

**CHILDREN IN THE LABOUR PROCESSES: CHALLENGES FACED
BY CHILDREN ENGAGED IN STREET TRADING IN BINDURA**

URBAN

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**A dissertation report submitted to the Department of Social Work,
Bindura University of Science Education in partial fulfilment of the
requirements for the Bachelor of Social Work Honours degree.**

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Dedication

This research is dedicated to all the struggling children who work in the streets on a daily basis to make ends meet.

Acknowledgements

This research will have not been complete without the support of my supervisor, Mrs. L. Mufanochiya. Her excellent criticism and explanation of seemingly complex matter helped in the development of this work. I would like to thank Mr Chivero,Registry at Municipality of Bindura for his assistant in this study. Support from my mother and brother cannot go unnoticed. Finally and above all, I would like to thank the Most High, the Almighty God for giving me the courage and strength to thrive even in the hardest times of my studies.

Abstract

Challenges facing children engaged in street trading are among the social problems in Zimbabwe. The study had four objectives; these were; to find out the nature of street trading activities conducted by children in Bindura, to establish the causes of street trading among children, to find out the challenges faced by children engaged in street trading and to investigate the coping strategies to address the challenges. In order to understand challenges faced by children engaged in street trading, the study relied on the Maslow's Hierarchy of needs theory and the Foundational Child Labour Theory propounded by Basu and Van(1998).The study used observations and interviews as data collection tools on the lives and working experiences of children involved in street trading in Bindura urban. Information was gathered from a sample of 15 children who were operating in urban streets of Bindura. Additional information was obtained from six (6) key informants. Four (4) of which were from local authority and governmental department combined and two (2) adult traders who worked in the urban streets of Bindura. The study revealed that challenges children faced greatly emanated from their respective households. Among the challenges faced by children involved in street trading were victimisation, interruption on education, stress, hazardous working conditions, harsh economic environment, physical and emotional abuse, lack of contracts and lack of leisure time. It also showed the indifference characterising today's society regarding the participation of children in labour processes. Children's perceptions and future aspirations were also established in the study. Under the study, recommendations were made as to enhance the Government and NGO's efforts towards addressing challenges faced by children whilst street trading. There is the need to ensure uninterrupted education attainment amongst children engaged in street trading. Government and NGO's have to raise awareness in communities on parental responsibilities and obligations. Through the findings it was noted that programmes for educating children on their rights were essential.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AIDS - Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

DSS - Department of Social Services

HIV - Human Immunodeficiency Virus

ILO - International Labour Organisation

UN - United Nations

UNCRC - United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

1.1 Introduction

This chapter gives an insight into the background of the study, statement of the problem, justification of the problem, aim, objectives of the research, research questions, assumptions of the study, significance of the study, definition of terms and a summary of how the rest of the research has been organised.

1.2 Background of the Study

The involvement of children in labour processes has had detrimental effects on development of societies around the world. In developing countries such as Zimbabwe and Bangladesh child labour is a serious issue which socially and economically affect a large number of children. Approximately 168 million children between the ages of 5 to 14 are formally and informally employed on a global scale (ILO, 2015). Such children are likely to face challenges on a daily basis.

The frequency of children's involvement in labour processes on a global scale varies on socio-economic and socio-political structures of countries. The differences in global economies greatly account for variations which exist between developed and developing countries on the number of children involved in child labour activities, particularly street trading. The prevailing economic environment in least developed economies has seen children joining their adult counterparts in securing employment in the formal as well as the informal sector.

Children engaged in labour processes such as street trading are often deprived of their constitutional and human rights, are mistreated and often work in very bad conditions.

The conditions of work which adults may reel in are usually detrimental to children, exposing them to disease, injury and negative psychosocial effects that may have a bearing later in adult life.

However, the detrimental effects of child labour have been futile in deterring children from engaging in the various forms of labour processes such as street trading. Poverty has led families and children who engage directly and or indirectly in labour processes globally to remain resilient against various lawful restrictions and continue with the various harmful child labour activities. Despite risks encountered almost every day, children are forced to continue with street trading activities in order to avert poverty and survive. With the increase in orphanhood as a result of HIV and AIDS especially in Sub Saharan Africa, some children have resorted to street trading to earn money and fend for their respective families.

In order to curb social ills which arise from children's involvement in labour processes, the international community has reacted with various laws, statutes and conventions. International organisations such as the United Nations (UN) and International Labour Organisation (ILO) have made great efforts in denouncing and eradicating harmful child labour activities. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and ILO's Conventions 138 and 182, which are global agreements are indicative of how international organisations are making an effort in the fight against child labour.

Africa, as a region, has also affirmatively responded to the international community's efforts to lessen or eradicate harmful child labour activities. Evidence can be drawn

from the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC). The Charter's provisions aim at promoting children's rights to protection against child labour. Various African nations such as Zimbabwe, Kenya, Botswana, Angola and Tunisia ratified to the Charter and most of the international conventions mentioned earlier.

Countries' laws and policies have in one way or the other been shaped by the various international and regional agreements against child labour. Zimbabwe has shown its support against children's involvement in harmful labour practices by ratifying the UNCRC, ILO Conventions 138 and 182 and the ACRWC. New legislation aligned to the international and regional agreements was placed in the country's Constitution, recommending the protection of children's rights against child labour. Various legislative instruments such as the Children's Act, Sexual Offenses Act and Labour Relations Act stress the need for children's constitutional rights against harmful child labour activities to be recognised.

However, regardless of the international conventions, regional agreements and local legislative frameworks, children involved in street trading have remained vulnerable to almost all forms of abuse and maltreatment due to the very nature of child labour (UNICEF, 2001). Regulations and rules guiding labour, particularly child labour, are improperly enforced because of misinterpretation of existing laws, lack of child labour regulators and the poor understanding of basic legal rights among children. A continued misunderstanding of child labour related laws may lead to an increase in exploitation of children in labour processes. According to the UN there is a constant

increase in the number of children involved in street trading globally, an indicator to the insufficiency of existing preventive strategies.

Furthermore, lack of research and resources in the third world, where children are extensively involved in labour processes, is so rampant and has led to a few cases being documented. Zimbabwe, for instance, has inadequate and out-dated data on street trading activities children are often involved in. Lack of accurate and updated information has made it difficult for the government to adequately review the relevance and effectiveness of existing laws which aim at addressing child labour issues. In Zimbabwe less research has been conducted for the past years to establish challenges faced by children engaged in street trading as of to date. Without new data, existing laws become irrelevant in addressing the 'child street trader' phenomenon which proportionally reacts to changes in socio-economic and socio-political environment. Thus, lack of new data suggests a continuation of the plight of children who are involved in street trading.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

Since the year 2000, Zimbabwe's socio-economic and socio-political landscape has continued facing enormous challenges. This has seen the country experiencing an influx of informal business ventures. The majority of the people engaged in the continuously growing informal sector are children. Hence, the country has continued to register an increase in child labour. Subsequently, children's involvement in labour processes has detrimental effects to the development of a child.

1.4 Aim

To investigate challenges faced by children engaged in street trading.

1.5 Objectives

1.5.1 To find out the nature of street trading activities conducted by children in Bindura.

1.5.2 To establish the causes of street trading among children.

1.5.3 To find out the challenges faced by children engaged in trading.

1.5.4 To investigate the coping strategies to address the challenges.

1.6 Research Questions

1.6.1 What is the nature of street trading activities conducted by children in Bindura?

1.6.2 What are the causes of street trading among children?

1.6.3 What are the challenges being faced by children engaged in street trading?

1.6.4 What coping strategies are being adopted to address the challenges?

1.7 Assumptions

The study is based on the assumptions that:-

- There are children engaged in street trading.
- Children engaged in street trading face challenges based on the existing socio-economic and socio-political environment.
- Individuals or institutions adopt coping strategies to address challenges faced by children engaged in street trading.

1.8 Justification

The study will add information on challenges faced by children engaged in street trading, which at most is limited and is unavailable. Much research focuses on child labour in general and gives less emphasis to challenges children engaged in street trading face. Also, the research on child labour, carried out by scholars such as Basu and Van (1998) and Barland and Robinson (2000) is out-dated and adopts a

Eurocentric approach. Therefore, there is need to study challenges faced by children involved in street trading in an Afrocentric manner and considering the socio-economic changes that have occurred globally, regionally and locally in the past decade.

This study also ought to provide information and data to stakeholders who defend children's rights on the challenges being faced by children who engage in street trading. Information attained by the researcher will probably influence policy crafters to take action to eradicate some harmful forms of labour processes children are often engaged in, which include street trading. It will also act as a catalyst in more research and dialogues on issues pertaining to children's rights protection against child labour in Zimbabwe.

1.9 Significance of Study

The data to be collected will probably make a contribution to the already existing literature on challenges faced by children engaged in various forms of labour processes in general and street trading in particular. The study is also intended to inform decision makers in the country so that future policies and regulations aim at eradicating all forms of child labour, including child street trading. There is need to ensure that child labour issues are not given a comparatively insignificant position in terms of attention when making or reviewing country's policies relating to human rights.

1.10 Definition of Key Terms

Child refers to a person below the age of 18 years

Child labour refers to the employment of persons under the age of 18 in regular or seasoned work. Various international organisations that deal with children's rights condemn this practice as exploitative and as unconstitutional.

Street trading refers to the selling of goods and or services in urban streets.

Street trader refers to a person involved in the selling of goods and or services in urban streets.

1.11 Summary

The above episode gave a clear background of the topic. The chapter also presented the introduction, statement of the problem, aim of the study, objectives of study, research questions, assumptions of the study, limitation to the study and justification of the study. The next chapter reviews literature on children's labour rights and other child labour related issues thus bringing out research gaps.

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter gives an insight into children's involvement in street trading and how various factors affect them socially and economically. Theoretical framework based on Maslow's hierarchy of needs and Foundational child labour theory explains various aspects concerning the involvement of children in street trading. Global, regional and local overviews on children's involvement in labour processes in general and street trading in particular will be presented as discussion progresses. This chapter will also review research and studies carried out around the globe and in Zimbabwe on children's engagement in street trading. Thus, it will review literature based on; children's involvement in street trading, underlying factors which cause children to engage in street trading, child's rights and legislative provisions on the protection of children against harmful labour practices.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

In the study, two theories were used to explain the concept of child labour. These include Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory and the Foundational Child Labour theory.

2.2.1 Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory

The Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory is a psychological perspective which seeks to explain human motivation. Five sets of needs make up the theory i.e. i) physiological needs, ii) safety, iii) love, iv) self-esteem and v) self-actualisation. The theory can be used to explain why children engage in street trading. According to Maslow's theory,

humans tend to aim at achieving physiological needs first. These include food, shelter and clothing. However, poverty often leads to the deprivation of such basic necessities.

In case families do not meet basic necessities, children may be forced to work on the streets in order to attain their needs. Children's life and survival depend greatly on the parents' fulfilment of duties aimed at meeting basic needs. In most cases, poverty deprives families globally of their ability to meet needs. As a result, choice to include children in economic activities is reached. These situations, if experienced on a larger scale, lead to the influx of children involved in street trading.

2.2.2 Foundational Child Labour theory

The economic theory was propounded by Basu and Van (1998). It stipulates that most families would not prefer to send their children to work. Those that do send their children to work do so out of desperation. According to the theory, not only do the decisions made by employers lead to the exploitation of children but families have a role to play. The perspective views child labour as an integral part of a society's system, its ban could make households much worse. However, the theory does not consider the challenges children go through when engaging in various forms of labour processes including street trading.

2.3 Children in Labour Processes

2.3.1 Conceptualisation of children's involvement in labour processes.

Since the colonial era in Africa, child labour has been a sensitive yet unspoken issue which has led to the suffering of a large number of children. According to ILO (2015) child labour is 'work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development'. It refers to work that

is mentally, physically, socially and morally dangerous and harmful to children; and interferes with their schooling, depriving them of their opportunity to attend school, obliging them to leave school prematurely or requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work.

According to Cross and Morales (2007) most scholars of the 18th Century viewed labour processes such as street trading as unimportant and destined to disappear. They further posit that such scholars viewed street trading in the urban streets as motivated by Marxism, modernity and capitalism. Those who studied it during the Industrial Revolution era were seen as antagonistic forces to the status quo. As a result, limited literature on challenges faced by children involved in street trading was compiled during the era.

To date, the term 'child labour' has aroused interest in various scholars who have come up with various definitions. Child labour refers to work allocated to young persons resulting in an interruption on normal childhood development and deprivation of basic needs a child requires (ILO, 2004). According to Suda (2011) child labour refers to a situation whereby a child is placed in a type of work that is dangerous and harmful to one's health or which has a negative effect on attainment of education. According to Oloko (1997) in Agbu 2009 child labour refers to a kind of paid, unpaid or exploitative work that places the interests of beneficiaries above those of a child, and is hazardous to the physical, mental, social, educational and or moral development of a child. Moyi (2011) associates child labour with low wages, long hours, physical and sexual abuse. Child labour is a form of child abuse, especially when children work in bad conditions and hazardous occupations (Edmonds and Pavcniks, 2005).

Lack of consensus among international organisations and governments on the age one is considered to be a child has led to confusion of classifying particular work as child labour. Child labour is said to depend on the type of job, if the age is under 18 and if the job interrupts with child's education and development (ILO, 2004). According to the UNCRC of 1989, a child is a person under the age of 18. The age of majority differs from one society to the other. In Africa and Asia, they do not consider the work of a 15 years old person as child labour, they view it as fulfilment of family duties and obligations and an opportunity for a child to learn survival skills essential in adulthood (Omokhodia and Odusote, 2006).

Work which includes household chores is not considered as child labour. If work does not restrict children from schooling or does not affect physical and mental health, then it is not classified as child labour (ILO Report, 2002). An illustration can be drawn from work such as household chores, heading cattle, looking after siblings or doing part time jobs after school hours and during holidays. According to Aqil (2012) not all work that is conducted by children can be risky to health or considered exploitative. In contrast, Weston (2005) argues that any work children do can be detrimental to health because it may involve abuse, exploitation or hazards. According to Omokhodia and Odusote (2006) any work a child does outside the homestead is child labour. They state that working outside the homestead often expose children to environmental hazards which may affect health and safety.

In Africa, work which is now classified as child labour used to be a way of life and less of being a means of only earning income (Agbu, 2009). He further argues that in the eastern part of Nigeria, male children are apprenticed to be traders at a tender age.

It is seen as socialisation as the extended family is often involved in the child's choice to street trade and is underpinned by the general African philosophy that a child belongs to a community he or she emanates from and not just to the immediate family. However, Schlemmer (2000) in Agbu (2009) criticises the philosophy. He postulates that ways of recruitment and exploitation techniques take advantage of existing bonds of kinship and friendship, with the child suffering in the end in the name of social obligations.

2.3.2 Global Overview of children's involvement in labour processes

Child labour started since time immemorial. In the time of the industrial revolution children were forced to work around family farms, in factories, tending crops or preparing food. Industries became the major source of income. Children were exploited, were forced to work in very dangerous and often deadly environments. Action to abolish child labour dates back to the 17th Century whereby in 1833 the first legislation was passed to ban child labour. However, many persons under the age of 18 continue to be exploited (Bhat, 2011).

Developed countries have progressed in abolishing children's involvement in harsh labour processes. However, currently, child labour still continues to sore high in developing countries because of rapid population growth, high rates of unemployment, inflation, poverty, malnutrition, bad governance, corruption and low wages (Bass, 2004). ILO estimates that globally 250 million children between the ages of 5 and 14 work for a living. Approximately half (120 million) work full time every day all year round (Agbu, 2009). Children are working in all spheres of the economy, such as agriculture, manufacturing, fishing, construction, domestic service and street trading. Adding on, children are normally unregistered as employees and are subject to

working in very poor and dangerous conditions without social protection (Serwadda-Luwaga, 2005). According to Agbu (2009), 70% of children involved in labour processes work in hazardous environments.

Globally, the frequency of children engaged in labour activities including street trading is high. Of the total number of 1 586 288 children studied in the world, 215 269, that is 13,6% of children are involved in child labour activities (ILO, 2010). Child labour incidences are high in the least developed countries. Data compiled by UNICEF show countries like Colombia (9%), Nepal (35%) and Laos (11%) recording the highest incidences of child labour in Latin America, Central Asia and South East Asia respectively (The University of the South Pacific,2010). The data indicate the need for international organisations and nations to put more effort in addressing child labour issues.

2.3.3 Regional Overview of children's involvement in labour processes.

African children constitute of 32%, i.e. 80 million of children between the ages of 5 and 14 work for a living (ILO findings in Agbu, 2009). Sub Saharan Africa, according to the ILO findings of 2010, records the highest incidence of child labour. Of the 257 108 children studied in the region, 25,3%, that is 65 064 children are involved in child labour activities for instance street trading. According to the University of the South Pacific (2010), Somalia has the highest percentage of child labour incidence (49%), Ghana follows with 34%, Nigeria is at 29% and Angola has 24%.

Containing some of the world's poorest economies, widespread poverty in Sub Saharan Africa has resulted in the rise of informal business ventures. Children with one or no parents at all accounts for the large number of minors engaged in street trading in

South Africa (ILO, 2004). According to the World Bank, child labourers in Sub Saharan Africa are pushed into street economic activities, street trading in particular, due to urban poverty (Osment,2014).

However, the definition of child labour differs from one society to the other. Agbu (2009) posits that ILO's prescriptions on child rights are a subject of debate, especially in the developing world. From an Afrocentric perspective, the prescriptions are perceived as embodying the Western standards of childhood. Hence, there are attempts to distinguish child work, often found in Africa, from child labour, a notion often forwarded by the West.

2.3.4 Local overview of children's involvement in labour processes.

Since the emergence of an underperforming economy, Zimbabwe has seen the influx of a large number of street traders. A change in the trend is being experienced with a large number of children (age ranging from 5 to 16 years) occupying vending stalls. A 2010 UNICEF Report noted that widespread poverty, a lack of social services and poor enforcement of legislation were some the reasons the number of child street traders had increased (Mapimhidze, 2014). Such children are often deprived of their rights to education.

According to UNICEF Zimbabwe (2011) statistics shows that about 10% of children in the age group 5 to 14 are engaged in economic activities, including street trading. Out of the total children aged 5 to 14 years in economic labour, about 15% were not attending school. All in all, there are around more than 500000 children working instead of going to school, with most of them street trading. Deprivation from education perpetuates the vicious cycle of poverty (Muradzikwa, 2012).

In addition, a survey conducted in Zimbabwe by Mudimu and Nyandiya-Bundy (1991) in Bourdillon (1994) indicated that 15% of children involved in street trading were living in the streets. Bourdillon (1994) states that most children involved in economic activities opt for street trading. The survey also found out that children worked after or before school to earn pocket money, tuition fees, buy foodstuffs and or to buy clothing material just to supplement their parents' efforts. A study carried out by Msekiwa (2009) indicated that children operating in the streets of Harare conducted various economical activities such as trading, luggage carrier and collecting plastic containers.

2.3.4.1 *Nature of street trading in Zimbabwe*

Street trading takes various forms. According to Bromley (2009) street traders sell goods whilst some render services and some offer a mixture of both. Some child traders conduct business in one location, making use of kiosks or stalls whilst some child traders are mobile, walking with their merchandise from one place to another in search of customers. Also, children who engage in street trading operate in various public spaces; regulated street markets, transportation hubs, pavements and in or along streets (Bromley, 2009). The majority of children who engage in street trading in Zimbabwe laid their goods on the ground or on plastic sheets. Products sold range from foodstuffs, clothing to hardware material.

According to Dasgupta and Bateman (2007) children from poverty stricken families choose street trading from other service work available for it is more profitable. However, the establishment of a street trading venture requires capital which children find difficult to raise. As a result, children are often entitled to selling family stocks and or other person's goods.

2.3.5 Gender and engagement of children in street trading

Dasgupta and Bateman (2007) state that girl child street labourers often sell prepared foodstuffs. Boys sell goods that are consumed by male customers such as newspapers, cigarettes, clothing and dry goods. The latter's work is deemed less difficult and more profitable. As a result, girls tend to make significantly less than boys.

In addition, girls are often engaged in unpaid family activities in order to make it easier for their parents, especially mothers, in conducting household chores (Galli, 2001). Such roles are ascribed within society and are seen as of no harm to children, even if harm is evident.

According to Goonesekere (1993) in Sri Lanka, female children are protected from participating in street trading to protect them from various forms of abuses. In turn, boys constitute the majority of children engaged in street trading.

In contrast, World Bank findings of 2002 from studies carried out in Zimbabwe, Kenya and Benin showed that girls work more than their male counterparts (Daily Times, Nigeria, 2002 in Agbu, 2009). This is an indication of the differential distribution of labour processes children are involved in. Reactionary, it raises a serious concern for the welfare of the African girl child for it is one of the most vulnerable groups when it comes to labour processes such as street trading.

2.3.6 Working conditions for children engaged in street trading

Generally, child street traders operate at open spaces. They often work in the central business district of large cities or towns, where there is market for their produce and

services. According to Bromley (2009) the open air environment at which child street traders operate expose them to a number of occupational hazards that put their lives and health at risk. Adding on, trading places lack adequate and vital infrastructure such as toilets and sewer systems. Without proper supervision Bromley (2009) posits that children are often at risk of traffic in the urban streets. Vending stalls are less protective in the case of the occurrence of extreme weather. This increases children's exposure to a high concentration of air pollutants, hot temperature and other forms of extreme weather.

The working conditions for children engaged in street trading are determined by the policy environment. Child street traders work in unstable policy environments. According to Bromley (2009) in the third world, rules and regulations that impact street trading consistently change, and at times abuse of policy is experienced. Local municipalities, who regulate street trading, forcibly remove child street traders from the urban streets or even confiscate their goods. Such work environments have a negative effect on the physical, psychological and or sociological aspect of a child engaged in street trading and pose various challenges to child development.

2.3.7 Case Study: Children's involvement in street trading in Brazil

2.3.7.1 *Overview*

Brazil, like most Latin American countries, is characterised by a large number of children involved in street trading (Coletto, 2010). Children are exposed to street trading at a tender age. According to Coletto (2010), studies carried out on street trading in Brazil suggested that even individuals presently involved in street trading started out as children. Pollard (2002) states that street trading is a tool for survival for

a greater number of urban youngsters in Brazil, especially for those in the 12 to 16 years age range.

2.3.7.2 Characteristics

Many children who work in the streets of Brazil come from impoverished families and some do not have families (Naujunda, 2008). Most of the children involved in street trading live in squatter like settlements known as 'favelas'. As a result children will hence spend most of their time conducting economic activities on the streets to earn money. Children engaged in street trading are usually indigenous males between the ages of 10 to 14 years. Women are less likely to be involved in street trading for they will be assisting with household duties (Hobbs *et al*, 1999).

Street trading poses a challenge to children's development. According to Coletto (2010), in Brazil street trade is characterised by 'great confusion, populated by an indeterminate number of social actors driven by need and fierce competition to take to the streets to sell goods or services of every type '. Merchandise sold by street traders in Brazil include foodstuffs, clothes, toys, household products, toiletries and even illegal products such as counterfeit medicines.

Children in Brazil are unable to finance their own street trading initiatives hence they rely on parents and or community. According to Dasgupta and Bateman (2007) establishment of a street trading business requires either capital to procure goods or connections that will enable a child to merchandise another's stock, which is they probably would have been employed by market traders. Also, Pollard (2002) stipulates that in Brazil a child has to be knowledgeable of the wholesalers in order to purchase desired goods and price them accordingly.

Children engaged in street trading in Brazil often grow without significant familial support and attain little or no education at all. However, some children are reported to attend school in the morning and work on the streets, especially in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, during the afternoon and evening times or may not attend school. They may spend a greater proportion of their time on the streets or helping with household chores.

2.3.7.3 Causes

Brazil is characterised by rife poverty. According to Schmitz, *et al* (2004) poverty is the primary cause of children's involvement in street economic activities. In third world countries, such as Brazil, children are often exposed to the effects of poverty resulting in them resorting to various street trading activities.

2.3.7.4 Challenges faced by children engaged in street trading

2.3.7.4.1 Kidnappings and killings

In Brazil, children working in street trading initiatives are often exposed to kidnappings and killings. 'Death squads' target children in the streets including those involved in street trading (Levine, 1997).

2.3.7.4.2 Victimization and arrest

The existing child labour laws even classify legal work as illegal for children (Bromley, 2009). Police target children and incarcerate them frequently in large cities. This is done even if they are not selling drugs, stealing or engaging in other illegal activities.

2.4 Causal Factors for Children's Involvement in Street Trading

There are various causes which lead to children engaging in street trading. They range from socio-economic to socio-political and will often have an impact on a child or family choice to engage in street trading. Poverty, parent health status and family relations are some of the causes which shall be explained:-

2.4.1 Poverty

Generally, rapidly increasing poverty exacerbated by frequent extreme weather patterns and wars in Africa has driven millions of children into various forms of labour processes that are often exploitative, hazardous and prejudicial to children's welfare and development (Agbu, 2009). According to ILO (2004) the main cause why children engage in street trading is poverty. In a study carried out by the organisation in KwaZulu Natal (South Africa), 59,3% of children engaged in street trading activities came from poor households (ILO, 2004). Poverty often leads to deprivation of basic necessities for children. In Zimbabwe, 55,05% of children in economic child labour live in households where the head earns \$1 to \$100 per month (Zimstats Child Labour Report, 2014). In response, children from homes affected by poverty find a way to survive through street trading. Cartwright and Patrinos (1999) in Galli (2001) studied that in urban Bolivia children are forced by poverty to conduct street economical activities and contribute an average of 21% of family income. Various street trading activities are done to supplement a family's income, supporting siblings, and or to raise school fees. Sirola (1992) in Gaza and Diaz (2002) and Chopra (2015) stipulate that street trading at times becomes the only way to earn a household's income. Families are compelled to send their children to work in order to ensure the survival of households, especially in developing countries.

2.4.2 Parents' socio-economic status

ILO's study in the province of KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa) in 2004 has attributed an influx of children engaging in street trading to the high prevalence rates of HIV and AIDS characterising Sub Saharan Africa (ILO,2004). The epidemic has led to an increase in the number of orphans, who often find themselves engaged in street trading in order to survive. According to UNICEF Zimbabwe, of the 1,3 million orphans in the country, approximately 100000 are in child headed households and are often forced to leave school and find work as street traders (Newsday, 22/12/14).

In some instances, children are forced to engage in street trading as means to earn money for medical bills, be it parents' or siblings . They are compelled by the economic needs of parents to engage in different kinds of labour processes (Agbu, 2009). According to Chopra (2015) finding healthcare for parents is one of the push factors which lead children ending up as temporary or permanent street traders.

2.4.3 Family and community relations

As an institution, family has a role to play in a child's choice to work as a street trader. According to ILO (2004) those that stay with a single parent are more likely to engage in street economical activities.

Agbu (2009) identified that various African cultural traits which link a child with family and community were also causal factors of children's involvement in street trading. An African child is viewed as a 'child for all' meaning that s/he serves almost every individual in the community s/he lives. Hence, incidences of involvement in labour processes are high.

2.4.4 Poor education

Chopra (2015) states that lack of teachers at school, poor infrastructure and unsuitable curriculum are some of the reasons which result in dropouts, mostly at high school. Children who drop out from school subsequently end up being street traders.

2.4.5 Other causes

Rapid and uncontained urbanisation, migration to cities, high population growth, unemployment and insufficient income are some of the other causes that result in children engaging in street economical activities (Chopra, 2015).

2.5 Strategies to Address Problems Faced By Children Whilst Street Trading

2.5.1 International Conventions

2.5.1.1 *ILO Convention 138*

The Convention emphasises on minimum age of employment. It was initiated in 1973. Countries are required to establish a minimum age of employment not less than age of finishing compulsory education, and which in any instance should not be less than 15 years. However, a country characterised by low performing economies and inadequate educational facilities may specify a minimum age of 14 years. National laws may allow employment of 13 to 15 year olds in light work which is neither prejudicial to education attainment nor detrimental to a child's health or development.

2.5.1.2 *ILO Convention 182*

The Convention emphasises on the abolition of the worst forms of child labour. Countries ought to place legislations and policies which seek to restrict exploitation of children. The convention required countries which ratified to draw up a list of worst

forms of child labour activities within their jurisdiction and accordingly design and implement a public action to eliminate them. This convention was ratified by 177 countries.

2.5.1.3 *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*

The Convention was initiated in 1989. Article 32 specifies that children have the right to be protected from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with a child's schooling or harmful to a child's health be it physically or mental, spiritually, moral and or social development. Majority of the world's nations, including Zimbabwe, have ratified to the UNCRC. Governments, especially in developing countries, were urged to develop policies which aim at improving employment and standards of living, which have a possibility of reducing child labour.

2.5.1.4 *African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child*

The African Union came up with the Charter in 1990 and enforced it in 1999. It aimed at the promotion of children's rights. Article 15 stipulates that 'every child shall be protected from all forms of economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development'. State parties to the Charter are obliged to create or amend legislation and ensure administration measures to ensure full implementation of this Article.

Article 11 on Education, Article 12 on Leisure, Recreation and Cultural Activities and Article 16 on Protection against Child Abuse and Torture complement the organisation's effort to eradicate child labour and create a conducive environment for child development.

2.5.1.5 Other Conventions and Legislation

- International Convention for the Suppression of Trafficking in Women and Children (1921)
- General Declaration of the Rights of the Child (1924)
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)
- Declaration of the Rights of the Child, adopted by the UN General Assembly (20 November 1959)
- International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (article 23 and 24)
- International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (article 10)
- ILO Recommendation 190 of 17 June 1999
- Convention on the Aspects of International Child Abduction (1980)

However, Agbu (2009) argues that there is need to review and revise international conventions on children's rights and the labour processes with an aim to capture varying experiences of children from different geographical locations.

2.5.2 Legislation in Zimbabwe

Children have to be protected from hazardous labour processes, with some trading activities included. Street trading is one of the main forms of child labour a child often conduct outside the home environment (Hobbs, McKechnie and Lavalette, 1999). Societal instruments have been vocal in denouncing child labour. According to Schmitz, Traver and Larson (2004), in Brazil, civil society which includes workers' unions, churches and non-governmental organisations have been very instrumental in

influencing governmental programmes to address child labour. The country also ratified to ILO Convention 138 which addresses the minimum age of employment and Convention 182 which seeks to abolish worst forms of child labour. Child street traders must be protected from hazardous working conditions which interfere with education and development and also from economic exploitation. (UNCRC, Article 32).

The Government of Zimbabwe has made an effort in addressing pressing child labour issues such as street trading. The country is signatory to ILO Conventions 138 and 182, international statutory instruments which seeks to abolish ill treatment of children in employment. The country's Constitution also has Acts which aim at eliminating employment activities which are harmful to children. The Employment of Children and Younger Persons Regulations of 1997 sets the minimum age for general employment at 12 years and 16 years as the minimum age for heavy work, apprenticeships or vocational training. Children under the age of 18 are not to be employed during school terms, in hazardous, overtime or night work without the consent of the Ministry of Labour and Public Works. The Labour Relations Act renders any employment contract for a child under the age of 16 as legally invalid. The Children's Act protects children's rights to education, should they be employed, and it prohibits certain types of street trading and merchandise by children under the age of 16.

Despite the presence of all these legislative provisions in the country and the world over, less has changed as far as child labour is concerned. According to the American Department of Labour (2002) labour regulations, particularly child labour laws, are

poorly enforced due to misinterpretation and misunderstanding by the general public and a lack of child labour regulators.

2.6 Gaps left by existing research

Existing literature focuses on classifying child labour on a Western basis. Literature which articulates the involvement of children in labour processes is limited. Agbu (2009) stressed the need to focus on children's involvement in labour in the African context using an Afrocentric perspective.

There has been generalization of the negative effects of street trading on education attainment. According to Mitullah (2009) street trading directly affect the attainment of education in a negative way. However, some children attain better grades despite being involved in street trading (Dasugpta and Bateman, 2007).

This study seeks to highlight on challenges faced by children engaged in street trading in an Afrocentric perspective, reflecting African child experiences in street trading.

2.7 Summary

This chapter summarised and analysed the main academic debates on children's involvement in street trading. A discussion on the two relevant theories was conducted in the theoretical framework, with Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory and Foundational child labour theory being used to explain various facets of the subject of research. The theoretical framework discussed in the chapter highlighted on the factors which cause children to engage in street trading activities, which include social and economic problems. Global, regional and local overviews have all reflected an increase in the incidences of child labour, particularly street trading, despite the presence of legislative provisions and international conventions on children's rights. Data obtained from research conducted across the globe and Zimbabwe was also used in this chapter to further explain children's involvement in street trading. Overall, the

chapter reviewed literature relating to; children's involvement in street trading and its effect on a child's development, underlying causes of street trading, nature of street trading and legislative provisions on the protection of children against harmful child labour activities.

CHAPTER 3: METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This section describes and explains how data was collected, procedures for collecting data as well as how data was it presented and analysed. The research employed qualitative research, hence non- probability sampling was utilised.

3.2 Research Design

Research design is defined as a deliberately planned arrangement of conditions for analysis and collection of data in a manner that aim at combining relevance to research purpose with the economy procedure (Balsley,1970). The researcher focused on qualitative research design to provide complex textual description of how people experienced the given research issue, that is provided information about the 'human' side of an issue as well as identified intangible factors such as social norms, socio-economic status, gender roles, ethnicity and religion. It involved field notes and analysis of documents which were used by the researcher.

3.3 Study Population

3.3.1 Study Area

The study was carried out in Bindura, a town located in the heart of Mashonaland Central. The town's total population is 46 275 (Zimstats, 2012). The urban settlement economically relies on mining and farming for its survival. Municipality of Bindura administrates the town's various socio-economic activities.

3.3.2 Target Population

Best and Kahn (1993) define target population as 'any group of individuals that have one or more characteristics in common that are of interest to the researcher'. This implies a group of people with same or equal interests with regard to the study.

3.3.2.1 Respondents

The estimated number of children engaged street trading was 150. Participants were purposefully chosen for the study. These included boys and girls aged between 12 and 16 years who were in street trading in the urban streets of Bindura.

3.3.2.2 Key Informants

Two (2) key informants were selected from each of the following organisations; Department of Social Services and Municipality of Bindura. The other two (2) were selected from adult street traders. Hence, key informants totalled to six (6).

3.4 Sample

3.4.1 Sample Size

Sample size is the number of respondents that constitute a study. The sample size constituted of 15 respondents (age range 12 to 16) and 6 key informants. The number of children respondents constituted 10% of the estimated target population. This brought the total number of respondents to 21.

3.4.2 Sampling Techniques

3.4.2.1 Purposive sampling

The research study made use of the purposive sampling technique in the sampling of key informants. A purposive sampling technique is a type of non-probability sampling

technique. Non probability sampling focused on the researcher's judgements. The technique enabled the researcher to focus on particular characteristics that were of interest within the particular population of key informants. Moreover, the sample which was investigated was small, that is 6 key informants.

3.4.2.2 *Snowballing*

In the study, the researcher used snowballing to select children engaged in street trading. Persons who were difficult to find yet have character of interest helped the researcher to find other elements needed in the research. Babbie (2007) states that the technique is efficient in gaining access to knowledgeable individuals who may provide relevant information. The researcher used this technique to efficiently select children who were engaged in street trading.

3.5 Data Collection

3.5.1 Data Collection Techniques

3.5.1.1 *Interviews*

3.5.1.1.1 Respondents' in depth interview

An in depth interview is a dialogue between skilled interviewer and an interviewee and they are characterised by extensive probing and open ended questions (Taylor and Tindal, 1994). The researcher prepared an interview guide that included a list of questions and issues employed in the initial interviewing of key informants. Researcher employed open ended and closed questions to collect primary data from respondents. Interviews were conducted on a face to face basis for the researcher to note expressions, posture and hand gestures. The purpose was to generate accurate, rich and detailed data.

3.5.1.1.2 Key informants' interview

These are qualitative in depth interviews with individuals knowledgeable to societal issues. The purpose of using this data collection technique was to collect data from a wide range of people (professionals and adult street traders) who had first-hand information on challenges that were being faced by children engaged in street trading. Key informant interviews provide the researcher with detailed qualitative data on impressions, experiences and opinions of key informants (World Heart Federation, 2015).

3.5.1.2 *Direct Observation*

The researcher obtained first-hand information through observing the nature of street trading in Bindura and how children conducted their errands whilst street trading. The researcher prepared an observation check list which included areas where children were conducting various forms of street trading and their reactions to the various challenges they faced on a regular basis.

3.5.2 Data Collection Instruments

Key informant interview guides were used to interview the 6 key informants who were involved in the study. (See **Appendix 5**)

Respondents' interview guides were also drafted to interview the 15 children who were involved in the study. (See **Appendix 6**)

Observation check list was used in the assessing of working environments for children engaged in street trading. (See **Appendix 7**)

3.5.3 Data Collection Procedure

The researcher first obtained permission to carry out the study from the Municipality of Bindura (See **Appendix 1**). Permission was also sought from the Mashonaland Central provincial offices of the DSS for the researcher to interview two key informants knowledgeable on the subject matter (See **Appendix 3**). After the permission seeking procedures the researcher then roamed various residential areas and CBD of Bindura urban interviewing respondents using the specified sampling techniques, guided by the drafted research instruments.

3.6 Findings

3.6.1 Presentation of Findings

Data was presented in a descriptive format. Tables and figures were used to illustrate findings in a clearer manner. These were used to display numbers from different facets of the findings. Tabulated data is easier to interpret and analyse.

3.6.2 Analysis of Findings

The data was analysed manually. This was because of a small sample of respondents which was studied. The responses from interviews and data obtained from observation were arranged into conceptual categories determined by theoretical propositions and objectives of the study.

3.7 Ethical Issues

There were ethical issues that were considered in the study. Shamoo and Resnik (2009) quoted in Mella (2012) state that codes and policies for research ethics are adopted by many different professionals, associations, government agencies and

universities. The researcher considered voluntary participation, honesty and integrity informed consent, confidentiality and anonymity.

3.7.1 Voluntary participation

Respondents participated voluntarily and had a right to withdraw at any moment during interviews. The respondents were not forced to answer questions they were uncomfortable with, they answered at will.

3.7.2 Confidentiality and anonymity

The researcher identified the respondents' responses and promised not to disclose them publicly. Shamo and Resnik(2009) state that confidentiality should be ensured and maintained through the use of pseudo names and keeping the information away from the public.

3.7.3 Informed consent

The researcher had to tell respondents on the procedures of conducting the study pertaining their participation. Informed consent forms were issued out to all respondents (See **Appendix 4**). Dooley (1995) notes that informed consent plays a key role in deciding approval for research. The researcher had to specify the purpose and duration of the study to the respondents.

3.7.4 Honesty and Integrity

Integrity and honest were shown by the researcher. There were no false hopes or unpredictable results of the research findings. The study was conducted with objectivity in accordance to the main aim.

3.8 Feasibility

The researcher was given the permission to collect data in Bindura urban. The researcher found it difficult to obtain permission from Municipality of Bindura which delayed the carrying out of the research. However, authority made the study feasible, with the researcher collecting data without restrictions. Also, the student was already knowledgeable of the area hence there was convenience in mobility from one respondent to the other.

3.9 Delimitations

- The researcher conducted his study in Bindura urban, i.e. CBD, Chipadze, Aerodrome, Chiwaridzo and Chipindura.
- The study was guided by two sampling techniques, i.e. purposive and snowballing techniques. Interviews and observations were utilised to collect the required data.
- Research was conducted on a three week lifespan. Much of the time was spent on seeking permission from Municipality of Bindura. Key informants from Municipality for Bindura were interviewed on the 12th of November 2015 and those from the DSS were interviewed on the 13th of November 2015. Data collection from respondents and two adult traders was initiated on the 16th of November 2015 and ended on the 18th of November 2015.

3.10 Limitations

There were various factors beyond the researcher's control which may have affected research findings. The limitations were:

- The study was not easy to carry out as respondents who had vending stalls to attend to thought that their time was being wasted hence they ended up exaggerating their responses.

- Inadequate funds for stationery and printing purposes was a major setback for the researcher.
- Children engaged in street trading may have withheld to some information pertaining the study area fearing victimisation.
- Some children may have exaggerated responses in anticipation of possible immediate benefits, even though the researcher had emphasized their non-existence.

3.11 Summary

This chapter shows methodology that was used in the collection of data for the study. Sampling procedures and data collection methods were highlighted. A discussion was also initiated on data analysis. Ethical considerations used were shown. The next chapter encompasses data presentation, discussion and analysis of findings.

CHAPTER 4: PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter highlights and discusses the research findings. In doing so, the researcher maintains the aim and objectives of the study. The aim of the study was to investigate the challenges faced by children engaged in street trading in Bindura urban. The objectives were to find out the nature of street trading activities, to establish the causes of street trading among children, to find out the challenges faced by children engaged in street trading and to establish the coping strategies that were adopted by individuals, families, communities and or organisations to address the challenges.

4.2 Demographic profile of respondents

The demographic pattern of respondents was important in this study as it provided an understanding of social and economic problems that cause children to be engaged in street trading. This section aids in understanding how girls and boys are affected differently by challenges. Coping strategies that were adopted in addressing problems faced by children engaged in street trading had in one way or the other an impact on the demographic pattern. The study aimed at studying challenges faced by children involved in street trading in Bindura urban, with 15 children being studied.

4.2.1 Sex and Age distribution of respondents

Table 1 illustrated on the next page reflects on the mean, mode and median of the respondents.

Table 1: Mean, Mode and Median Age

| Component | Years |
|-----------|------------|
| Mean | 14,4 years |
| Mode | 15 years |
| Median | 15 years |

The average number of years of respondents was 14,4 years. The age with highest frequency was 15 years. Many respondents were 15 years old. The medium age was 15 years.

This showed that the majority of children engaged in street trading were 15 years old and were of a secondary school going age.

Table 2 shows the sex and age frequency distribution and the percentage distribution of the respondents under study.

Table 2: Percentage distribution of sex and age of the respondents

| Sex | Age | | | | | | | | | | Total | |
|-------|-----------|---|-----------|----|-----------|----|-----------|----|-----------|----|-----------|-----|
| | 12 years | | 13 years | | 14 years | | 15 years | | 16 years | | | |
| | Frequency | % | Frequency | % | Frequency | % | Frequency | % | Frequency | % | Frequency | % |
| Boys | 1 | 7 | 2 | 13 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 20 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 53 |
| Girls | 0 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 13 | 2 | 13 | 2 | 13 | 7 | 47 |
| Total | 1 | 7 | 3 | 20 | 3 | 20 | 5 | 33 | 3 | 20 | 15 | 100 |

As **Table 2** above shows, the targeted respondents were 15 out of which 53% (n=8) were boys while 47% (n=7) were girls. This showed that there were more boys than girls involved in street trading in Bindura urban. The evidence supports Ngulube

(2010) findings that the majority of children engaged in street economic activities in Zimbabwe were boys. The demographic pattern was also in agreement with Msekiwa (2009) study which indicated that more boys were engaged in street economic activities as compared to their female counterparts. Girls were fewer in street economic activities because in society they were seen as 'helpers', i.e. staying at home helping their mothers and families with household chores and taking care of siblings (Ngulube, 2010). It also adds on Galli (2001) viewpoint that girls were often engaged in unpaid family activities especially helping their mothers by conducting household chores. As street trading exposes the girl child to a number of risks, their lesser presence may be indicating protection by parents or guardians from various forms of abuse (Goonesekere, 1993).

However, the demographic pattern shows a change in relation to gender and economic activities. World Bank findings of 2002 had stated that girls worked more than their male counterparts in Zimbabwe (Agbu, 2009). The study findings conflict with the World Bank findings as boys were found to be economically active than their female counterparts. The slight difference of $\pm 6\%$ showed that the number of girls involved in street trading had a potential of increasing as predicted by ILO (2013).

Table 2 also shows the age distribution of children engaged in street trading from 12 years to 16 years of age. 7% (n=1) was 12 years old and he was a boy. 20% (n=3) children were 13 years old of which 67% were boys and 33% was a girl. In the age of 14 years there were also 20% children, of whom 33% were boys and 67% were girls. Those who had 15 years constituted of the majority of the respondents (n=5) with 60% being boys and 40% being girls. The eldest of the respondents were 16 years old (n=3) with 33% being boys and 67% being girls. These findings showed that the majority of the children involved in street trading in Bindura urban were below the legal age of

employment. This is in line with findings by UNICEF Zimbabwe (2011) that about 10% of children in the age group 5 to 14 years were engaged in street trading activities. The findings were also consistent with Mitulla (2009) study that children as young as 10 years were found in vending activities in African cities. This indicated that children started working at a tender age. The evidence clearly defines child labour as was asserted by ILO (2004) which classified any work allocated to young persons resulting in an interruption on normal childhood development and deprivation of basic needs a child requires. A third of children in Southern Africa were assumed to start working between the ages of 5 and 8 years (UNICEF, 2001). According to key informants they did not have accurate information on the age of children involved in street trading but assumed that children as young as 6 years were engaged in street trading. Findings from the research indicated that the majority of children engaged in street trading on the streets of Bindura urban were under the legal age of employment.

4.2.2 Respondents' level of education

In reference to **Table 2** all the children interviewed were of secondary school going age, i.e. from Form 1 to Form 4 under GCE Ordinary Level standards. However, to most there were fewer chances of attaining a descent education.

Figure 1: Respondents' Education Level

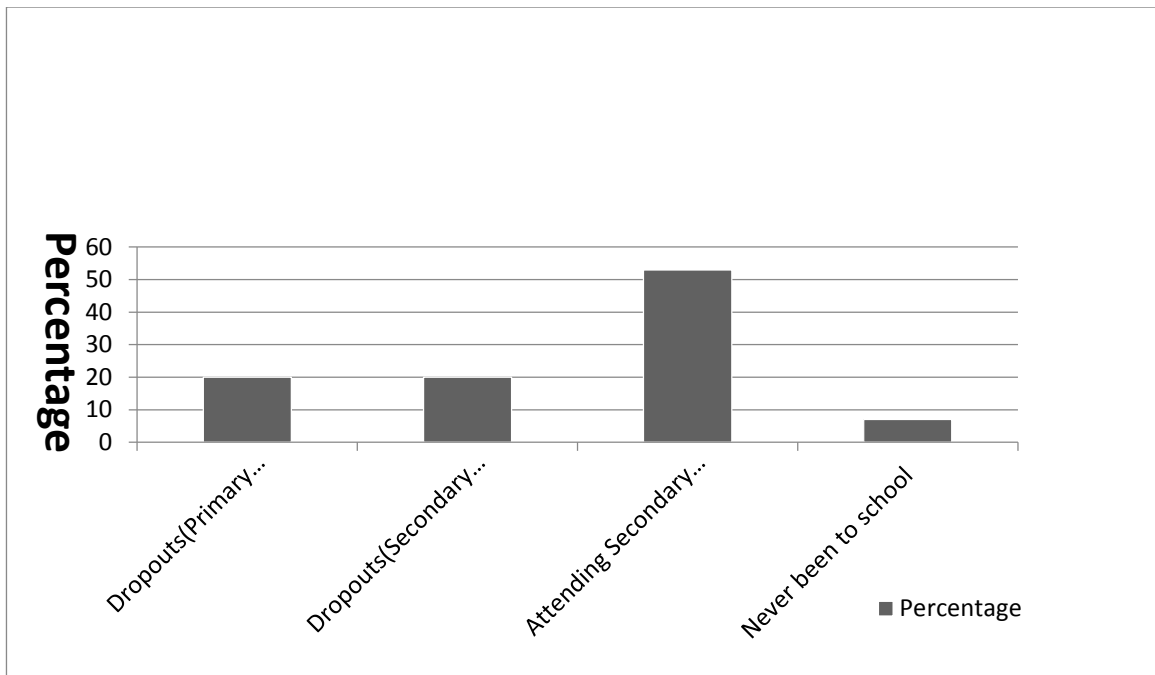


Figure 1 above indicates that 20% (n=3) of the respondents in the study dropped out of primary school and were permanently involved in street trading due to a number of socio-economic circumstances such as orphanhood, huge responsibilities and family composition i.e. most lived with single parents. Of the primary school dropouts 67% were boys and 33% were girls. Ngulube (2010) in Mella (2012) also found out in his study that 55% of the girls involved in street economic activities attained primary education whilst 30% of the boys also attained the same education level. 20% (n=3) of respondents dropped out of secondary school. This is either they had failed the GCE Ordinary level examinations or had failed to raise fees to continue with secondary education. Of the respondents who dropped out of secondary school 33% were boys and 67% were girls. A total number of 53% of the respondents were school going. 38% (n=3) of the school going children were boys and 62% (n=5) of the respondents going to school were girls. The findings contradict with the traditional statistics which

established that boys were given first preference to both primary and secondary education. Only 7% of the respondents did not even attend school.

The presence of children not attending school in street trading activities indicated the harsh socio-economic environment experienced in the country. One key informant noted that the socio-economic environment had led to the reduction of Government's and Non-Governmental Organisations' (NGOs) operations in improving children's welfare and education hence an influx of child street traders.

4.3 Nature and Causes of Street Trading activities conducted by children

4.3.2 Nature and distribution of trading activities

It was observed that children were concentrated mostly in busy streets within low income residential areas. Girls constituted a larger proportion in the streets of residential areas whilst boys were highly concentrated in the central business district (CBD). Below is **Figure 2** showing the percentage of areas children operated in whilst street trading in Bindura urban.

Figure 2: Percentage of Street Trading Activities Distribution

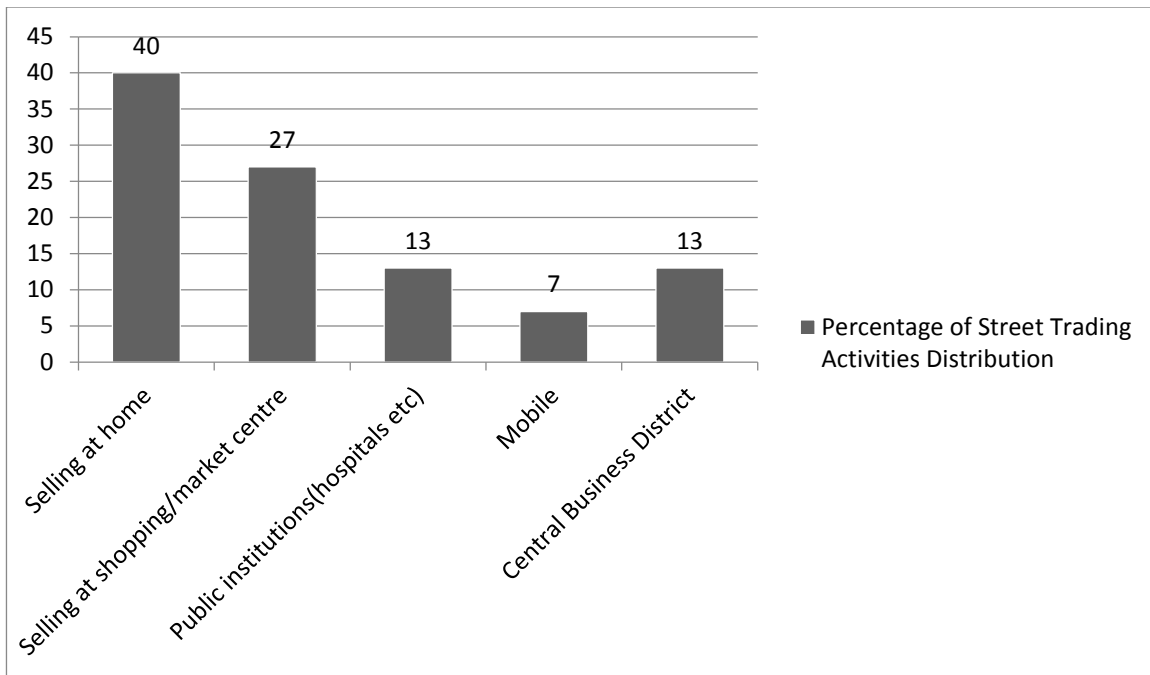


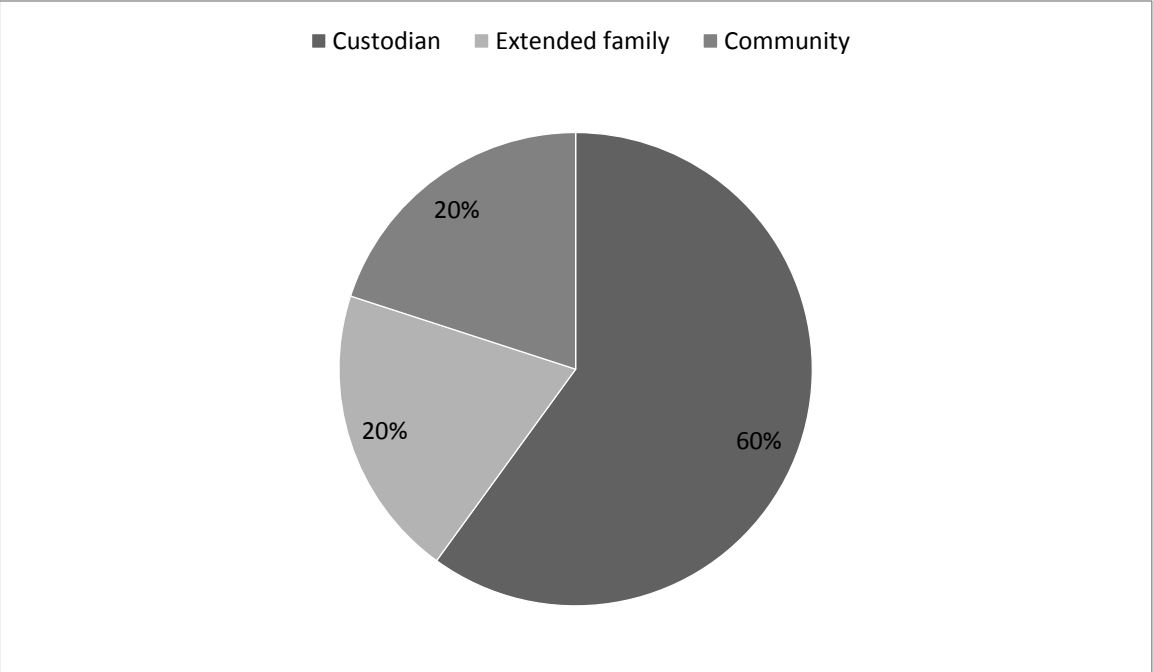
Figure 2 projects that 40% (n=6) of the respondents operated at their residences. It was observed that stalls were placed in front of yards or busy streets nearby. A respondent interviewed attributed this choice of location to convenience and cost and energy reduction. 27% (n=4) were located at shopping centres in their neighbourhood. Market and shopping centres attracted a large number of people hence increased the threshold of goods that were being sold by child street traders. Both categories of children who conducted business near public institutions and CBD constituted of 13% (n=2) each. 7% of respondent were mobile, that is walking from one place to another in search of customers.

4.3.3 Finance for trading activities

Children who were involved in the study were financed by their custodians, which are parents or other relatives who they stayed with. 60% (n=9) reported to be financed by persons taking care of them. 20% (n=3) traced their capital to the extended family, that

is cousins, uncles and or aunties. This showed the effectiveness of traditional African social safety net system which makes it an obligation for relatives to take care of orphaned children. The other 20% (n=3) claimed that they were financed by the community (neighbours) in which they lived in. One key informant noted that in times of extreme poverty community may contribute finances for children to start initiatives, with the majority of children embarking on street trading activities which they view as lucrative and suited for the prevailing economic environment. **Figure 3** below illustrates the findings based on finance.

Figure 3: Percentage of financers



4.3.4 Timeline of street trading activities

The timeline for children's involvement in street trading varied from one respondent to the other. The time spent on street trading ranged from less than 1 year to 6 years.

Table 3 illustrates the timeline of the 15 respondents.

Table 3: Timeline of street trading activities

| Timeline | Frequency | Percentage |
|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Less than 1 year | 4 | 27 |
| 1-2 years | 6 | 40 |
| 3-4 years | 2 | 13 |
| 5-6 years | 2 | 13 |
| Seasonal | 1 | 7 |
| Total | 15 | 100 |

The majority of respondents had spent 1 to 2 years street trading. They constituted 40% (n=6) of the study. Most had started trading soon after they had completed or dropped out of primary school. Those who had spent less than a year were 27%. Categories 3 - 4 years and 5 - 6 years constituted of 13% (n=2) each. 7% was temporarily into street trading, that is becoming active when school holidays were approaching.

Timelines indicated shows that most children engaged in street trading had to either drop out of school or involve in street trading on a temporary basis. This is in support of UNICEF (2010) findings that children ranging from 5 to 16 years old were being involved in street economic activities such as street trading.

4.4 Challenges faced by children whilst Street Trading

Children face a number of challenges when street trading. Under the study, children declared facing a number of challenges which were a threat to their wellbeing and existence.

4.4.2 Victimization

Children engaged in street trading outcried their experiences of being victimised. Children claimed that they were subject of victimisation most of the time. 27% of the respondents lamented being victimised at the hands of Municipal police whom they claimed harassed them and at times threatened them with arrest. However, one key informant disapproved the claim that most Municipal raids were aimed at adult traders.

'We all know that children are vulnerable and don't want to further worsen their plight, that's why we don't carry raids on them', said the key informant.

The statement indicated that children were spared in the untimely raids conducted by the Municipality of Bindura. From observation, when Municipal police were approaching at selling points children would be seen packing their merchandise just like their adult counterparts, signifying fear of being victimised and or arrested.

Children engaged in street trading also faced victimisation at the hands of customers and passersby. A respondent recited what one customer had said to him.

'Akanditi vapfana vasina kudzidza munoshupa mhani' (The customer said children who don't go to school are a menace).

The customer is said to have been angered when the respondent declined his South African currency (rands) which were of less value at the period. The child claimed to feeling threatened and victimised thereafter. This showed that children engaged in street trading were vulnerable to victimisation initiated by errant customers.

Victimisation was also experienced at schools by school going children engaged in street trading.

One respondent said, '*Kana kuchikoro ndotopinzwa busy chaiyo kana vakazvifunga.*' (*Even at school I am often victimised at times by other students*).

Street trading is associated with dire poverty which often leads to stigma as school peers are in the habit of teasing those involved in it, labelling them as being of lower social status.

4.4.3 Interruption on education

Street trading has detrimental effects on education attainment. Children engaged in street trading attributed their failure to spending more time on trading activities than on studying. One respondent said that street trading negatively affected her studies, after attending school on a daily basis she would go to relieve her mother at a vending stall. Hence, after work she would be too tired to continue with studying.

40% (n=6) of the respondents had to totally drop out of school to sustain their families through street trading. Individual as well as family decision contributed to children dropping out of school as a reaction to poverty hence compromising on their education status. 50% (n=3) of children who dropped out of school hoped to raise tuition fees out of street trading and continue with education whilst the other 50% (n=3) had less hope of continuing with education.

One respondent said, '*Ha blaz ini zvakatoramba zveschool izvi. Hameno pamwe ndikawana mari. Asi ndikashaya ndoenda hangu kuShamva kunogweja*'. (*Brother I*

won't be able to continue with schooling if I don't get funding, if I fail to raise money I will join those mining in Shamva).

Economic hardships made children to engage in street trading regardless of the negative effects on education attainment. Some of the children engaged in street trading had adopted a negative attitude towards education attainment. Chopra (2015) stated that an unrevised curriculum was to blame for the high number of dropouts who often found their way into street trading.

4.4.4 Stress

Respondents admitted that the working environments they were exposed to were strenuous, resulting in psychological constraints and trauma. 33% (n=5) of respondents admitted to being exposed to higher level stressors such as difficult to deal with customers, economic hardships and abuse both at home and at work. A girl who lived with her sister linked stress she experienced to employers' behavioural traits. She said that her sister was very strict when it came to handling money.

'Ndikashaya imwe mari kumba hakudyiwe rinopisa zve.' (If I make a loss I become a subject of abuse).

Those who financed trading activities set rules and regulations which at most caused children to experience stress. Mistakes were accompanied by blaming and negative evaluations which affected children's psychosocial development.

4.4.5 Hazardous working conditions

Children working as street traders were exposed to harsh climatic conditions. Through observation it was noted that vending stalls from which children operated had less or no protection at all leaving children exposed to sun, wind, coldness and rain.

One respondent said, '*Tinotoita kugochwa chaiko, munoriziva zuva reBindura mukoma.*' (*We are exposed to extreme heat; you know how hot the sun is in Bindura brother*).

Another respondent lamented the lack of a protective stall which left him exposed to direct sunlight.

He said, '*Bindura inopisa haijairike iyi, kana pasina shade zvinobva zvarwadza.*' (*Bindura is very hot; one can never get used to its weather, and a shade is a necessity*).

Hence, the lack of proper vending stalls made child street traders vulnerable to the harsh weather. This had a negative toll on their physical health. Bromley (2009) also stated that the open air environment increased children's exposure to risk factors such as the harsh weather.

Vending stalls were near busy streets. This placed child street traders at risk of experiencing traffic tragedies. The researcher observed that motorists were in the habit of speeding through the residential areas' streets. Children would be less aware of the possible dangers the passing cars posed. Some were observed playing football in the streets near their vending stalls. Also, one respondent who was mobile stressed the

point of crossing past busy streets in search of customers hence increasing the risk of being hit by a car. This supports Bromley (2009) claim that children engaged in street economic activities were at risk of traffic in the urban streets.

4.4.6 Harsh economic environment

The harsh economic environment which characterised the country exposed children to economic hardships whilst street trading. The multi-currency system led to confusion especially amongst the respondents who had attained only primary school or not any education at all. 20% (n=3) of the respondents admitted to being confused when handling the various currencies that are used in Zimbabwe.

One respondent even said, '*Nekudonha kuri kuita rand handichanzwisise kuti zvirikumbofamba sei.*' (*The way the South African currency (rand) is performing we are left clueless*).

The harsh economic environment compromised on normal operations of child street traders. Unlike their adult counterparts, children were unable to cope up effectively to the current economic conditions; they relied heavily on parents and guardians.

Also, the harsh economic environment had a negative impact on capital accumulation. 27% (n=4) admitted to have struggled to raise capital for their street trading initiatives due to economic hardships. At times all profits realised from merchandise were expended at household expenses leaving the children with no capital at all.

4.4.7 Physical and emotional abuse

Children engaged in street trading, especially those living with guardians (stepmothers, aunties) reported experiencing physical and emotional abuse. Abuse often occurred when a child failed to realise profits from a day's work. One respondent openly stated experiences of abuse whereby she said that her sister verbally and emotionally abuse her when it came to business.

She said, '*Kacent chaiko ndogona kudzokera kumusha.*' (*A short of even one cent can result in me being sent to the rural areas*).

She pointed out this happened more often and made her feel uneasy and psychologically uncomfortable. Some respondents may have found it difficult to disclose the occurrence of physical and emotional abuse resulting in less information being collected on that subject.

4.4.8 Lack of contracts

Labour laws worldwide stipulate right of every prospect employee to enter into a contractual agreement with their employers. All the respondents had no idea of what a contractual agreement was and showed indifference to the topic. They worked on a daily basis without contracts. One key informant reviewed that the lack of contractual agreements was probably due to the nature of street trading in Zimbabwe. Children were involved in selling merchandise as a family initiative and were not seen as employed but obliged to partake in such activities.

Even though children were forced by family to engage in street trading, the main motive for their involvement in street trading was poverty and the urge to survive. Cognitive development was also considered. Children in the age range 12-16 years would be naïve and might not understand the impact of their behaviour and risks that came with work being conducted. Children did not understand their rights and importance, hence their less concern on legal binding instruments such as contractual agreements.

4.4.9 Lack of leisure time

Children engaged in street trading were deprived of their freedom of associating with other children. 13% (n=2) of the children described how work was robbing them of their time to play with their friends.

One child said, '*Ndasuwa kutamba neshamwari yangu Tina*, nguva zhinji ndinenge ndina gogo kumusika.*' (*I miss playing with my friend Tina*, most of the time I spend here helping grandmother*).

In the African context leisure is viewed as a waste of time hence a child is entitled to a number of informal activities during spare time. Hence, the respondents' childhood development might have been compromised due to lack of leisure time.

4.5 Mechanisms adopted to address challenges faced by children whilst Street Trading

4.5.2 Coping mechanisms adopted by children engaged in street trading to address challenges

Children engaged in street trading had to adopt various coping mechanisms to address challenges they faced and to ensure their survival. The coping strategies included

social support networks, school attendance, diversifying merchandise, business relocation, ignorance and wishful thinking.

4.5.2.1 *Seeking social support*

Children who worked as street traders relied on social support when problems arose. Social support came in the form of parents, extended family and or community. 40% (n=6) of the respondents admitted to seeking social support from extended family when facing socio-economic challenges. The extended family was quick to respond due to kinship ties. One respondent stated that extended family supported her and her mother in times of strife making it possible to make ends meet and at the end ensuring survival. Another respondent said that his uncles aided him financially so that he was able to look after his grandmother. Hence, for children to address pressing issues they made use of existing social support networks.

4.5.2.2 *School attendance*

Despite being involved in street trading, the majority of the respondents were still attending school, i.e. 53% (n=8). However, street trading interfered negatively with education attainment. One respondent relied on neighbours who provided him with books to read so as to enhance academic knowledge. Another respondent claimed that he maximised time at school and during late hours to study so as to study and attain better grades. Thorough consultation at school was one of the mechanisms used by one of the respondents. A teacher at school opted to help him on balancing school work and home business.

The respondent said, *'Anga aona kudzikira kwangu pamamarks ndipo paakatanga kundibatsira.'* (He noticed the downward trend of my marks and opted to help me with school work).

The respondent claimed that ever since he had been performing well despite being involved in street trading. Hence adult supervision and guidance in education attainment was a necessity for the children to have attained better grades.

Those who had dropped out of school or failed to continue with education wished to be at school. 50% (n=3) of children who dropped out of school hoped to raise money out of street trading and continue with education. Education was seen as a way to avert the effects of poverty and also a way to secure formal employment in the future.

One respondent said, *'Dai zvaibvira mari yatowana pakutengesa ikawanda ndodzokera kuchikoro.'* (If the money I earn whilst street trading becomes adequate for tuition fees, I would go to school).

This showed that education was a tool for success in African societies without which one had a lesser chance to succeed in life. Hence the majority wished to be educated and be considered in formal employment.

4.5.2.3 Diversifying merchandise

Children engaged in street trading were in the habit of diversifying their goods, i.e. selling a variety of goods; from foodstuffs to household goods. They did not centralise on one product in order to have a larger number of customers, withstand competition

and realising maximum profits at the end. As observed, vending stalls from which children operated at had varying goods.

One key informant said, *'There is no difference on what adults and children sell when trading. You can walk in the streets and see children selling pesticides and other products which at times may be toxic.'*

This indicated a revolution on the way children engaged in street trading were conducting their business, which on the other hand may have been a coping mechanism to withstand competition in the streets.

4.5.2.4 Business relocation

In face of competition children engaged in street trading relocated their businesses to other places. A decision was made by their respective families resulting in children moving their merchandise to other places. An adult trader said that children were unable to withstand competition, making them more vulnerable to the harsh economic environment. 7% (n=1) of the respondents claimed to have relocated business.

She said, *'Ndaimbotengesera pamashops, asi ndakazoono zviri nani kutengesera pamba pasina zvinonetsa.'* (I used to sell at the shopping centre, but now I found it much more convenient to sell at home where there is less competition).

Hence, business relocation was considered as a coping mechanism especially when facing competition.

4.5.2.5 Ignorance

29% (n=2) of the girls made use of ignorance as a coping mechanism when dealing with difficult customers. Ignorance was employed as a way to avoid stress. One of the girls said that male customers teased her but she often ignored them. Her mother told her to ignore sexism remarks.

She said, '*Hanzi vanondikanganisa chikoro saka ndozvandinoita.*' (She said they distract my education so that's what I do (ignoring)).

The two respondents acknowledged ignorance as an effective strategy when dealing with persistent customers.

4.5.2.6 Wishful thinking

Children's psychology is characterised by imagination, a coping mechanism essential for fighting stress. 7% (n=1) of the respondents admitted to imagining a positive life outlook when faced with difficult situations such as loss and conflict.

He said, '*Ndichiwona vamwe vachienda kuchikoro ndinongoshuwirawo kuti one day ndini.*' (Seeing other children going to school makes me wish that one day it will be me).

A respondent wishfully thought of succeeding academically. This moved him from reality whereby he was unable to go to school and gave him hope, hence less stress. It was almost every child's dream to attend school and earn a formal job.

4.5.3 Support mechanisms adopted by societal institutions to address challenges faced by children engaged in street trading

4.5.3.1 *Child Welfare services*

Department of Social Services (DSS) provided social services to children who were disadvantaged.

A key informant from the Department said, *'We document those who come looking for assistance, but few don't disclose that they are street traders. When we have resources that is when we offer assistance, but if it is the other way round there is less we can do.'*

The DSS bemoaned lack of resources as an impeding factor in helping all the children engaged in street trading. Generally, the country was experiencing an economic meltdown. This directly affected Government departments' operations resulting in inefficiency in the delivery of services.

47% (n=7) of the respondents knew about the DSS but only 43% (n=3) had applied. All those who had applied lamented that their requests had not been replied as yet. One respondent claimed that he was referred to the DSS but nothing had been done.

He said, *'Vanongoramba vachinditi dzoka asi hapana hapana.'* (They frequently urge me to return but to no avail).

Hence, child welfare services initiated by Government have been ineffective in addressing the challenges faced by children engaged in street trading. This is mainly attributed to resource constraints.

4.5.3.2 Education funding

87% (n=13) of the respondents claimed that their guardians had at one point applied for scholarships and educational loans for them. The majority (n=7) had applied for Basic Education Attainment Module (BEAM). They hoped that it would help them complete education. However, all were disappointed as BEAM lacked funding and was unable to meet their demands. 20% of the respondents who were orphans had applied for the Capernaum Trust funding but there was no beneficiary. Hence, the prevailing economic environment, there were less educational funding programmes thus leading to the deprivation of education to vulnerable children such as those involved in street trading.

4.6 Perceptions on children's involvement in street trading

4.6.1 Perceptions of child street traders

Children engaged in street trading expected much from their families and communities. They expected that parents and guardians had to meet their every need without fail. The majority (67%) of children engaged in street trading perceived it as being stressful and an impeding factor on their normal development. They attributed this to all the challenges they faced which include stress, harassment and lack of leisure time. One respondent perceived street trading as an unprofitable initiative.

He said, '*Ndikazvifunga ndichangoendawo kumining pamwe ndingabate dombo rangu zvikaita.*' (If I think straight I may venture into mining maybe I may earn a fortune).

The respondent opted for mining activities rather than the trading activities he was engaged in. Another respondent emphasized on the perception that street trading was not profitable.

He said, *‘Zvakadhakwa izvi mukoma. Zvikatonzi ndawana mari yekureba apa sure mukoma izvi ndobva ndazvisiya ipapo ipapo.’* (This is not lucrative. If I get a lump some I would quit and venture into something else).

This showed that children engaged in street trading had no hope that the trading activities would make their lives better. According to the respondents’ remarks above, it was deduced that street trading was not addressing all the children’s needs, thus they opted for other economic activities other than street trading.

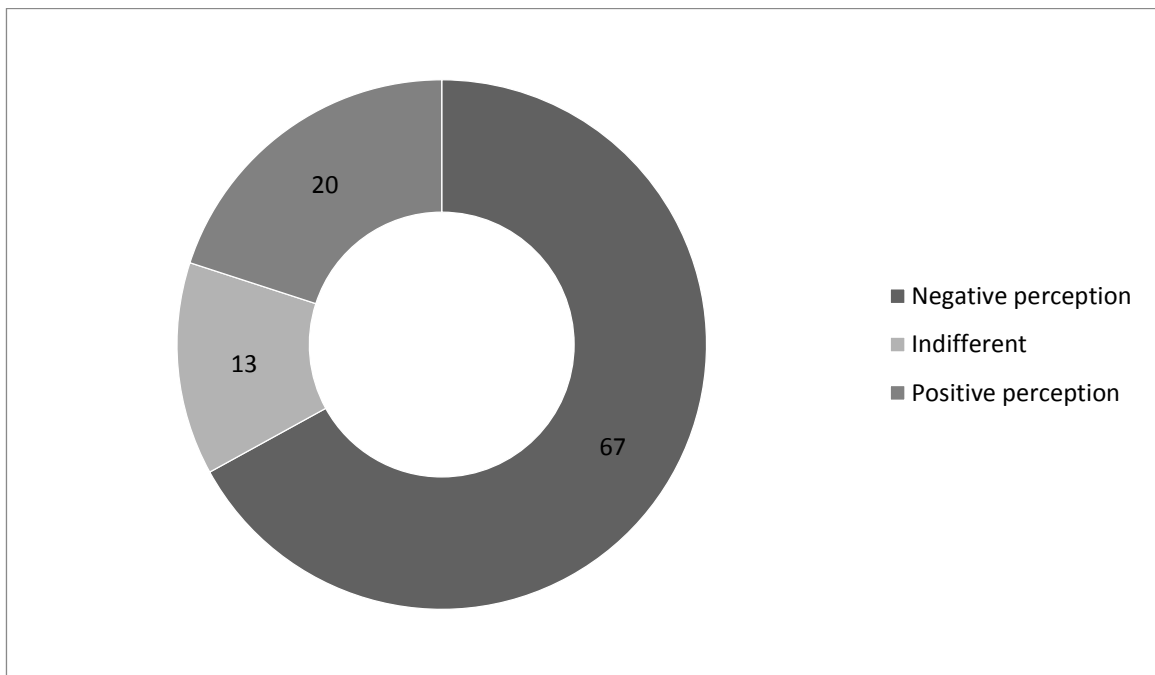
20% (n=3) of the respondents however viewed street trading as a way to overcome various hardships in life. They perceived their trade as preparing them for the future. A girl named Ruth stated that street trading provided her with informal education essential in life.

She said, *‘Unodzidza zvakawanda kana ukamboita time yekuuya kumusika kuno.’* (You learn a lot if you spend some time here at the vending stall).

This showed that some respondents viewed street trading as an effective way to make ends meet especially in the current socio-economic environment. This supports Dasugpta and Bateman (2007) who state that street trading is more profitable than other forms of income generating initiatives.

13% (n=2) of the respondents were indifferent on how they perceived life as street traders. Age may have been a factor in their responses as one was 12 years old and the other was 13 years old. **Figure 4** below illustrates the percentages of perceptions of children engaged in street trading.

Figure 4: Perceptions of children engaged in street trading



4.6.2 Perceptions of adults on child street trading

83% (n=5) of the key informants interviewed perceived children's involvement in street trading as child labour.

One key informant said, *'Although the children will be working for their families, ensuring survival, they are exposed to quite a number of risks. This in one way or the other may affect them negatively.'*

Another key informant denounced street trading as child exploitation.

She said, *'This can be equated to modern day slavery, children must be entitled to education not to a life in the streets.'*

Hence, the majority of adults perceived street trading as having detrimental effects on childhood development. Knowledgeable individuals were able to note that there existed child exploitation in street trading which had negative consequences on children.

However, 17% (n=1) of the key informants, an adult street trader, perceived children's involvement in street trading as having positive impacts on development.

She said, *Munowona vana ava vanotengesa vanokura vakangwarira pane vanongogara vachipihwa zvese. Haumbovaenzanise nevekumasuburb kana vave kutsvaga mari.'* (You see children who are into street trading are nurtured to be wise than those who are provided with every need. You can never compare them with those from the low density suburbs when it comes to trading).

This statement showed how adult traders perceived children's involvement in street trading, a view which portrayed positivity and advantages of street trading activities. However, such a view showed that adults in street trading embraced their trade regardless of its harms.

4.6.3 Hopes and future aspirations of children engaged in street trading

When children were asked what they hoped and aspired for their future, 80% of the respondents indicated that they wanted their situation to change and live a life where their needs were readily provided. Most of them saw a brighter future, citing education as a leeway to prosperity. Of the respondents, 47% who had dropped out of school, 86% wished to continue with education or be enrolled at academic institutions. One respondent wished to finish her education and find a decent job as an accountant.

She said, '*Shuwiro yangu bhudhi ndeyekuwana basa kana ndapedza school.*' (*My wish brother is to get employed soon after finishing school*).

Hence, education was regarded as essential in addressing the plight of children engaged in street trading. Also, all key informants in the study pointed out the importance of education for children.

4.7 Summary

The chapter has presented and discussed the study's findings. Presentation and discussion were done in line with the aim and four objectives which were; to find out the nature of trading activities conducted by children in Bindura urban; to establish the causes of street trading among children; to find out the challenges faced by children engaged in street trading and; to investigate the coping strategies adopted to address the challenges.

CHAPTER 5: SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter draws conclusions from the findings and discussion presented in Chapter Four. Recommendations are also made. The conclusions and recommendations are presented in line with the four research objectives which are to find out the nature of street trading activities, to establish the causes of street trading among children, to find out the challenges faced by children engaged in street trading and to establish the coping strategies that were adopted by individuals, families, communities and or organisations to address the challenges.

5.2 Summary

The study aimed at ascertaining the challenges that are faced by children involved in street trading. This study targeted children engaged in street trading, ranging from 12 to 16 years operating in Bindura urban. Two staff members, each pair from Municipality of Bindura and DSS and two adult traders gave additional information as key informants. The study found out that the challenges faced by children involved in street trading were greatly socio-economic, with negative consequences on psychosocial development on the children.

5.3 Conclusions

Children engaged in street trading who were part of the study were working to support their families whilst some were working for their own survival. The main reason for children's involvement in street trading was economic hardship. However, in being self-sufficient, children faced a number of challenges ranging from social, economic

and environmental. They included victimisation, interrupted attainment of education, stress, hazardous working conditions, harsh economic environment, physical and emotional abuse, lack of contracts and lack of leisure time, all of which negatively affected childhood development.

Sources of challenges faced by children engaged in street trading were established by investigating on the causes of street trading amongst children. The study found out social, economic and environmental causes. Poverty, guardian's health status and family relations were the reasons why children engaged in street trading. All these had nexus with the challenges faced by children whilst street trading.

Age of children involved in street trading was a cause of concern as children young as 12 years old were involved in economic activities. Children's wishes and decisions are not often prioritised. The study found out that the decision to be involved in street trading was largely taken by the family or guardian. Children had to adhere to such decisions in order for family to survive. Nature of trade, as a result, was influenced by family. Children had less power to decide on what they ought to sell, their families did. Hence, their involvement in street trading was rather exploitative than beneficial. Proceeds made from trading activities were diverted to cater for family related expenditures, in turn neglecting children's needs and rights such as attending school and balanced nutrition.

Family structure and composition also had an impact on challenges faced by children whilst street trading. The study found out that the majority of children engaged in street trading lived with their grandparents. Either their parents might have died or

divorced. Orphanhood due to HIV and AIDS had left many children vulnerable to the prevailing economic hardships in Zimbabwe. Orphans living with their grandparents deemed it appropriate to engage in street trading as it was a more lucrative and relatively safer way to earn income.

Children engaged in street trading perceived themselves as dependent entities that needed someone to take care of them. This study found out that children engaged in street trading needed parental guidance or adult supervision on a daily basis as they were exposed to risks such as traffic accidents and victimisation by either customers or passers-by. Some children had developed an independent attitude. Those who had spent more years trading had got used to street trading life. However, they acknowledge life as street traders was hard. Hence, they expected societal institutions such as DSS to lessen their burden with any relevant assistance they could provide.

Hopes and future aspirations were varying amongst children engaged in street trading. Some had given up on improving their lives citing street trading as their lifelong way of earning a living whilst some indicated that life as street traders was temporary and were expecting positive changes in their lives. Despite the presence of legislation prohibiting employment of children and abolition of the worst forms of child labour, incidences of children engaged in street trading are on the increase. Such a trend showed that society and families did not perceive street trading as a societal wrong as it was common to observe children engaged in income generating activities in streets of urban areas in Zimbabwe.

Endeavours to protect children from harmful labour practices may be futile since children themselves were not knowledgeable on legislation protecting them and their basic rights. The majority did not know contractual agreements whilst some even showed indifference because to them street trading was family business. Therefore, they believed that they were obliged to work for their families' survival.

Central government and local government were trying to improve the welfare of children engaged in street trading and lessen the impact of challenges they faced. Societal institutions, i.e. Municipality of Bindura and Department of Social Services, contacted by the researcher indicated that they were unable to structure supporting mechanisms to assist children engaged in street trading due to economic hardships. Assistance that was given, for instance BEAM was residual showing that less benefitted.

5.4 Recommendations

5.4.1 Enhancing central government and local government's efforts towards addressing challenges faced by children whilst street trading

The Government had passed relevant laws and put in place policies aimed at protecting and promoting children's rights. Children engaged in street trading must also be covered by the existing legislation. Law such as Children's Act Chapter 5:06 prohibit child participation in economic activities. This study recommends that the Government enact the enforcement of such law through regular monitoring of the conditions of children engaged in street trading. The Government, through the national budget, has to allocate adequate resources to government departments such as DSS in the effort to provide child welfare services which cater for children's needs.

Government should encourage awareness campaigns on child labour and its negative effects on childhood development. Members of the public have to be made aware of how detrimental street trading is, especially to education attainment. Education has to be prioritised, making it a crime for parents or guardians not to send children to school. As a result, Government should facilitate education empowerment to disadvantaged children by offering free or cheaper tuition fees so that they attain education rather than street trade.

5.4.2 Ensuring uninterrupted education attainment for children engaged in street trading

During the study it was noted that children engaged in street trading had less chances of attaining education. NGOs and Government have to ensure that all children, including those in street trading attain basic education. The challenges faced by these societal institutions include insufficient resources. Hence, there is need for members of the communities and donor agencies to support NGOs and Government by providing funds, material and capacity building. It is also recommended that Government and Non-Governmental Organisations adopt a developmental approach to enhance strategies to accrue financial resources. The financial resources will have to be channelled to education, as a result ensuring that children engaged in street trading attain basic education and hence a better future.

5.4.3 Raising awareness in communities on parental responsibilities and obligations

The Government and NGOs should initiate public awareness campaigns on the importance of parental guidance for children engaged in street trading. Public awareness campaigns may include distribution of material, for example printed t-shirts and flyers, with the aim of denouncing neglect and children's involvement in street trading activities that are of harm to their education, social and physical development.

5.4.4 Programmes for educating Children on their labour rights

Children have rights to be protected from harmful labour practices. Since they are less knowledgeable on their labour rights children need to be educated about their rights. Relevant government departments and NGOs should initiate programmes and projects aimed at labour related issues. Children engaged in street trading should be informed through trainings about the importance of legal binding instruments such as contractual agreements. Programmes should also aim at encouraging children engaged in street trading to attend meetings with a focus on labour related issues.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Permission to conduct research(Municipality of Bindura)

Appendix 2: Permission to conduct research (District Administrator-Bindura)

Appendix 3: Authorisation to Undertake Research Project (Department of Child Welfare and Probation Services)

Appendix 4

CONSENT FORM

I want to thank you for taking your ample time to meet with me today .I am Tawanda William Muhwati, a student at Bindura University of Science Education. I am conducting research titled ‘Child Labour: Challenges faced by children engaged in street trading’. The purpose of my research is to have an overview on problems encountered by children whilst street trading. I am interested to hear about the experiences of children engaged in street trading activities, in relation to the prevailing socio-economic environment in Zimbabwe.

I am confident enough that this information may assist researchers, social workers and policy makers to craft and implement policies that address challenges faced by children engaged in street trading in the country.

May you please be reminded that all information reviewed will be kept confidential .Your real name and of other fellows shall not be revealed to anyone .There shall be no disclosure of your actual name or identity .

If you are not comfortable to answer certain question or review certain information during the interview session, please let me know.

[To record notes of Interviewees Consent to participation]

I shall not take much of your time as the interview shall last for less than an hour .May you kindly be advised that I will make use of a tape recorder to avoid misinterpretation and missing of any information that is relevant though I will also make use of brief notes and will not be able to write fast .I will beg you to increase your voice projection as you will be on tape.

Would you mind if I use it?

Do you have any questions pertaining to what I have explained?

Are you comfortable to participate in this interview?

Zita rangu ndinonzi Tawanda William Muhwati, mukomana ari kuita zvidzidzo zveSocial Work paBindura University of Science Education, uyezve ndiri mugwaro rechina. Ndiri kuita tsvakurudzo yezvimhingamupinyi zvinowanzosanganikwa nazvo nevana vanotengesera mumigwagwa yeguta reBindura. Ndinokumbirisa kana makasununguka mundibatsirewo nekundipawo ruzivo rwamuinarwo maererano netsvakurudzo yandiri kuita. Ndinovimbisa kuti umbowo hwamuchadura ndichauchengetedza, uye kana zvidzidzo zvatendera, huchashandiswa pamusoro pedzidzo chete. Ndinovimbisa zvekare kuti hapana chakaipa chinokuwirai maererano nekundipa umbowo kwamunenge maita. Ndinoshuwira kuti zvinenge zvabuda mutsvakurudzo idzi zvichaunza shanduko pamatambudziko anosanganikwa nawo nevana pakutengesera mumigwagwa uye pamagariro akanaka evana kana zvichinge zvafamba zvakanaka.

Ndinotenda nerubatsiro rwenyu.

Kana makasununguka kubatsira nekutipa ruzivo maererano netsvakurudzo iyi, munokumbirwa kunyora pazasi.

Interviewee (signed by parent if interviewee is under 18)

Witness

Interviewer

Date

THANK YOU

Appendix 5

Interview Guide Questions for Key Informants

Creswell (2003; 2007) says in qualitative interviews the researcher should prepare for the interview, construct effective research questions and implement the actual interviews. It is important that the researcher explain the purpose of the interview, address terms of confidentiality, asks neutral questions, and provide transition between major topics (McNamara, 2009).

Introduction

My name is Tawanda William Muhwati and I am a fourth year Bachelor of Social Work Honours Degree at Bindura University of Science Education. As part of the degree's requirements a student has to undertake an independent research study. I am undertaking a research titled '**Child Labour: Challenges faced by children engaged in street trading in Bindura Urban**'. This study is mainly for academic purpose. The information provided will be treated with strict confidentiality. You are free to decline to answer some questions and even to terminate the interview at any stage. If you are willing to participate in this study the interview will take not more than forty five minutes.

Date of Interview :

Start Time :

Designation of Interviewee :

Objectives of the study

- To find out the nature of vending activities conducted by children in Bindura.
- To establish the causes of street vending among children.
- To find out the challenges faced by children engaged in vending.

- To investigate the coping strategies to address the challenges.

Section 1: Organisational Information

1.1 Can you tell me about your organisation and its relation to street trading?

Prompts

What kind of assistance do you offer children involved in street trading?

Section 2: Nature of street trading activities children are involved in

2.1 Can you please explain to me the nature of street trading activities children are involved in?

Prompts

How do children involved in street trading often conduct their operations?

Section 3: Causes of children's involvement in street trading

3.1 Can you please explain on the causal factors in relation to children's involvement in street trading?

Prompts

Which causal factors do you relate to children's involvement in street trading?

Section 4: Challenges faced by children engaged in street trading.

4.1 Can you please tell me challenges often faced by children whilst street trading?

Prompts

Do you think children are economically exploited?

What kind of challenges are children engaged in street trading likely to face?

What are the sources of the challenges?

Section 5: Coping mechanisms adopted by organisation

5.1 Can you please explain on the coping mechanisms adopted by your organisation to address challenges faced by children involved in street trading?

Prompts

6. What is your organisation doing to protect children from harmful street trading activities?

7. What are the challenges do your organisation face while adopting coping mechanisms to address problematic issues encountered by children involved in street trading?

Section 6:Key informant's perception on challenges faced by children involved in street trading

6.1 What are your perceptions on challenges faced by children engaged in street trading?

Prompts

What are your comments about nature of street trading and working conditions children work in?

THANK YOU

Appendix 6

Respondents' Interview Guide

Creswell (2003; 2007) says in qualitative interviews the researcher should prepare for the interview, construct effective research questions and implement the actual interviews. It is important that the researcher explain the purpose of the interview, address terms of confidentiality, asks neutral questions, and provide transition between major topics (McNamara, 2009).

Introduction

My name is Tawanda William Muhwati and I am a fourth year Bachelor of Social Work Honours Degree at Bindura University of Science Education. As part of the degree's requirements a student has to undertake an independent research study. I am undertaking a research titled '**Child Labour: Challenges faced by children engaged in street trading in Bindura Urban**'. This study is mainly for academic purpose. The information provided will be treated with strict confidentiality. You are free to decline to answer some questions and even to terminate the interview at any stage. If you are willing to participate in this study the interview will take not more than forty five minutes.

Date of Interview :

Start Time :

Designation of Interviewee :

Sex :

Objectives of the study

- To find out the nature of vending activities conducted by children in Bindura.
- To establish the causes of street vending among children.
- To find out the challenges faced by children engaged in vending.
- To investigate the coping strategies to address the challenges.

Section 1: Biographic information

1.1 Can you start by telling me about yourself and your family?

Prompts:

How old are you?

Who looks after you?

How many are you in your nuclear family?

How many children are there in your family?

For how long have you been staying in this area?

What is your household's source of income?

Section 2: Nature of street trading activities engaged in

2.1 Can you explain to me the nature and characteristics of your trade?

Prompts:

Who usually finances your trading activities?

For how long have you been involved in street trading?

How do your parents react to your involvement in street trading?

Section 3: Causes of Street Trading

3.1 Can you tell me what caused you to street trade?

Prompts

Why did you choose to be involved in street trading?

Section 4: Challenges faced by children engaged in street trading

4.1 Can you please explain to me the challenges you face whilst street trading?

Prompts

What is the common relationship between employers and children they employ?

What problems do you face whilst street trading?

What kind of problems do you face when at home in relation to your work on the streets?

How do passersby treat you when street trading?

If you are paid regularly, what is your reaction when an employer fails to pay you as agreed upon?

How does street trading impact your attainment of education?

Section 5: Coping mechanisms

5.1 Can you please tell me how you cope with the challenges you have mentioned before?

Prompts

What are the coping mechanisms you adopt to address pressing issues?

Are there any other organisations or associations which assist you to deal with problems you face?

Section 6: Children's perceptions of child labour and street trading

6.1 Can you tell me your personal thoughts and feelings in relation to street trading?

Prompts

How do you view life as a street trader in general?

I have seen many children continue with street trading into adulthood, how do you perceive such a scenario?

What do you think has to be done if eradicating challenges you are facing is to be achieved?

THANK YOU

Appendix 7

Observation Check List

1. Where children involved in street trading concentrate when operating?
2. What is the nature of the daily street trading activities children engage in?
3. Are they provided with protection (parent guidance)?
4. How adult traders treat the younger ones when working together?
5. Who are the employers of children involved in street trading?
6. How children involved in street trading relate to each other?