethical considerations. Additionally, researchers undertaking studies in particular communities are required to adopt culturally sensitive methodologies and ensure that their research aligns with the community's norms and values.

Ethical principles in research play a vital role in protecting the welfare and rights of participants, directing research methodologies, and improving the quality of research results. A

dedication to these ethical standards is essential for building trust and accountability within the scientific community, as well as for preserving the integrity of research practices.

3.8 Presentation of data and analysis

The data will undergo thematic analysis, which involves the identification, examination, and reporting of patterns present within the data (themes). Thematic analysis is particularly suitable for qualitative research as it allows for a rich, detailed, and nuanced interpretation of data (Braun & Clarke, 2006). The steps involved in thematic analysis are described as follows.

3.8.1 Familiarization with data

Transcribing interviews and focus groups, reviewing documents, and examining field notes to gain familiarity with the data.

3.8.2 Coding

Producing preliminary codes from the data through a methodical approach across the entire data set.

3.8.3 Identifying Themes

Consolidating codes into potential themes while collecting all pertinent data linked to each possible theme.

3.8.4 Evaluating Themes

Elucidating themes by verifying their operational relevance to the coded excerpts and the comprehensive data set

3.8.5 Establishing and Identifying Themes

Constant examination is necessary to elucidate the details of each theme and the broader context that the analysis conveys.

The research objectives were employed to classify the data into themes, facilitating a thorough comprehension of the topic at hand. In the end, the data will undergo analysis via content analysis. As highlighted by Babbie (2018), data analysis involves the interpretation of data aimed at deriving conclusions that address the research questions.

3.9 Data Presentation and Analysis

Data analysis for this research will utilize thematic analysis, a qualitative methodology that emphasizes the identification, exploration, and interpretation of patterns or themes within qualitative data (Braun & Clarke, 2006). This method is particularly effective in examining sensitive and subjective experiences, rendering it especially appropriate for elucidating the complex socio-political dynamics influencing women's political participation in Zimbabwe.

Thematic analysis not only catalogs and organizes the data set in comprehensive detail but also provides substantial interpretations of various aspects of the research topic. Additionally, content analysis, as outlined by Babbie (2018), will complement thematic analysis by systematically interpreting textual data to quantify meanings, trends, and patterns, thereby enhancing the depth and analytical rigor of the study.

The following processes inform thematic analysis and illustrate how each contributes to the research process:

3.9.1 Getting to Know the Data

It is the initial step that incorporates interviewing and focus group tape transcription, careful reading through of the field notes, and examination of related documents. Through this immersion process, the researcher acquires in-depth knowledge of the data, including indirect meaning, tone, and context.

Value. Familiarization with research is the foundation for creating efficient analysis. Familiarity guarantees conclusions drawn from the careful understanding of participants' story and sociocultural background, enhancing authenticity and credibility of results.

3.9.2 Coding

Here, the researcher assigns codes and labels appropriate bits of information (phrases, sentences, or paragraphs) relative to the research area in a systematic fashion. The early codes assist in disassembling the data into manageable pieces. Value to Research, Coding makes it easy for the researcher to organize vast and intricate qualitative data so that it is simple to reveal patterns, relationships, and hidden meanings. It provides transparency and consistency in the analysis.

3.9.3 Looking for Themes

Codes are grouped here into broader themes or categories that reflect important patterns in data. Themes are encompassing concepts like ideas that can be reasoned to appear across participants and sources of data. Value to Research, bringing individual participant's experiences together into aggregated understanding, it aligns data with larger trends in politics or society. It is employed to provide evidence to inform arguments and tales that are able to answer to key research questions.

3.9.4 Reviewing Themes

Themes are considered and updated to ensure accuracy from data and dissimilar but comparable. Reviewing involves checking if themes function within coded data and the overall dataset. Value to Research, reviewing incorporates validity and reliability by making themes evidence-based and reflecting the entire range of opinions derived. It prevents overgeneralization and facilitates the formulation of a uniform analysis.

3.9.5 Defining and Naming Themes

Here, the researcher defines the meaning of each theme and builds a story on how each theme responds to the research questions. Themes are given concise names encapsulating their main message. Value to Research, defining and naming themes enables reporting of findings in a clear manner. It organizes the analytical narrative, which helps the researcher to connect theoretical frameworks to empirical facts and make well-supported conclusions.

3.9.6 Content Analysis

Content analysis will be employed, in conjunction with thematic analysis, to study the frequency, context, and meaning of certain words, phrases, or concepts within political party manifestos, media coverage, and policy documents (Babbie, 2018). Value to Research content analysis offers objective validation for subjective research. Triangulation is made possible by content analysis through documentary data checking against interview data and building confidence and richness of analysis.

3.10 CHAPTER SUMMARY

Overall, this chapter examines the research design aimed at investigating the obstacles to women's involvement in the 2023 Harmonized Elections in Chitungwiza Ward 24. It covers critical components such as the research methodology, design, population, sample, sampling techniques, data collection methods, evaluation of validity and reliability, ethical considerations, and the presentation and analysis of data. The study employs a qualitative research approach alongside an exploratory research design, engaging 15 respondents from diverse stakeholder groups, including government policymakers, private sector representatives, academia, research institutions, communities, and civil society organizations. To ensure comprehensive representation, purposive sampling and snowball sampling techniques are utilized, with data collected through face-to-face interviews, focus group discussions, and document reviews. Ethical standards are rigorously maintained to guarantee informed consent, confidentiality, and respect for participants' dignity. Thematic analysis is applied for data interpretation, facilitating a thorough, rich, and nuanced understanding of the findings. The analysis and presentation of results will be elaborated upon in the following chapter, which seeks to enhance the understanding of women's political engagement in urban contexts.

CHAPTER FOUR:

4.0 DATA PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

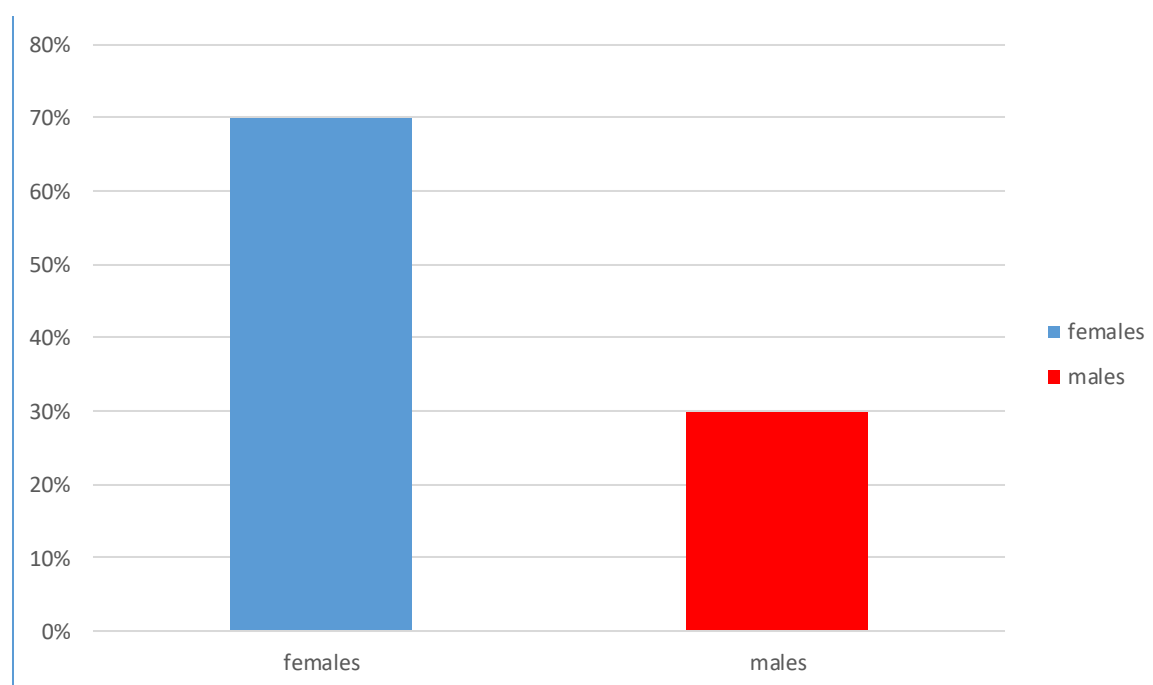
4.1 Introduction

This concluding chapter delineates the methodology utilized in the research. It presents the results derived from the data analysis concerning the challenges faced by women engaged in politics within urban settings, specifically focusing on Chitungwiza, Ward 24, with the 2023 harmonized elections serving as a case study. The insights obtained from participants, as elaborated in the previous chapter, are scrutinized here, culminating in conclusions that elucidate the research aims and highlight the importance of women's participation in the political landscape of Chitungwiza, Ward 24.

4.2 Participant Biographical Information

1. Gender

Figure 4.1 Gender



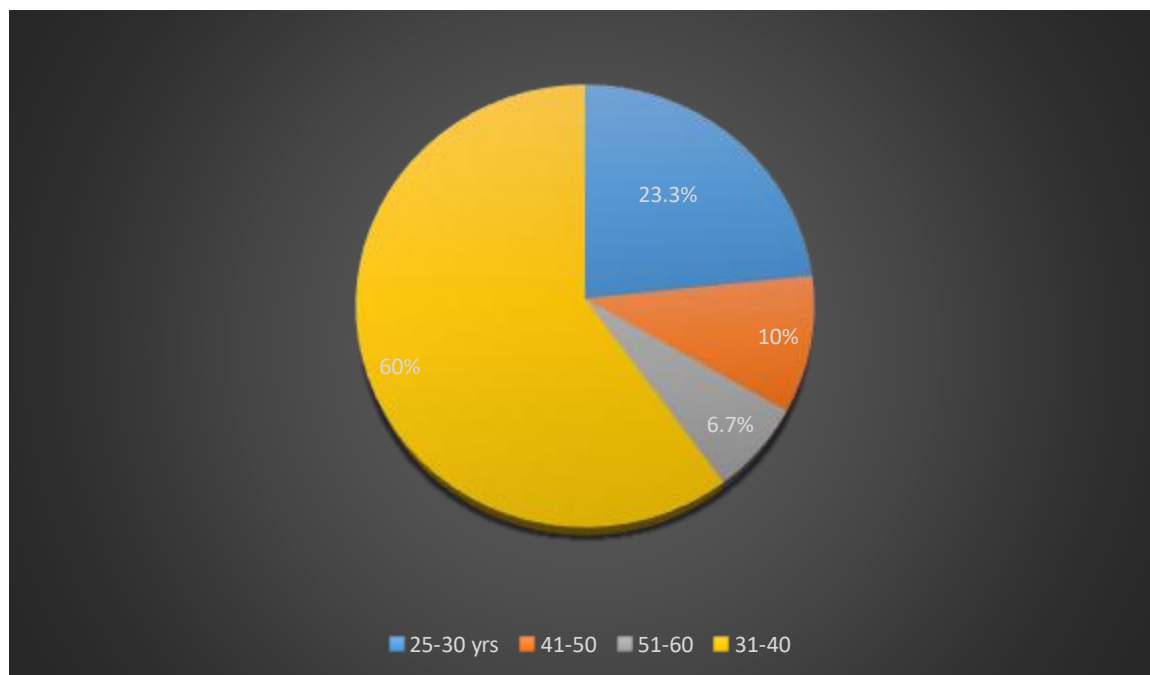
The data presented in figure 4.1 reveal that the participant demographics are composed of 70% females and 30% males. This study suggests that a greater number of women took part in the survey in comparison to their male counterparts.

4.1 Gender responses

The research offers gender analysis of respondents and their views on political participation among women in Zimbabwe. The research brings to the fore the views and perceptions of male and female respondents from across the nation, providing insight into Zimbabweans' views on this sensitive issue. The feminist theory is a general collection of methods joined together in shared purpose to investigate and to dissect the disproportionately unequal division of power and privilege along gender lines (Crenshaw, 1998).

The outcome is obtained in figure 4.1.2

Figure.4.2 Age



The largest proportion of participants was 60%, comprising individuals aged between 30 and 40 years. Following this, 23.3% of participants were in the age group of 25 to 30 years. Subsequently, 10% of participants were categorized within the age range of 41 to 50 years. The smallest percentage of participants, at 6.7%, consisted of individuals aged from 51 to 60 years.

3. Marital status

Table 4.2:1 Marital status

STATUS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE %
SIINGLE	3	10%
MARRIED	24	80%
DIVORCED	2	6.7%
WIDOWED	1	3.3%
TOTAL	30	100 %

The findings related to marital status reveal that 80% of participants are married, 10% are single, 6.7% are divorced, and 3.3% are widowed.

These results suggest that marital status may influence political engagement, particularly within Zimbabwean society, as married individuals tend to experience enhanced social stability. Married women, for instance, will be likely to participate based on a sense of duty towards construction of family and community. Nonetheless, their participation is frequently circumscribed by gender roles that prioritize active family responsibilities over political engagement. Divorcees and spinsters have fewer family commitments and may therefore have more room to bring their

energy to bear on political issues. Cultural prejudice can nevertheless also single out unmarried women for discrimination in political life, and thus special empowerment programs are required.

4. Levels of education

Table 4.2.2 Level of education

Levels of Education	No Of Participants	Percentage %
Non-schooling	0	0%
Primary	5	16.7%
Secondary	8	26.7%
Tertiary	17	56.6%
Total	30	100%

One of the most important findings from the study is that the respondents are highly educated. Majority (56.6%) are tertiary-educated, 26.7% secondary-educated, and 16.7% primary-educated. None of the respondents is not formally educated, so respondents to the study are quite well-educated.

Education is crucial for political participation, as higher levels of educational attainment are associated with greater political awareness, involvement, and activism. Women who attain higher education frequently contest conventional gender roles, champion their rights, and participate in decision-making processes. The significant portrayal of individuals possessing higher education in this research suggests that educated women tend to exhibit greater political engagement and awareness of their rights.

4.5 Women's Participation in the 2023 Harmonized Elections

The participation of women in the political domain is essential for fostering democratic governance and advancing gender equality. The 2023 Harmonized Elections in Chitungwiza Ward 24 offered a chance to evaluate the level of women's involvement in the political landscape as candidates, campaigners, and mobilizers. This examination explores the traits and effects of women's participation in the elections, utilizing participant observations and feminist theoretical frameworks. It underscores the obstacles encountered, the achievements realized, and the wider implications for a gender-sensitive democratic process.

Women as Candidates

A significant feature of women's participation in politics is their function as candidates. During the 2023 elections, many women stepped forward as candidates for various roles, representing a crucial advancement towards inclusivity. One participant remarked, "The participation of women was remarkable, with many stepping forward as candidates and actively campaigning." This observation reflects a shift from previous experiences where women's political engagement was characterized by their absence in electoral competitions.

Even because of this progress, challenges persisted. Institutional obstacles like constrained funds, lack of party support, and socio-cultural prejudices made some women unable to engage in the democratic process fully. Political parties favour a male candidate because he is likely to have improved opportunities for election and therefore women are not encouraged to stand for election. Moreover, gendered social roles at times put extra pressure on female candidates to meet as they have to balance political aspirations with household responsibilities.

But increased representation can usher in paradigm-shifting political transformation. Women candidates will likely champion gender-sensitive policies, including maternal health care, girls' education, and economic empowerment. They bring into politics a new kind of leadership that opens doors for generations of women to participate in politics.

Women as Campaigners and Mobilizers

In addition to being candidates for election, women also took important roles in electioneering and voter mobilization. Most women were actively engaged in grass-root mobilization, door-to-door campaign, and political rallies. According to one of the participants, "Women played a crucial role in mobilizing voters and promoting peaceful elections." This is an indication of their role in voter turnout and a free electoral process. Women's participation in campaigns also proved that they could shape political narratives. Through interaction with communities, they shaped public opinion on core issues like healthcare, education, and economic security. In certain situations, their role in campaign strategy guaranteed campaign wins for candidates who ran on gender equality.

"In the words of one participant, "Women's participation was impressive, with many running as candidates and campaigning actively." Another respondent replied that "Women played a big role in mobilizing voters and appealing peaceful elections." Although they have been active participants, women campaigners have also been intimidated and harassed. Political violence, at times gendered, threatened women's involvement. Threats, cyber bullying, and even bodily intimidation were reported by some, keeping them out of active participation in the campaign. All these issues need to be dealt with by instituting institutional changes as well as safety protocols in order to provide a secure environment for women politicians.

Feminist Perspectives on Women's Political Participation

From a feminist viewpoint, the increasing political engagement of women represents a significant step forward in the effort to dismantle patriarchal systems that have historically excluded them from governance. Feminist theorists contend that political representation involves not merely numerical presence but also the ability to influence policy and decision-making processes. A participant stated, "Women's political participation is increasing, yet there is a pressing need for additional support to surmount existing barriers."

In the 2023 elections, women's engagement acted as a platform promoting gender-sensitive policies. Numerous women candidates and activists tackled issues relevant to women and minorities, such as gender-based violence, reproductive health, and economic empowerment. Their involvement in political discourse challenged male dominance in narratives and opened avenues for policy reforms.

"One participant remarked, "Women's participation was obstructed by gender-based violence and intimidation."

Intersectionality significantly influenced the experiences of women throughout the elections. Women hailing from various socio-economic backgrounds confronted unique challenges. For example, younger female candidates often faced credibility issues, whereas those from lower-income backgrounds were more vulnerable to economic difficulties. Recognizing these intersectional factors is crucial for developing inclusive policies that bolster women's political ambitions.

Challenges Hindering Women's Full Participation

Despite the noted advancements in the 2023 Harmonized Elections, several factors continue to obstruct women's full political engagement. These include structural, cultural, and institutional barriers.

Structural obstacles consistently hinder women's engagement in politics. A significant concern is the restricted access to financial resources. Campaigning for office requires substantial funding to cover a range of expenses, including operational costs, television advertising, and initiatives aimed at reaching voters. Women, particularly those from low-income backgrounds, often find it challenging to compete with their male counterparts who possess greater financial support. Additionally, the media's portrayal of female candidates is frequently biased. They receive less airtime on television, and when featured, the emphasis is often placed on their personal lives rather than their policy positions. This media stereotyping can influence public perception and voting behavior, complicating women's efforts to gain widespread acceptance.

Cultural obstacles significantly hinder women's participation in politics. Deeply rooted patriarchal beliefs persist in influencing societal views on women's leadership. In certain cultures, there is resistance to female leadership, coupled with a traditional belief that women should remain at home, dedicating themselves to household responsibilities rather than governance. Women who challenge these gender norms by engaging in politics often face criticism and hostility. Social stigmatization further discourages many individuals from pursuing political ambitions, as they may be viewed as undermining the conventional roles assigned to them by society.

Institutional barriers within the political landscape also dissuade women from participating

in politics. Political parties are instrumental in candidate selection; however, most of these parties have yet to adopt gender equality as a fundamental principle. The organizational framework of political parties often privileges male candidates, which complicates the ability of women to gain nominations and receive sufficient backing.

Moreover, women encounter an unequal level of violence and harassment throughout the electoral process. Intimidation tactics, which include online harassment and physical threats, create a hostile atmosphere for women's engagement. This violence not only affects candidates but also discourages prospective female voters and activists from participating in the political sphere.

The Influence of Women's Involvement in Politics

The participation of women in the political arena has significantly improved both governance and development. Research indicates that female leaders prioritize social welfare issues, advocating for enhanced health services, maternal health programs, and greater educational opportunities for girls. Their participation in policy-making has led to advancements in healthcare and education policies that serve the broader community. Additionally, female politicians tend to focus more on anti-corruption measures and effective governance practices, emphasizing the need for greater transparency and accountability within the government. Besides governance, enhanced political participation of women has empowered young girls and women. Female politicians are a role model who motivates the younger generation to engage in politics as well as leadership. Their involvement in politics defies gender norms and opens up new possibilities for young women to

see themselves in leadership. Additionally, women become agents for reconciliation and bridge-building, ensuring peaceful electoral processes and post-electoral cohesion. Their contribution to peacebuilding and conflict resolution is crucial in ensuring political cohesion and stability at the national level.

The conclusions are consistent with international research on the transformative power of women in politics. Research in other countries shows that enhanced women's participation results in economic development-focused policies, social welfare policies, and human-centered governance. In Zimbabwe, enhanced women's participation has resulted in a heightened call for gender-responsive budgeting and the amendment of legislation to advance the advocacy of women's rights. All this aside, there remain still recurring problems of gender-based violence, discrimination, and cultural shyness that deny women full participation. These issues demand sustained efforts from civil society, citizens, and policymakers to provide a favorable setting for political involvement by women.

Strategies for Enhancing Women's Political Involvement

The improvement of women's political participation necessitates thorough legal and policy reforms. The introduction of gender quotas within political party frameworks can guarantee increased representation of women. Addressing political harassment and violence is crucial, which can be achieved by strengthening legal structures to foster a safer political atmosphere for women. It is imperative that laws are strictly enforced to safeguard women against intimidation, discrimination, and different forms of political oppression. Capacity building and support networks are also important to help women acquire the confidence and skills they need to be involved in politics. Leadership training to women candidates will prepare them to campaign and lead well. Facilitating mentorship opportunities in which seasoned female politicians mentor prospective

women can also be very important to initiate new leadership. The programs give advice, support, and hands-on experience that assist women in maneuvering the complex political environment.

Economic empowerment programs are at the center of making certain that women possess the means to become politically engaged. Banking institutions, for instance, campaign finance of women candidates, can equalize the playing ground. Economic participation by women also enables them with financial independence to enable them to finance their political aspirations. Economic inequalities will also enhance gender equality in representation.

Public perceptions need to be changed through educational programs and advocacy initiatives. Civic education campaigns are essential in educating citizens about gender equity and the importance of women in leadership roles. It is crucial to motivate the media to provide women politicians with fair and unbiased representation, focusing on their policies and leadership abilities instead of personal matters. Positive Media representation can play a crucial role in altering public perceptions and promoting greater acceptance of women in political positions.

The involvement of women in the 2023 Harmonized Elections for Chitungwiza, Ward 24, marks a pivotal advancement towards gender-sensitive governance. Despite encountering numerous challenges, women took on essential roles as candidates, campaigners, and mobilizers, thereby contributing to the progress of democracy. Their participation has illustrated the capacity to positively impact governance, advocate for social welfare policies, and create pathways for future generations of women leaders.

Eliminating obstacles to full participation through legal reforms, resource allocation, and changing social attitudes is vital for enhancing and solidifying women's roles in upcoming elections. It is imperative for governments, civil society, and political parties to collaborate in

fostering an inclusive political culture that offers women equal opportunities to engage and assume leadership roles alongside men. By cultivating a gender-inclusive political environment, societies can benefit from representative, equitable, and effective leadership that addresses the needs of all citizens.

4.7 Challenges and Opportunities for Women Candidates

Female candidates competing for political representation in Zimbabwe are confronted with numerous challenges that limit their full participation and achievement in electoral processes. These are embedded in historical, social, and economic inequalities that have hitherto marginalized women from politics. But women candidates have special opportunities that can assist them in overcoming the challenges and becoming great leaders.

Key Challenges Faced by Female Candidates.

One of the major challenges encountered by female candidates is their limited access to financial resources and visibility in the media. Running for office can incur substantial expenses, yet women generally possess fewer financial assets compared to their male counterparts. This situation is influenced in part by economic inequalities that render women financially reliant, as well as by political parties that allocate limited financial support to them. In the absence of adequate funding, women are unable to conduct competitive campaigns, hire qualified personnel, and achieve prominence in a saturated candidate pool. Moreover, exposure to media significantly influences the public's perception of political candidates. Regrettably, female candidates frequently garner limited media coverage, and when they do receive attention, it often centers on

personal issues instead of their policies and leadership skills. This type of media portrayal perpetuates gender stereotypes and undermines the legitimacy of their political aspirations.

Gender stereotyping and patriarchal opposition also pose serious hurdles to women's political participation. Such cultural perceptions in Zimbabwe still legitimize the notion that men's is a world of politics, thus raising doubts about women's ability to lead. Some voters view female candidates as being less strong than male candidates, thus making it difficult for women to command mass electoral support. In political parties, women leaders are met with their male counterparts who resist supporting or sponsoring their leadership. It is hard for women to achieve party nominations, not to mention leadership in political systems, due to this opposition.

Balancing political lives with domestic duties is another of the principal obstacles faced by women seeking public office. Women are normally asked to put home work before career goals, which presents a hurdle to their ability to put in the energy and time necessary for political participation. Political campaigning is stressful and time-consuming, and without institutional backing in the form of flexible working hours or childcare facilities, most women are unable to coordinate their duties as wives, mothers, and politicians. This inability to balance discourages many qualified women from active political lives, and consequently reduces the available pool of female political aspirants.

The increased use of the Internet has given female candidates increased visibility but simultaneously left them vulnerable to cyberbullying and online harassment. Sexist attack, online harassment, and reputation-damaging disinformation targets women in politics disproportionately, creating a negative online culture that discourages women from full engagement in online political discussion. The fear that they would be victims of online harassment distracts some female

politicians away from employing social media to connect with voters and stifles their chances to define their public persona and have earnest political discourse.

Opportunities for Female Candidates.

In spite of these obstacles, women politicians in Zimbabwe have adeptly utilized opportunities to improve their political involvement and tackle systemic exclusion. Activism on social media has emerged as a powerful instrument for these women to interact directly with the electorate, advocate for their agendas, and combat misinformation without relying on intermediaries from traditional media outlets. Platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and WhatsApp have enabled female candidates to circumvent traditional gatekeepers and engage with their intended supporters. This direct engagement with voters fosters the establishment of robust political identities for women and aids them in earning the trust of the electorate. Grassroots mobilization has also proved to be a fruitful approach for women candidates. Numerous women have found success in constructing their political careers by reaching out to local communities at a grassroots level and making grassroots mobilization their priority. This direct involvement enables women candidates to gain the credibility and trust of the voters since they are viewed as leaders who comprehend and confront real issues of concern to their people. Female citizens' active engagement in people-focused projects enhances their leadership profiles and turns them into development champions, an added asset during election campaigning seasons.

Women's association and advocacy organizations' support has been crucial in promoting women's political involvement. Various non-governmental organizations offer training, mentorship, and funding to women candidates which allow them to bridge the electoral competition gap. They provide capacity development programs which empower women with skills to campaign, manage the media, and market gender-friendly policies. By developing support

structures, such parties establish a playing field where women can succeed politically and challenge existing power relations.

Advocacy for policy reform and resilience has enabled women candidates to overcome gender-based discrimination, thereby showcasing their capabilities as leaders. Numerous women have illustrated that hard work and expertise can transcend societal prejudices by tackling relevant issues. One participant in the research remarked that female candidates initially encountered doubt from some voters, yet later garnered respect due to their commitment to policy and visionary leadership. This exemplifies a crucial lesson in strategic campaigning and the importance of highlighting core issues that resonate with the electorate. By establishing themselves as effective leaders, these women politicians have successfully transformed public perceptions and achieved acceptance in the political landscape.

4.8 Strategies for Improving Women's Political Involvement: Policy and Institutional Reforms

In order to foster improved gender equity within the political sphere, it is crucial to enact a range of policy changes and institutional reforms. A pivotal measure involves augmenting funding and resources available to female candidates. The creation of specialized financial support initiatives for women seeking office can contribute to a more equitable environment and ensure that financial limitations do not place women at a disadvantage. Additionally, political parties should be motivated to designate a portion of their campaign finances specifically for female candidates to boost their competitiveness in elections.

Enhancing legal structures to combat gender-based violence and discrimination is crucial

for fostering a safer and more inclusive political atmosphere. Enforcing laws that protect women from gender-based political violence and online harassment will help ensure that female politicians can participate in politics without fear of intimidation or abuse. Legal frameworks should also address workplace discrimination within political institutions, ensuring equal opportunities for women in leadership roles.

Expanding media coverage of women in politics is another crucial strategy for promoting gender inclusivity. Media organizations should be encouraged to provide fair and balanced coverage of female candidates, focusing on their policies and leadership capabilities rather than their personal lives. Training journalists on gender-sensitive reporting can help shift media narratives and promote positive portrayals of women in politics. Increased visibility and fair representation in the media will help normalize female leadership and inspire more women to pursue political careers.

Promoting mentorship programs for aspiring female politicians can significantly influence women's long-term engagement in politics. By establishing mentorship initiatives where seasoned female politicians mentor young women interested in political careers, we can enhance leadership development and cultivate a pipeline of future female leaders. Educational institutions, including schools and universities, ought to implement leadership training programs aimed at encouraging political involvement among young women, equipping them with essential skills to navigate the political arena.

Furthermore, it is crucial to emphasize public awareness initiatives that focus on gender equality to confront societal stereotypes that hinder female leadership. Civic education programs ought to underscore the significance of women's participation in politics and highlight the advantages of gender-balanced governance. Additionally, involving men as partners in gender

equality efforts can significantly contribute to changing cultural perceptions and creating a more supportive political environment for women.

4.9 Chapter Summary

This chapter explored the significant challenges and opportunities associated with women's involvement in the 2023 Harmonized Elections. Despite facing systemic barriers, women candidates demonstrated remarkable resilience. The research indicated that women persistently grappled with financial limitations, gender discrimination, and media stereotypes that adversely affected their electoral chances. Additionally, online harassment continues to pose a substantial obstacle for women engaged in politics. Nevertheless, women candidates have utilized online platforms, grassroots mobilization, and support from advocacy groups to amplify their political voices.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0. SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND AREAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

5.1. Introduction

This chapter serves as the concluding section of the dissertation, where the results of the conducted research are briefly summarized and examined in connection with the research objectives. It highlights the findings presented in Chapter 4 regarding the influence of gender, age, marital status, and educational level on the political participation of women in Zimbabwe. Furthermore, it extrapolates broader implications from these findings within the framework of feminist theory and the socio-political landscape of Zimbabwe. The chapter aims to enhance the comprehension of the challenges and opportunities associated with advancing gender equality in political participation, while also offering recommendations for policy reforms, future

research directions, and actionable strategies to foster more equitable political involvement.

5.1 Study Overview

Chapter 1: This section offers a comprehensive overview of the research, concentrating on the subject of women's political participation in Zimbabwe. The objective of the study is to examine the gender composition of the participants, their perspectives on political involvement, and the effects of social, cultural, and political elements on these perspectives. The introduction underscores the importance of exploring this subject within the context of Zimbabwean politics, where historical gender inequalities have shaped women's political engagement. It articulates the research question, objectives, and the scope of the study, emphasizing the necessity of comprehending these dynamics to promote gender equality in the political sphere. Furthermore, the chapter succinctly outlines the methodology and theoretical framework that underpin the research.

Chapter 2 provides an extensive review of the literature regarding women's political participation, gender equality, and feminist theory. This literature supplies contextual insights into the barriers hindering women's political involvement, including poverty, societal expectations, and limited political opportunities. Furthermore, it situates women's political engagement within both African and global frameworks by drawing comparisons across various regions and countries. This chapter also highlights existing gaps in research and positions the project within the wider discourse on gender and political participation.

Chapter 3: Research Methodology

This chapter provides a detailed explanation of the methodology utilized in this study,

wherein both qualitative and quantitative data collection techniques are comprehensively analyzed. The research employs a survey method to collect data from a representative sample of participants, thereby ensuring adequate gender representation. It describes the sampling strategy, the data collection process via questionnaires, and the rationale behind selecting this method. Moreover, it delineates the data analysis techniques utilized to interpret the responses, including statistical tools for quantifying demographic data and thematic analysis for evaluating qualitative insights. In conclusion, the chapter addresses the ethical considerations pertinent to the research, such as confidentiality and informed consent.

Chapter 4 presents the findings of the research based on the data collected from surveys. This chapter is organized into several sections, with each section concentrating on a key aspect of the study:

1. Gender Responses: This segment reveals that both male and female participants provided significant insights regarding the involvement of women in the political sphere. The results highlight a disparity in perceptions across genders, demonstrating how men and women understand gender roles within the political arena. Furthermore, these findings are associated with feminist theory, which stresses the imbalanced allocation of power and privilege in Zimbabwean society.

2. Age Distribution: The study's results indicate that the largest segment of participants was within the 30-40 age bracket (60%), followed by those aged 25-30 years (23.3%), with a gradual decline noted in older age categories. This indicates a significant involvement of young to middle-aged individuals in the political arena, possibly reflecting a generation that is more open to diverse gender-related concerns.

3. Marital Status: The findings indicate that 80% of the participants were married, whereas

10% classified themselves as single, 6.7% as divorced, and 3.3% as widowed. This suggests that married individuals tend to engage more in political discussions and decision-making processes, given that family-related matters frequently constitute the foundation of political discourse and policy formulation.

4. Educational Attainment: A considerable majority of respondents (56.6%) held a tertiary education, followed by 26.7% with a secondary education, and only 16.7% with a primary education. This suggests a high level of educational achievement among the respondents, which may be associated with a greater comprehension of political matters and heightened political involvement.

5.3 Conclusions

5.3.1 Socio-Cultural Factors Limiting Women's Political Participation

Research indicates that sociocultural elements, more than any other factors, significantly influence women's participation in the political landscape of Zimbabwe. Patriarchal structures, conventional gender roles, and societal expectations have been identified as primary barriers to women's involvement in political activities. The cultural expectation that emphasizes domestic duties over public engagement frequently limits their ability to participate in political matters, such as attending political gatherings, pursuing political positions, or engaging in discussions regarding political topics. This observation is consistent with feminist theories that demonstrate how gendered power relations continue to marginalize women within the political domain.

5.3.2. Economic Constraints Impacting Women's Political Engagement

Economic conditions also constituted a major constraint that kept women away from politics. Based on the research, it was evident that Zimbabwean women experienced economic constraints in the form of lacking financial resources and economic independence, which had a direct impact on their political participation. These constraints were likely to offer fewer options to women to start a political career or even attend political rallies because they cannot use transport, campaigning materials, or compensation for absence from livelihood activities.

The evidence indicates that economic empowerment is a significant determinant for political participation by women because money freedom has the capability of participating more actively in politics.

5.3.3. Institutional Barriers Preventing Women from Holding Leadership Positions

Institutional barriers significantly hinder women's access to leadership roles. The research revealed various institutional challenges, such as discriminatory practices within political parties, insufficient support among women for female leaders, and gender bias embedded in institutional structures. In Zimbabwe, political leadership is largely male-dominated, with women frequently excluded from key decision-making processes. The findings underscored the urgent need for the implementation of more gender-sensitive policies within political institutions, alongside efforts focused on improving the representation of women in leadership positions.

5.3.4. Strategies for Enhancing Women's Political Engagement

The research also identified strategies that can remove obstacles to women's political engagement.

These strategies encompass:

- Awareness and Education

Campaigns: It is crucial to educate both genders regarding gender equality and the significance of women's involvement in politics. Increasing awareness of the advantages of gender-diverse leadership can assist in combating negative stereotypes and motivate more women to engage in the political arena.

Economic Empowerment

Programs: The implementation of programs designed to economically empower women, including the enhancement of credit access, the improvement of financial literacy, and the support of female entrepreneurs, can aid women in surmounting economic obstacles to political engagement.

Affirmative Action and Gender Quotas: Institutional reforms, such as the implementation of gender quotas in legislative bodies or political organizations, can ensure equal representation of women in leadership roles within the political domain. These measures can lead to a more equitable political landscape and create opportunities for women to influence policy decisions.

- Mentorship and Networking

The creation of mentorship initiatives for aspiring women politicians can offer them the essential guidance and support needed to navigate the challenges present in a male-dominated environment.

The establishment of networking opportunities and relationships among women politicians also cultivates a strong support network.

5.4 Conclusion

In summary, the research has pinpointed several of the numerous elements that hinder women's political involvement in Zimbabwe, including socio-cultural values, economic conditions, and institutional barriers. The research has highlighted the necessity for comprehensive reforms that address these challenges and create a setting where women can actively participate in political activities and governance. By implementing policies such as gender quotas, economic empowerment initiatives, and educational programs, Zimbabwe can progress towards achieving gender equality in the political sphere and governmental affairs.

5.5. Recommendations for Future Research

Future investigations into women's political participation in Zimbabwe could delve into several additional domains:

- **Longitudinal Studies:** Conducting longitudinal studies that monitor the ongoing trends in women's political engagement may facilitate the evaluation of the impacts of policy interventions and societal transformations on the rise of women's political participation.

Regional Studies: A study concentrating on the political participation of women in Zimbabwe could yield significant insights regarding the unique challenges encountered by women in both rural and urban settings, as well as the influence of local cultural norms.

Intersectionality: Future studies might also explore how the convergence of gender with additional variables like age, class, ethnicity, and disability influences women's engagement in politics, as these elements could play a role in the obstacles women face within the political arena.

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Appendix A

Interview guide for officials of the Ministry of Youth

My name is Simbarashe Nigel Makuve, and my registration number is B213682B. I am presently in my final year at Bindura University of Science Education (BUSE). I am undertaking research on the obstacles to women's involvement in politics within urban environments, with a particular emphasis on a case study of Chitungwiza Ward 24. This research forms part of the requirements for earning a Bachelor of Science Honors Degree in Peace and Governance. I kindly request your participation in the interview questions relevant to my study as a component of my fieldwork. Please rest assured that the findings will be used exclusively for academic and research purposes. Confidentiality and anonymity will be upheld. Your participation and cooperation would be greatly appreciated.

1. How long have you been in your current role?
2. What are your specific duties and responsibilities?
3. How do you interpret political participation?
4. What challenges do you encounter regarding the involvement of women in politics?
5. In what ways have these challenges influenced the performance of Chitungwiza?

Appendix B

Interview guide: Chitungwiza Municipality Councilors

My name is Simbarashe Nigel Makuve, and my registration number is B213682B. I am presently in my final year at Bindura University of Science Education (BUSE). I am undertaking research on the barriers to women's involvement in politics in urban settings, with a particular emphasis on Chitungwiza Ward 24, as part of the requirements for earning a Bachelor of Science Honors Degree in Peace and Governance. I kindly request your participation in the interview questions relevant to my study as part of the fieldwork. Please rest assured that the findings will be used exclusively for academic and research purposes. Confidentiality and anonymity will be upheld. Your participation and cooperation would be greatly appreciated.

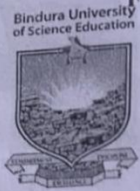
1. How do you view the current status of women's involvement in politics within your urban area?
2. What particular obstacles do you think women encounter when attempting to engage in politics in urban settings?
3. What modifications do you believe are essential to enhance women's participation?

Appendix C

A letter from the department & the approval from Ministry of Youth

BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES



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of Science Education

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DEPARTMENT OF PEACE AND GOVERNANCE

28 November 2024

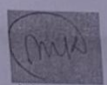
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE: REQUEST TO UNDERTAKE RESEARCH IN YOUR ORGANISATION

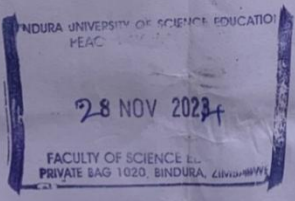
This serves to introduce the bearer, SIMBARASHE NISEL NAKWE Student
Registration Number B2136825, who is a HBSC PEACE AND GOVERNANCE
student at Bindura University of Science Education and is carrying out a research project in your
area/institution.

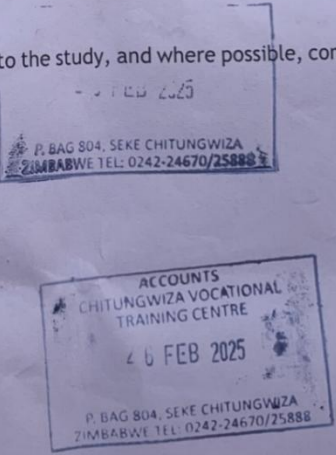
May you please assist the student to access data relevant to the study, and where possible, conduct
interviews as part of a data collection process.

Yours respectfully



J. KUREBWA (DR)
Acting Chairperson





1

Appendix D-Turnitin Report

Document (2) Simbarashe.docx			
ORIGINALITY REPORT			
9%	5%	4%	3%
SIMILARITY INDEX	INTERNET SOURCES	PUBLICATIONS	STUDENT PAPERS
PRIMARY SOURCES			
1	vital.seals.ac.za:8080 Internet Source	1%	
2	Anna Chitando, Eunice Kamaara, Ezra Chitando. "Routledge Handbook of Contemporary African Women", Routledge, 2024 Publication	1%	
3	escholar.buse.ac.zw Internet Source	1%	
4	liboasis.buse.ac.zw:8080 Internet Source	<1%	
5	Grant, Kisha Abba. "The Underrepresentation of Women in Political Leadership: An Exploratory Case Study of Six Political Actors in the Anglophone Caribbean.", Western Illinois University Publication	<1%	
6	Christine Fauré. "Political and historical encyclopedia of women", Routledge, 2004 Publication	<1%	
7	Submitted to Gaborone University College of Law and Professional Studies Student Paper	<1%	
8	Johnson, Cathryn Evangeline. "Women's Participation in Community Life and Politics in Mali and Burkina Faso: French Colonial	<1%	