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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT



**Lived Experiences Of Street Fruit And Vegetable Vendors In Bindura Town: A
Phenomenological Study**

A RESEARCH

BY

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABLE
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DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**

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APPROVAL FORM

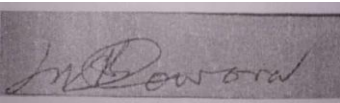
The undersigned confirm that they have read and recommended the project titled: **The lived experiences of street fruit and vegetable vendors in Bindura Town: A phenomenological study**. This is a partial fulfillment of the Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Development Studies at Bindura University of Science Education. The project was submitted by **Nyakudya Angellah**, student number **B200836B**.



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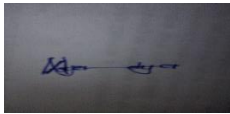
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DECLARATION

I, Nyakudya Angellah, registration number B200836B, do hereby declare the originality of this piece of work.



Signature

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Date

DEDICATION

I dedicate this piece of work to my ever supportive and ever-loving parents Mr. and Mrs. Nyakudya who has been working so tirelessly for me to attain this undergraduate degree. I would also like to dedicate this to my friends and siblings who have been a pivotal source of motivation and inspiration through it all.

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I Angellah Nyakudya would like to thank God, I would like to extend my utmost gratitude and honor to the Almighty Living God, who makes all things possible and He is the reason I am this far. Throughout these years, I have experienced immense favour and determination, overcoming trials and tribulations. I'm also deeply grateful to my family for their unwavering support and love and I owe them for that. I further extend my profound gratitude and appreciation to Bindura University lectures, especially sustainable development department for their invaluable support and contributions that led to the supernova of the academic period and the write-up of the detailed project.

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ABSTRACT

Street fruit and vegetable vendors play a vital role in the informal economy, particularly in developing countries like Zimbabwe. Their activities significantly contribute to local food security and economic resilience, however they often face numerous challenges that hinder livelihoods and operational efficiency. Understanding their lived experiences is essential for informing policy and practice aimed at supporting this vulnerable group. Despite the critical role of street vendors in urban economies, there has been limited research on their specific challenges and coping strategies within the context of small towns like Bindura. This study aims to explore the lived experiences of street fruit and vegetable vendors in Bindura Town, with a focus on their challenges, coping strategies and the socio-economic implications of their work. Utilizing in-depth interviews, observations and document analysis, this research aims to provide a deeper understanding of the daily realities, emphasizing themes such as economic hardships, health and safety concerns, regulatory and social obstacles and the role of social support networks. The findings reveal that vendors encounter significant barriers including economic hardships which hinder their operational efficiency. Health and sanitation issues are prevalent, posing risks to both vendor livelihoods and public health. Despite these challenges, the study highlights the resilience of vendors, underscored by community ties and social networks that provide emotional and practical support. The research contributes to the understanding of street vending as a critical component of the urban economy in developing countries, offering insights relevant to policymakers and stakeholders. Recommendations are made to enhance the conditions for street vendors in Bindura, including improved access to financial services and supportive regulatory frameworks. Ultimately, this study underscores the need for a comprehensive approach to address the challenges faced by street vendors, hence promoting their economic empowerment and contributing to sustainable urban development.

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CHAPTER 1: ORIENTATION OF THE STUDY

1.1 Introduction

Street vending is an essential aspect of city economies globally, especially in developing nations. In Zimbabwe, vendors selling fruits and vegetables on the street are vital to local economies by offering affordable produce to communities experiencing economic difficulties. Although they are significant, the experiences and viewpoints of these vendors are frequently ignored. This study aims to elevate the voices of street vendors in Bindura Town, examining their everyday experiences, obstacles and strengths in overcoming difficulties. This study seeks to enhance supportive policies and increase awareness of the vital street vending sector by analysing the intricate socio-economic dynamics involved. Thus, this chapter is divided into ten sections; namely the background of the study, statement of the problem, research objectives, research questions, significance of the study, assumptions of the study, limitations of the study, delimitations of the study, definition of key terms and chapter summary. Below is a detailed description of each heading and sub-headings.

1.2 Background of the Study

Osiki (2018) rightly articulates that street vending is a prevalent economic activity in many urban areas worldwide, particularly in developing nations where formal employment opportunities are limited. Skinner and Haysom (2016) argue that the informal sector, particularly food vending of fruits and vegetables plays a crucial role in providing essential goods and services while making significant contributions to local economies. International Labour Organization (ILO, 2018) estimated that 2 billion workers operate within informal economies, making it a crucial aspect of global livelihoods. Street vending, as a key component of these informal economies, provides employment and income opportunities for millions, especially marginalized groups who may lack access to formal employment. According to Panicker and Priya (2021), in Mumbai, India the city has a vibrant street vending scene, where vendors provide affordable food options. However, they often contend with legal issues and competition from formal retail sectors.

Across the African continent, informal economies play a pivotal role in urban development and livelihoods (Thulare et al, 2021). It is estimated that over 70% of employment in sub-Saharan

Africa is generated by the informal sector, which encompasses a wide range of activities, including street vending (African Union, 2015). This sector serves as a critical source of income for millions, particularly in urban areas where formal job opportunities are limited due to high unemployment rates and economic instability (Uwitije, 2016). Mitullah (2003) argues that in many African cities like Kenya and South Africa Street vendors contribute significantly to the local economy by fostering entrepreneurship and creating jobs. Southern Africa is characterized by diverse socio-economic conditions, with informal economies playing a vital role in many countries. The region has experienced significant urbanization, leading to increased migration to cities in search of better opportunities. Roever and Skinner (2016) state that rapid urbanization has given rise to a robust informal sector, where street vending is a prominent activity, especially in urban centers. Research indicates a need for policies promoting inclusivity and sustainability for street vendors in this region (Chen, 2012).

In Zimbabwe, where formal employment opportunities are limited, the informal economy serves as a primary source of income for a large segment of the population. Bindura Town, located in the Mashonaland Central Province, exemplifies this trend, with street vending becoming an increasingly common livelihood strategy. The socio-economic landscape of Bindura Town has been shaped by various factors, including economic instability, urbanization, and population growth. These factors have led to a surge in informal trading activities, particularly in fruit and vegetable vending. In recent years, Zimbabwe has faced substantial economic difficulties, leading to a sharp rise in informal trading as a means of survival. Dharejo et al (2022) posit that many individuals turn to street vending not only to supplement their income but also as a primary source of livelihood. In Bindura Town, street fruit and vegetable vendors play a vital role in ensuring food availability and affordability, particularly in low-income neighborhoods where access to fresh produce can be limited. Women in Informal Employment Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO, 2020) argues that street fruit and vegetable vendors' contributions are essential to local food security, providing a necessary service to the community.

Street vending is not merely an economic activity; it is also deeply embedded in the social fabric of urban life. Vendors often build strong community ties, serving as informal networks for information, support, and mutual assistance. The relationships they cultivate with their customers and fellow vendors can foster a sense of community, resilience, and solidarity amidst the

challenges they face. Despite their contributions, street vendors face numerous challenges as they operate in a legal gray area, often lacking formal recognition and protection. Dube and Chirisa (2012) state that local authorities may impose restrictions or seek to regulate their activities, leading to tensions between vendors and law enforcement. Bhila and Chiwenga (2023) studied informal street vending in Harare and they argued that legal frameworks and urban planning models are biased towards formal settlements. Masawi et al (2023) argue that in 2014 Zhangazha studied street trading in Harare's CBD and argued that vendors sell more at night due to fear of harassment and arrest.

Therefore, regulatory pressures create an unstable environment, where vendors face the constant threat of eviction, confiscation of goods, or fines. Understanding how these regulations affect vendors' lived experiences is crucial for this study. Additionally, they contend with inadequate infrastructure, such as a lack of proper sanitation, storage facilities, and exposure to harsh weather conditions (Bhila and Chiwenga, 2023). Socially, street vendors often experience marginalization and stigmatization, perceived as obstructions to urban development and cleanliness (Masawi et al, 2023). Mazhambe (2017) in his research of street vendors in Harare argues that economically, they face intense competition, fluctuating prices, and limited access to financial services. These challenges necessitate a deeper understanding of their lived experiences to inform policies that support and integrate street vending into urban planning.

While there has been some research on street vending in Zimbabwe and other countries, much of it has focused on economic analyses or the implications of regulation, often overlooking the voices of the vendors. This research gap complicates the development of effective policies and interventions that truly address the concerns and needs of street vendors. By focusing on their perspectives, this study intends to investigate the everyday realities of street fruit and vegetable vendors in Bindura Town, offering insights into their coping mechanisms, challenges, and goals. By emphasizing their viewpoints, this research aims to influence policy-making and foster more inclusive and supportive conditions for street vendors in the area. The following section focuses on the statement of the problem.

1.3 Problem Statement

Street vendors selling fruits and vegetables in Bindura Town are presently working in a difficult environment that hampers their impact on the local community and economy. Preferably, these vendors would benefit from consistent vending spots, equitable regulations and sufficient resources, such as clean and secure vending areas along with positive relationships with local officials. Nonetheless, they encounter various challenges including poor infrastructure, lack of backing from local officials, rivalry from established markets and societal stigma linked to informal vending.

These obstacles result in financial insecurity, restricted access to resources and the ongoing danger of eviction or harassment, negatively impacting their income and the welfare of their families. If these problems remain unresolved, the vendors may experience worsening poverty, health risks due to unregulated practices and a decline in community relations. This phenomenological study aims to explore their daily challenges, the social and economic effects of their work, and the strategies they use to cope, to guide local policies and support programs that promote a more inclusive and sustainable setting for their activities. The following section outlines the research objectives and their corresponding research questions.

1.4 Research Objectives

1.4.1 Main research objectives

1. To assess the lived experiences of street fruit and vegetable vendors in Bindura Town.

1.4.2 Sub-research objectives

1. To identify the daily challenges faced by street fruit and vegetable vendors in Bindura Town
2. To determine the social and economic impacts of street vending on the vendors lives and families
3. To investigate the coping strategies employed by street vendors to navigate their work and environment

1.5 Research Questions

1.5.1 Main research question

1. What are the lived experiences of street fruit and vegetable vendors in Bindura Town?

1.5.2 Sub- research question

1. What are the daily challenges faced by street fruit and vegetable vendors in Bindura Town?
2. How does street vending influence the social and economic well-being of fruit and vegetable vendors in Bindura Town?
3. What coping strategies do street fruit and vegetable vendors use to manage the pressures and demands of their work in Bindura Town?

The following section presents the significance of the study.

1.6 Significance of the study

The study adds to scholarly literature by providing a distinct view on informal economies, emphasizing the complexity of vendors' everyday experiences and promoting additional investigation into this overlooked subject. The results guide policy and regulatory structures, highlighting the difficulties and impacts of vendors on food security and local economies while advocating for policies that acknowledge street vending as an essential and legitimate economic segment.

The research improves community awareness and backing by personalizing street vendors, promoting compassion and cultivating a friendlier urban atmosphere. Additionally, the study emphasizes the influence of street vending on local economies and community health, urging that vendors be acknowledged as important contributors to promoting access to healthy food. Ultimately, the research empowers street vendors by highlighting their challenges and strengths, motivating vendor advocacy and assisting community organizations in creating impactful support programs. Below is a detailed description of the assumptions of the study.

1.7 Assumptions of the study

This research is based on several important assumptions that offer fundamental insight into the context and experiences of street vendors selling fruits and vegetables in Bindura Town. Firstly,

the study recognizes the complex and varied experiences of vendors understanding the interaction of personal, social and environmental elements that influence their situations. It is believed that vendors demonstrate resilience and agency by using adaptive skills to overcome challenges and that street vending significantly influences local economies and food security.

The research also recognizes the social interrelationship of street vending positioned with complicated social environments marked by mutual connections with patrons, community residents and other vendors. It is also believed that local regulatory structures impact vendors' operational abilities and experiential results, allowing vendors to carefully consider their experiences, which facilitates comprehensive qualitative research. The limitation of the study is presented in the next section.

1.8 Limitations of the study

The study's generalizability is restricted because the distinct socio-economic, cultural and regulatory aspects of Bindura Town might not apply universally, and vendors' experiences in different areas could vary significantly, the study included a diverse sample from vendors from various locations within the town to minimize this limitation. Also, the research recognizes possible limitations arising from constraints in sample size and selection bias, which distorted representations in favour of more easily reachable vendors and in addressing this, a purposive sampling technique was employed.

The qualitative investigation acknowledges the essential subjectivity in interpreting data, possible biases and preconceived notions that influenced data collection, analysis and interpretation, in addressing this limitation multiple data collection methods were used to reduce biases. Moreover, the research recognizes possible ethical issues, language obstacles, and communication, and the influence of external factors like policy modifications, economic changes or social chaos which restrict the significance of the findings. To navigate potential ethical issues and communication barriers, the research prioritized informed consent and confidentiality for all participants and the use of local language. Following the limitation of the study is the delimitation of the study

1.9 Delimitations of the study

This research on the experience of street fruit and vegetable sellers in Bindura Town, Zimbabwe, is defined by several important limits that outline its scope and emphasis. The study is geographically confined to Bindura Town, facilitating a detailed exploration of the local environment and its effects on vendors, yet limiting its applicability to other regions. The research focuses on street vendors dealing in fruits and vegetables, omitting other vendor categories and informal sectors, to provide an in depth insight into their unique experiences and challenges. The qualitative approach, mainly relying on comprehensive interviews, document analysis and observations offers in-depth understanding of vendors' experiences but restricts the study's capability to generalize results or include quantitative information.

The study captures vendors' experiences at a specific time, concentrating on current situations and difficulties, while overlooking historical patterns or lasting changes. By focusing on lived experiences, the research emphasizes vendors' viewpoints yet might miss important contextual elements. The criteria for choosing participants guarantee that important viewpoints are included, but they rule out individuals who don't fulfil the requirements like seasonal vendors. These boundaries assist in honouring the research, offering a detailed insight into the experiences of street vendors in Bindura Town. Next is the definition of key terms.

1.10 Definition of key term

Street vendors are part of the informal economy who provide essential goods and services, contributing significantly to urban livelihoods and economies (International Labour Organization, 2014).

Phenomenology is a qualitative approach that seeks to understand the meaning of the lived experiences of individuals. This method typically involves in-depth interviews and open-ended questions to capture participants' experiences (Ramsook, 2018).

Lived experiences are the things that someone has experienced themselves, especially when these give the person a knowledge or understanding that people who have only heard about such experiences do not have (Bailey and Bailey, 2021).

The following section presents the chapter summary, detailing what has been covered in the chapter and also introducing chapter 2.

1.11 Summary of the chapter

This research illuminates the complex circumstances of street fruit and vegetable vendors in Bindura Town, emphasizing their determination, economic impact and essential function in supplying affordable produce to low-income families. The results highlight the necessity for supportive policies, community involvement and acknowledgement of street vending as a valid economic practice, ultimately promoting inclusive strategies and community assistance to improve vendors' livelihoods and advance urban sustainability. The next section is Chapter 2, which concentrates on an extensive literature review that situates the experiences of street vendors within the wider context of informal economies.

CHAPTER 2: REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Introduction

Chapter 2 establishes the theoretical and contextual basis for this study, examining the complex connections between informal economies, social justice and community interactions. This chapter explores the socio-economic, regulatory and cultural environments of street vending in Bindura Town, Zimbabwe, emphasizing the difficulties encountered by the vendors and the importance of implementing supportive policies. In the end, it establishes the groundwork for this research's addition to the current literature highlighting the significance of grasping the lived experiences of street vendors to foster social justice and economic resilience in urban settings. Thus this chapter is divided into eleven sections; namely theoretical framework, conceptual framework, street vending: an overview, economic impact of street vending, social dimensions of street vending, challenges faced by street vendors, coping strategies of street vendors, legal and institutional policies governing street vending, case studies and comparative research, gaps in the literature and chapter summary. Below is a detailed theoretical framework.

2.2 Theoretical framework

The theoretical framework provides a foundation for understanding the experiences of street fruit and vegetable vendors in Bindura Town. It provides a structured viewpoint for examining the complex forces that affect these situations and this research applies a phenomenological method.

2.2.1 Phenomenology

Phenomenology is a method of qualitative research that focuses on comprehending and detailing the fundamental aspects of people's personal encounters (Fuster Guillen, 2019). Petropoulos (2021) posits that the philosophical foundations of this concept can be traced back to thinkers such

as Edmund Husserl and Martin Heidegger, who emphasize the subjective aspect of reality through the study of human perception and interpretation of their surroundings. This method is particularly appropriate for analyzing street vendors in Bindura town as it allows for an in-depth investigation of their individual narratives, feelings, and the importance they place on their job. Numerous studies have utilized this approach to examine challenges faced by informal sector workers in various urban settings, highlighting its effectiveness in capturing the experiences of marginalised populations. Engberink et al (2020) used phenomenology in his study on the experiences of nurses about their palliative approach and their use of mobile palliative care teams in medical and surgical care units in France.

Moran (2018) discovered that intentionality principle is a fundamental aspect of phenomenology which indicates that awareness is continually directed towards an object or an encounter. Researchers can better understand how street vendors navigate their daily lives and motivations for selling by grasping intentionality. Additionally, their interactions with customers, the surrounding marketplace, and their socio-economic conditions impact their experiences. Dorfler and Stierans (2021) argue that bracketing principle researchers aim to set aside their existing beliefs in order to achieve a more authentic comprehension of participants' experiences. These ideas are crucial for authentically representing vendors' lives without including outside prejudices.

Phenomenology is especially important in the realm of street vending as it offers a structure for comprehending the distinct and frequently overlooked experiences of street vendors. This qualitative method enables researchers to explore the lived experiences of vendors, highlighting the complexities of their everyday lives, such as the socio-economic difficulties they encounter and the cultural importance of their professions. While phenomenology offers rich insights, there are limitations to this approach which include potential bias in interpretation and challenges in generalizing findings beyond the studied context. Nevertheless, this framework is particularly suitable for this study as it aligns with the research objectives of advocating for the voices of street vendors and foster a deeper appreciation of their roles in the community. Next section is the conceptual framework.

2.3 Conceptual Framework

According to Zhang and Benjamin (2007), a conceptual framework is a structured system that helps to illustrate and define relationships between various variables in a project or study. The section on Conceptual Framework in this dissertation lays the groundwork for comprehending the experiences of street fruit and vegetable vendors in Bindura Town, as it highlights fundamental ideas and their relationships, revealing how these components influence the study.

Mediating variables: provide an explanation for how the independent impact the dependent variables (Fernandes, 2017). For example, psychological resilience which denotes vendors' capacity to adjust to stress and adversity. A resilient vendor sees challenges as chances for development, impacting their experiences positively, even in difficult market conditions.

Independent variables: are factors that could impact the lived experiences. For instance, market conditions- vendors in Bindura Town can be greatly affected by the competitive environment and pricing. When numerous sellers offer comparable items, it can result in decreased prices and earnings, impacting their level of stress and contentment.

Dependent variables: these are the lived experiences of street vendors being examined in this study which include the difficulties, and the general emotions regarding their job and personal life. For example, a vendor could express satisfaction with their job yet also experience anxiety from financial insecurity or health issues. The goal of the phenomenological approach is to fully grasp these intricate experiences.

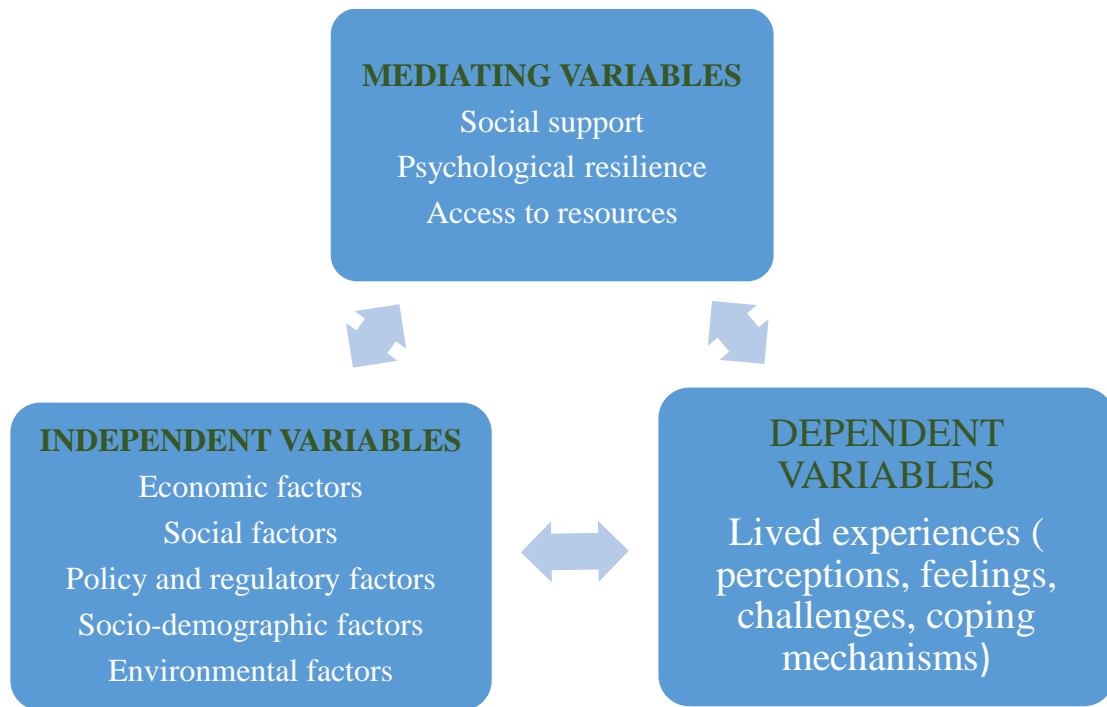


Figure 2.1 Conceptual framework

The following section focuses on the overview of street vending.

2.4 Street Vending: An Overview

Street vending, which refers to the informal selling of products and services in public areas, is a crucial activity worldwide, supporting the livelihoods of many individuals and adding to the liveliness of urban areas, with distinct characteristics in advanced and emerging nations (Deore and Lathia, 2019). Bhowmik and Saha (2012) has linked the growth of street vending to globalization. Sinha and Roever (2011) argues that the Bellagio Declaration on street vendors in 1995 was a landmark development in the vendors' movement at the global scale. In urban economies of developing countries, street vending is prevalent and vital, offering a source of income for numerous individuals and flourishing in informal environments. Metropolitan areas such as Mumbai, Lagos, Sao Paulo, and Bangkok are abundant with vendors who provide various products and services, thus creating opportunities for disenfranchised communities to participate in the economy.

In advanced economies, street vending tends to be more structured and controlled, focusing on specific markets such as handmade goods and special occasions, since these vendors are seen as

important to the overall food scene. In cities such as London in the United Kingdom, markets and street food festivals have become increasingly popular and local councils are supporting the growth of street food to improve the vibrancy of urban areas by allowing vendors to sell specialty foods and crafts (Hanser, 2021). The increased population density due to urbanization has a notable effect on street vending as it raises the demand for goods and services. With the increase in urban populations, street vendors are capable of satisfying this demand by offering convenient choices in busy locations (Sinha and Roevers, 2011). Because African countries' developing economies are adopting free market principles, street vending activities are on the rise in urban areas due to the large influx of people unable to be accommodated in cities, leading to the growth of informal employment (Lund, 2010).

Moreover, the quick growth of urban areas frequently outpaces the development of official job openings, leading many individuals to turn to street vending as a feasible means of making a living when traditional employment is scarce. Urban areas are equipped with various public venues such as sidewalks, parks, and markets that provide convenient spaces for vendors to set up stalls, making street vending a popular option for conducting business. A strong correlation between economic inequality and poverty often leads to limited access to formal employment, resulting in street vending as a necessary means of earning a living and providing for their families (Huang, Zhang and Xue, 2018; Truong, 2018). Vendors typically offer products at lower prices than regular stores, benefiting city dwellers with lower incomes. Gamielien and van Niekerk (2017) argues that street vending contributes 7% to the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in South Africa and generates 22% of total employment in the country. Street vending in Zimbabwe was present before independence, but was restricted by colonial rules on informal trading (Rogerson, 2016).

Following independence, Zimbabwe experienced a brief period of economic steadiness. The government encouraged small business ownership, but numerous individuals encountered restricted job prospects in the formal sector. Consequently, street vending began to emerge as a supplementary income option for those who couldn't secure formal positions. During the late 1980s and early 1990s, Zimbabwe introduced Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPS) advised by global financial organizations with the goal of stabilizing the economy, however it led to decreased social spending, unrest, and increased joblessness. Kawewe and Dible (2000) stated that SAP economic reform leads to an increase in poverty, a reduction in the country's capacity to build a robust

diversified domestic economy, and an escalation in worker exploitation due to deregulation along with environmental harm, therefore leading to an increase in informal sector. Furthermore, during the early 2000s, Zimbabwe faced one of the most severe hyperinflation crises ever seen, peaking in 2008, leading to heightened levels of unemployment and poverty, prompting individuals to turn to street vending for sustenance.

Makochekanwa (2009) suggests that many individuals resorted to bartering, using foreign currency, and engaging in money transactions as survival tactics during the hyperinflation period. In this period, street vendors played a crucial role in ensuring food security by offering inexpensive items to a population dealing with rising prices. They swiftly adjusted to address the fundamental needs of city dwellers, despite facing obstacles from officials who saw them as contributors to urban chaos. Numerous vendors worked without licenses, resulting in evictions and existing in uncertain legal territory.

Following the hyperinflation crisis, street vending has become an essential part of Zimbabwe's urban economy, with vendors playing a crucial role in supplying goods and services. Vendors have formed networks and associations to uphold their rights and gain acknowledgement from local authorities, in order to enhance their standing. These groups help improve resource sharing, strengthen vendors bargaining power, and assist in navigating regulatory obstacles. As reported by the Zimbabwe Independent (2017) in Madziba (2017), vending has become widespread in Zimbabwe due to the worsening economic crisis shown by a high unemployment rate, with 95% of Zimbabweans being informally employed according to the International Labor Organization. Regulations have been implemented by authorities to control street vending in order to manage the city, with enforcement levels varying and efforts to organize and regulate street vending leading to mixed results (Hove, Ndwana and Ndemera, 2020).

Simultaneously, technology has altered vendors' operations, with many relying on mobile money and online platforms for transactions due to a lack of cash. Additionally, vendors are utilizing social media to advertise products and expand their customer base. Street vendors encounter various difficulties including harassment from regulations, continuing economic instability, and competition from formal retailers, with limited access to funding and training opportunities. Nevertheless, there have been recent attempts to recognize and control street vending in Zimbabwe. Some local governments have started implementing plans to legalize the sector by

providing vendors with permits and designated areas for vending. Agriculture and mining are main economic drivers in Bindura, however, high unemployment rates push individuals to seek additional income opportunities in the informal sector, such as street vending (Jimu, 2004).

Nevertheless, revenue from selling goods on the street is minimal and fluctuates, and these sellers face notable obstacles such as sporadic intimidation from governmental bodies, restricted entry to funds, and intense rivalry (Alila and Mitullah, 2000). Additionally, vendor sales are directly influenced by market dynamics because the demand for fruits and vegetables can vary due to seasonal changes. Street vending in Bindura town is greatly impacted by hyperinflation, unemployment, and poverty, leading to many people relying on it as a crucial means of survival due to the economic freedom it offers compared to formal employment. The next section is economic impact of street vending.

2.5 Economic impact of Street Vending

Street vendors are crucial in creating jobs by frequently employing family members or local people, thus reducing unemployment rates and poverty. This non-formal work generates earnings for numerous households, particularly in regions with limited formal job opportunities (Gamieldeen and Van Niekerk, 2017). Njaya (2014) argues that street vendors offer a variety of inexpensive goods and services, catering to frugal shoppers with affordable options for food, clothing, household items, and other essentials. Many low-income neighborhoods have a lack of local supermarkets and transportation options, so vendors step in to provide fresh produce directly to the community, making it more convenient for families to get healthy food. Vendors assist families in stretching their budgets further by offering affordable meal choices, thus enhancing food security (Patel et al, 2015). Furthermore, they adjust their products according to local tastes, strengthening ties within the community and increasing local economic participation.

Street vendors help increase the liveliness and distinctive atmosphere of local markets and neighborhoods by forming active public areas that draw in pedestrians, leading to more customers for surrounding businesses and bolstering the economic environment (Sevtsuk, 2020). This resulted in local shops and restaurants experiencing higher sales, ultimately boosting the local economy. Gamieldeen and Van Niekerk (2017) articulates that street vendors boost local tax revenues by complying with legal regulations and registering with local authorities. This income

can support public services and development of infrastructure, thereby encouraging economic expansion and creating a favorable climate for business growth and investments and in most cases street vendors earn higher incomes than those in formal jobs. Additionally, street vendors who sell fruits and vegetables directly from farms or markets help promote healthier diets and improve nutrition in community residents by providing access to fresh produce (Lucan, 2018). This can be particularly beneficial in combating diet-related health problems that are prevalent in low-income areas. The following section focuses the social dimensions of street vending.

2.6 Social Dimensions of Street vending

Giuffre (2013) posits that street vendors frequently build robust community connections and social networks that offer reciprocal assistance and unity. These networks assist vendors in sharing resources, insights and strategies to address challenges like competition and regulatory pressures. Min, Kim and Chen (2018) stated that these social ties promote a feeling of belonging and shared identity among vendors, which is important for their strength during challenging times. Skinner (2008) discovered that vendors unite to champion their rights and enhance their working conditions emphasizing the significance of collective power in the informal economy. Vendors frequently address deficiencies in the formal market by providing products that are both accessible and culturally appropriate.

Although they play a significant role in urban economies, street vendors frequently encounter social stigma and unfavorable views. Bayat (2012) posits that they are often regarded as unlawful actors resulting in their marginalization and exclusion from communal areas. This stigma is increased by worries regarding safety, hygiene and effects of street vending on traffic and city appearance. Consequently, vendors face bias and animosity from local officials and the community, which impede their operational efficiency (Daka, 2022). Tackling these perceptions promote inclusive urban setting that acknowledges the important contribution of street vendors to the community. The next section presents the challenges faced by street vendors.

2.7 Challenges faced by street vendors

Many street vendors are impacted by regulatory issues. They do not have legal authorization and function within the informal sector. Chen (2012) discovered that regulatory issues restricts their

capacity to uphold rights and obtain resources. Acquiring permits is intricate, expensive and bureaucratic, hence dissuading vendors from formalizing their enterprises (Masawi et al, 2023). Unforeseen actions such as item confiscations generate a perpetual sense of unease and many vendors find it difficult to obtain legal help, complicating issues with authorities (Mazhambe, 2017). Khairuzzaman et al (2014) posit that health and safety issues are common among street vendors, as many are unable to uphold hygiene standards because of insufficient sanitation amenities. This impacts the quality of products and presents health hazards to consumers. Inadequate sanitation results in the accumulation of waste and draws pests and many vendors do not have formal education in safe food procedures, hence existing regulations result in uneven health inspections limiting vendors' capacity to enhance practices (Madziba, 2017).

Walsh (2010) argues that economic uncertainty poses a major challenge for suppliers, as shifts in foot traffic and spending behaviors complicate income forecasting. In busy markets, rivalry results in price battles, influencing profit margins and to draw in customers, vendors' decreases prices and conventional shops create difficulties because of their resources and customer loyalty, making it challenging for street vendors to rival them (Madziba, 2017). Street vendors have restricted access to resources, as the struggle to meet the requirements for loans from conventional banks, making financial assistance more difficult. Elevated interest rates entangle them in cycles of debt, obstructing financial stability, thereby discouraging vendors from seeking loans (Sophocleous, 2019). Below is a detailed description of the coping strategies of street vendors.

2.8 Coping strategies of Street Vendors

Street vendors frequently encounter considerable financial difficulties, especially during emergencies. To adjust, they broaden their product range to align with evolving consumer preferences or alter their sales tactics, like transitioning to digital platforms for marketing and selling. Reinartz et al (2019) argues that vendors use social media for connecting with customers and marketing products, aiding them in sustaining their revenue during times of decreased foot traffic. Casual support networks are essential for the survival of street vendors as they offer emotional and financial assistance (Walsh, 2010). Vendors exchange resources like insights on market trends or approaches for managing regulatory obstacles, hence strengthening collective resilience (Azadegan and Dooley, 2021). Community unity is essential as it fosters a feeling of

inclusion and promotes cooperation among vendors, allowing them to champion their rights and enhance their work environments.

The adaptability of street vendors is clear in their capacity to recover from economic challenges and adjust to evolving situations. Numerous vendors showcase a robust ability for innovation, discovering fresh methods to maintain their businesses in the face of obstacles (Bingham and Spradlin, 2015). For example, during COVID-19 pandemic, suppliers implemented new health and safety protocols to instill confidence in customers and adhere to regulations which allowed them to operate, thus the flexibility along with assistance from their informal networks enables vendors to overcome challenges and sustain their livelihoods. The legal and institutional policies governing street vending is presented in the next section.

2.9 Legal and institutional policies governing street vending

In India and South Africa, state and provincial legislation and policies provide an intermediate layer of regulation between national and local regulation (Bamhu, 2019). In addition, national, provincial or state and municipal or local authorities in most of the countries have adopted policies to guide the regulation of street vending. In Zimbabwe, street vending is officially regulated under the urban Councils Act, which defines street vending and outlines the need for vendors to operate from designated areas (Madziba, 2017). Madziba (2017) argues that vendors are encouraged to apply for space allocation from local councils, but many operate informally due to bureaucratic hurdles and limited designated spaces.

Vendors in designated zones must pay daily charges that differ based on the items offered. Madziba (2017) posits that flea market sellers spend about US\$3 each day, whereas vegetable and newspaper sellers pay US\$1. Municipal agencies often carry out inspections to implement laws, resulting in the seizure of items and penalties for violations (Madziba, 2017). This has faced condemnation as cruel by several NGOs and political figures, emphasizing the conflict between vendors and regulatory agencies. The next section is case studies and comparative research.

2.10 Case studies and comparative research

In a qualitative study conducted by Kusakabe (2014) in Mumbai, the identities and roles of street vendors in urban society were explored through in-depth interviews. The findings reveal that many

vendors perceive themselves as legitimate entrepreneurs vital to the local economy, deriving satisfaction from their work and viewing it as a means of achieving financial independence. However, they also encounter prejudice and exclusion, which result in a detrimental effect on their self-worth and standing in their societies (Sinha and Roeber, 2016). As per the research by Dudi, Muiruri, and Kibutu (2022), a study in Nairobi examined the economic tactics utilized by street vendors amidst urban poverty, using in-depth interviews to highlight how these vendors adjust their businesses in reaction to changing economic circumstances. The research emphasizes that sellers show impressive strength by broadening their product options and utilizing innovative marketing strategies. Kinyanjui (2014) states that Nairobi street vendors have established membership-based groups like street vendor associations in order to have their concerns recognized. A lot of them rely on social networks for help, sharing resources and advice to support one another in overcoming financial challenges.

Furthermore, a study in Lagos investigated the obstacles that street vendors face because of government regulations, revealing a constant risk of being evicted and harassed by officials (Anetor, 2015). Additionally, it emphasized ways to deal with these difficulties such as creating coalitions to fight for their rights and discussing issues with community leaders. Despite these challenges, numerous vendors still maintain a feeling of independence and continue with their informal activities. According to a study in Bangkok, street vendors play a key role in shaping the city's cultural scene by acting as cultural representatives, as shown in the interviews conducted by Nirathron and Yasmeen (2019). Furthermore, it was emphasized that numerous vendors take pleasure in selling traditional foods and crafts, thus aiding in the conservation of cultural heritage. This aspect of their work improves the city surroundings and fosters a feeling of togetherness among different demographic groups. Through the analysis of these case studies and comparative research results, stakeholders in Bindura can learn about successful methods for assisting street vendors, tackling regulatory obstacles and improving their impact on the local economy. Next is the gaps in the literature.

2.11 Gaps in the Literature

The existing literature on street vending reveals numerous notable gaps that require additional investigation, especially in specific settings like Bindura Town. A significant area of overlooked research is theoretical gap due to the scarcity of localized studies that concentrate specifically on

the dynamics of street vending in smaller towns, which frequently vary from those in bigger urban centers. This lack of research indicates that the distinct socio-economic and cultural elements affecting street vending in Bindura are still not well comprehended. Moreover, there is methodological gap due to reliance on quantitative studies which overlook on the experiences and difficulties encountered by particular kinds of vendors, like those dealing in fruits and vegetables.

Additionally, there is literature gap as the influence of local government policies and regulations on street vendors in Bindura has not been thoroughly studied, resulting in a lack of clarity regarding how these systems impact their activities. Finally, there is empirical gap as the social aspects of street vending, such as community connections and stigma encountered by vendors are not extensively examined in relation to Bindura, which is crucial for formulating supportive policies. Filling these gaps with focused research improve comprehension of street vending and guide better policies and practices to assist vendors in their economic endeavors. The following section presents the chapter summary, detailing what has been covered in the chapter and introducing Chapter 3.

2.12 Summary

The research on the street vending emphasizes its crucial importance in local economies, pointing out vendors' economic contributions, the significance of social networks and the obstacles they encounter. Future studies ought to concentrate on localized investigations to gain deeper insights into the distinct dynamics in smaller towns such as Bindura, examine the effects of local regulations on vendors and analyze the social aspects of their experiences. Policymakers should develop favorable regulatory systems, collaborate with vendor communities, and establish capacity building initiatives to strengthen the resilience and impact of street vendors on urban economies. Below is Chapter 3, detailing the methodologies employed in this study.

CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This section describes the research methodology used to investigate the experiences of street fruit and vegetable vendors in Bindura Town. Comprehending the complexities of their everyday lives requires a precise methodological approach that truly captures the core of their experiences. Phenomenology, acting as a qualitative research paradigm, forms the basis of this study, enabling a thorough investigation into the viewpoints of the vendors. This section will delve deeper into the research paradigm and approach, explaining how they are in line with the study's goals and directing the data gathering process. It is guided by the following research questions; what are the daily challenges faced by street fruit and vegetable vendors in Bindura Town? how does street vending influence the social and economic well-being of fruit and vegetable vendors in Bindura Town? And what coping strategies do street fruit and vegetable vendors use to manage the pressures and demands of their work in Bindura Town? The following section focuses on the study area description.

3.2 Study Area

Bindura, situated in the Mashonaland central province, is marked by elevated unemployment levels and scarce formal job prospects, prompting an increase in informal activities especially street vending. This context is important as it emphasizes the crucial role that vendors have in supplying affordable produce to the community, thus aiding local food security and economic stability. The research seeks to address a void in current literature by exploring the distinct dynamics of street vending in smaller towns such as Bindura, ultimately promoting supportive policies that acknowledge and improve the lives of these vendors. The following section focuses on the research paradigm.

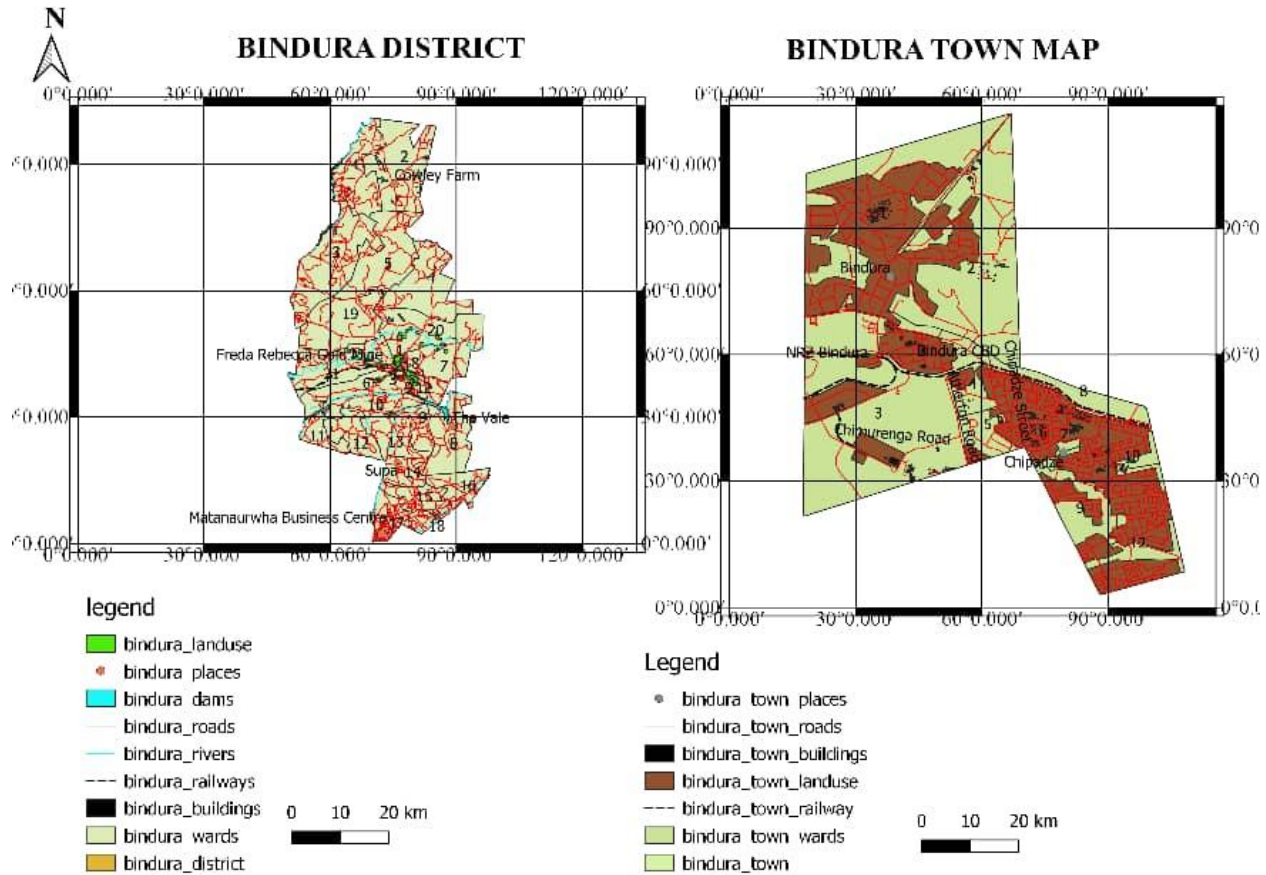


Figure 3.1 Map of Bindura town

3.3 Research Paradigm

A research paradigm is a philosophical framework that provides the structure for a research (Khatri, 2020). Morgan (2007) states that a research paradigm can be defined as a system of ideas, or worldview used by researchers to generate knowledge which includes shared assumptions and criteria for rigour within the research community. The interpretivist approach serves as the research framework for this phenomenological study, which aims to explore the lived experiences of street fruit and vegetable vendors in Bindura Town. Interpretivism highlights the personal meanings and interpretations that people attribute to their experiences, suggesting that reality is shaped socially through interactions and individual viewpoints (Hiller, 2016).

This framework is especially significant for investigating complex social phenomena, enabling researchers to examine the subtleties of human actions and the circumstances in which these actions take place. Earlier research grounded in Interpretivism has explored different social issues

including the experiences of informal traders, uncovering insights into the cultural and economic forces that influence their situations. Lim (2020) posits that Interpretivism encompass its capacity to offer profound insights into participants' experiences, its emphasis on contextual elements and its adaptability in research methodology.

Nonetheless, it also presents drawbacks which include the possibility of subjectivity and bias, restricted generalizability of results and the labour-intensive aspect of qualitative research approaches. In this research, the interpretivist framework influences the study by emphasizing the perspectives of the vendors, enabling an in-depth examination of their difficulties, hopes and the significance they ascribe to their labour. Even with its constraints, situating this study within the interpretivist framework is justified, as it aligns with the research objectives of grasping subjective experiences and enables participants by providing them a platform to express their narratives. The next section is research design.

3.4 Research Design

Punch (2005) argues that research design connects research questions to data. This research uses a phenomenological approach to investigate the lived experiences of street fruit and vegetable vendors in Bindura Town. Phenomenology is a qualitative research method that aims to comprehend and articulate the core of individuals lived experiences from their personal viewpoints. This design is based on the idea that human experiences are complex and varied intending to reveal the interpretations that people assign to their experiences within their particular contexts.

Phenomenological research emphasizes the subjective experiences of participants and the significance they attribute those experiences. It includes comprehensive interviews, where participants are encouraged to express their narratives and thought in their own language. Khan (2014) discovered that this method enables researchers to understand the participants' emotions, ideas and viewpoints, providing a deep understanding of their experiences. Many research projects have employed phenomenological design to explore different social phenomena. These studies have yielded important understanding of the social dynamics and cultural contexts that influence the experiences of marginalized populations, similar to the focus of the dissertation.

The advantages of phenomenological design consist of its capacity to produce in-depth, complex data that reflects the complexity of human experience. It facilitates an in-depth examination of participants' viewpoints, resulting in a complete insight into their actual experience. Urcia (2021) argues that phenomenology includes certain limitations like the risk of researcher bias in understanding participants' experiences and the difficulty of generalizing results outside the particular context of the research. In this study, the phenomenological approach guides the research by emphasizing the perspectives of the vendors, facilitating a thorough examination of their difficulties, goals and the significance they ascribe to their labour.

By concentrating on the real life experiences of street vendors, the research recognizes their self-determination and offers an avenue for their narratives to be shared. Even though phenomenological research has its limitations, grounding this study in this approach is justified, as it aligns with the research objectives of grasping subjective experiences and provides meaningful perspectives on the realities encountered by the street vendors in Bindura Town. Below is a detailed description of target population.

3.5 Target Population

Creswell (2017) posits that the population is the entire group of individuals who meet a set of specified criteria from which a sample is drawn for a study. In this phenomenological research the participants are street vendors selling fruits and vegetables in Bindura Town, Zimbabwe, representing a diverse demographic, including men and women of different ages, ethnicities, and socio-economic levels. Understanding the complexities of street vending experiences is dependent on this critical diversity. Street vendors are categorized based on factors like kinds of fruits and vegetables they sell, how long they have been vending, and their locations within the town. Some vendors have established longstanding customer relationships, while newer vendors face challenges in a competitive market.

The study involved a diverse group of twenty vendors to ensure a comprehensive representation of their experiences. By interacting with vendors from different backgrounds, the research highlights common challenges and individual strategies for maintaining income. This comprehensive approach enhances the credibility of the findings and provide deeper insights into the significance of street vendors in the local economy. The researcher personally recruited

participants, resulting in eleven interviews, with five males and six females aged 20 to 45 years, at which point data saturation was indicated.

3.6 Sample Size and Sampling Techniques

In this phenomenological study on the lived experiences of street fruit and vegetable vendors in Bindura Town, data saturation served as the criterion for determining sample size. Initially, 20 vendors were identified for interviews to ensure a diverse range of experiences and views. However, data collection demonstrated that saturation was reached after conducting interviews with 11 vendors. At this stage, the richness and depth of the obtained data provided a deeper understanding of the participants' lived experiences, showing that the important themes had been captured sufficiently. This approach shows the importance of participant quality over quantity in qualitative research and highlights the effective representation of the street vendors' experiences in Bindura Town.

Purposive sampling was employed to choose participants who are specifically vendors of fruits and vegetables on the streets of Bindura Town. The goal was to collect in-depth, comprehensive information from people who possess firsthand experience pertinent to the research inquiry. Purposive sampling enables the researcher to concentrate on particular traits that are crucial for the research (Campbell et al, 2020). Convenience sampling was utilized to involve vendors who are easily accessible and eager to take part in the research. This method facilitates rapid data collection, particularly in a fast-paced setting like street vending where vendors' availability may fluctuate. Utilizing these non-probability sampling methods, the research seeks to gather a variety of experiences and viewpoints from street fruit and vegetable vendors in Bindura Town, hence enhancing the phenomenological exploration of their lived experiences. Next is the detailed data collection instruments and how the instruments were piloted and ways of improving their validity and reliability.

3.7 Data Collection Instruments

Research instruments are tools used to collect, measure and analyze data in scientific research (Creswell, 2017). In order to achieve the intended objectives research instruments are very important and for this study interviews and observations were employed.

3.7.1 Semi-structured interview guide

This tool is crucial for enabling detailed discussions with participants, giving them the opportunity to express their personal stories and thoughts in a way that truly reflects their experiences (Blandford, 2013). The semi-structured layout includes a collection of open-ended questions arranged by important themes related to the vendors' experiences. The design of the instrument comprises of the initial questions, main questions and follow-up questions and it provides flexibility, allowing the interviewer to modify questions according to the conversations dynamics while making sure that all pertinent subjects are addressed. This method is especially appropriate for phenomenological studies as it emphasizes the viewpoints and experiences of the participants.

It is created specifically for street vendors of fruits and vegetables in Bindura Town and its goal is to obtain an in-depth qualitative information that reflects the core of their lived experiences. Through the use of this tool, the research aims to comprehend the complexities of their everyday experiences, the socio-economic difficulties they encounter and the significance they ascribe to their jobs. The combination of the tools depth, flexibility and focus on participants' voice makes the semi-structured interview guide an effective instrument for this research. The guide (see Appendix B) is divided into four sections namely demographic profile of participants, daily challenges faced by street fruit and vegetable vendors, social and economic impacts of street vending and coping strategies employed by street vendors, and each section consists of five questions.

3.7.2 Observation

In this phenomenological research focusing on the lived experiences of street fruit and vegetable vendors in Bindura Town, observation is utilized as the main method for data collection. This approach enables the researcher to collect detailed, contextual data regarding the vendors' everyday tasks, engagements and the setting in which they function. Copland (2018) posits that observational field notes help in understanding the context and research setting. The observation will concentrate on multiple important elements which include physical environment which aids in grasping the context within which the vendor function.

Also the vendor interactions were studied and helped in grasping the social dynamics of street vending. The observation encompasses operational practices and temporal aspects which uncovered trends in vendor actions and customer engagement. Alongside observations, images were captured to visually record the vendors' surroundings, operational methods and interactions. These visuals acted as an important addition to the observational data, offering visual backdrop that deepens the comprehension of the vendors' real-life experiences.

Observation is appropriate for this research as it offers an immediate perspective on the vendors' experiences, enabling a more profound comprehension of their interactions and surroundings, which is vital for phenomenological studies. Also it minimizes the influence of the researcher on the participants, enabling more authentic data collection, also facilitates the gathering of detailed data which was left through interviews on their own, hence supplementing interviews. The guide (see Appendix C) consists of four sections namely; demographic profile of participants, daily challenges faced by street fruit and vegetable vendors, social and economic impacts of street vending and coping strategies employed by street vendors. Section A consists of 2 questions, whereas other sections consists of four to five questions.

3.7.3 Document Analysis

This phenomenological research employs document analysis as a primary data collection tool. This approach entails the thorough analysis of current documents that offer understanding of vendors' context and experiences. The tool is designed to concentrate on different categories of documents pertinent to the research, such as government reports, media articles, market surveys and documents from vendor associations. These documents generated different kinds of information including contextual details about the socio-economic and regulatory landscape in which street vendors work, awareness of the typical challenges and opportunities encountered by vendors, historical patterns in street vending and community views on street vendors.

Document analysis is appropriate for this research since it delivered valuable contextual information that deepens the comprehension of street vendors lived experiences, offers historical viewpoint on the evolution of these experiences, is economical by using available resources and facilitates the triangulation of data gathered from alternative sources, thereby improving the overall

validity and reliability of the research outcomes. Unlike other instruments, the document analysis guide (see Appendix D) consists of one section, which consist of thirteen questions.

3.7.4 Piloting the instruments

Prior to the primary data collection, the interview guide entered a testing phase. This consisted of interviewing a limited number of street vendors to evaluate the clarity and significance of the questions. Input from these initial interviews was utilized to improve the tool, making certain that it accurately gathers the intended information and is easy for participants to understand. For example, a grey area identified was the vagueness of the question, What are the primary difficulties you encounter daily as a street vendor? And was revised to: Can you describe the specific challenges you face on a daily basis as a street vendor? An initial observation took place in a small representative section of Bindura Town to evaluate the observation checklist and it aid in honouring the categories and guarantee that every pertinent detail is documented. A variety of documents were examined tom assess their significance and the types of information they offer.

3.7.5 Instruments validity

To validate the interview guide, member checking was employed in which participants assess the findings to verify their correctness strengthened the validity of the gathered data. Utilization of a structured checklist that corresponds with research goals improved the reliability of the observation tool. Choosing of reliable and pertinent documents that offers precise information regarding the context of street vending in Bindura bolstered the credibility of the document analysis.

3.7.6 Instruments reliability

To improve the dependability of the interview guide, a uniform interview guide was employed for every participant to maintain consistency in the inquiries made. Interviews were audio recorded with the permission of participants to guarantee precise transcription and analysis, facilitating a uniform method for data interpretation. Checklist was made standard, guaranteeing that identical categories were applied for all observations and a methodological process for choosing and assessing documents was followed to improve the dependability. Following is the data collection procedures.

3.8 Data Collection Procedures

McMillan and Schumacher (2020) rightly articulate that these are practical steps taken into consideration in administering the selected instruments and collection of data from subjects under study. Firstly, necessary approvals from relevant authorities was obtained which include a letter from the Sustainable Department (see Appendix E) and a letter from the Bindura Municipality (see Appendix F), to conduct the research in Bindura Town. Also, informed consent (see Appendix A) was obtained from potential participants who had shown interest. The researcher gave in-depth details about the study, including guarantees of privacy and optional aspect of taking part. Before carrying out observations, a detailed observation checklist (see Appendix C) was created which covered essential factors to monitor which include physical setup of the vending locations, interactions between vendors and customers, operational procedures and the interplay of vending operations. Particular areas in Bindura Town were pinpointed and these include bus terminals, major streets with significant pedestrian activity and bustling market zones.

Observations were conducted multiple days and at various times to record changes and field notes and photographs were captured to record the phenomena observed. Data was documented in a structured manner, guaranteeing that all important elements were noted for future analysis. A semi-structured interview guide (see Appendix B) was developed featuring open-ended questions aimed at gathering in-depth responses regarding the vendors' experiences, challenges and coping mechanisms. The guide was tested with a limited group of vendors to improve the questions. Vendors were chosen through purposive, snowball and convenience sampling to guarantee a varied representation of experiences. Attempts were taken to involve vendors from various background, durations of business's experience. Interviews took place in a comfortable and confidential environment to promote honest conversations. Every interview was audio-recorded (with the consent of participants) and took about 30 to 60 minutes. Following each interview, the audio recordings were transcribed word for word to guarantee precise reflection of the participants' answers.

Various documents were selected for examination, such as governmental reports, media articles, market studies and publications from supplier organization. These documents offered contextual insights into the street vending landscape in Bindura. The chosen documents were obtained from multiple sources such as local government offices, libraries and online databases. An organized

framework (see Appendix D) was created for examining the documents, concentrating on identifying important themes and insights connected to the lived experiences of street vendors. The results from document examination was combined with the observational and interview information to create a thorough understanding of the vendors' experiences. Next section is the data analysis techniques.

3.9 Data Analysis Techniques

Observational data were examined through thematic analysis, a method that focuses on recognizing and interpreting themes in the data. The researcher analyzed the field notes and photographs to identify important themes concerning vendors' operational methods, physical surrounding of the vending locations and their interactions with customers. Descriptive coding was used to classify the observed data into significant segments and this process included tagging particular observations with codes that represent the subject matter like environment issues and customer engagement. Contextual interpretation was utilized where the researcher considers wider socio-economic and cultural elements affecting the behaviours and practices exhibited by vendors.

The audio files from the interviews were transcribed word for word and the researcher engaged with the transcripts by reviewing them several times to achieve a comprehensive understanding of the participants' stories. A coding structure was created grounded in the research queries and themes that arise from the interviews. This structure directed the coding approach enabling recognition of important remarks and experiences conveyed by the vendors. The analysis included phenomenological reduction which required setting aside the researchers preconceived notions and concentrating exclusively on the lived experiences of the participants and this helped in revealing the core of the vendors' experiences without prejudice. Moreover, narrative analysis was utilized to examine how vendors formulate their narratives and interpret their experiences and this method emphasized the personal and emotional aspects of their stories.

The analysis of documents includes content analysis, where selected documents were examined to gather pertinent information and themes concerning street vending in Bindura and it involves examining policy papers, news articles and publications from vendor organizations. The results were contrasted with the observational and interview information to uncover similarities and differences. The comparative, method improved the validity of the results by cross referencing

data from various sources. The findings from the examination of documents were situated within the wider socio-economic framework of Bindura Town, offering a thorough comprehension of the elements influencing street vendors. The following section focuses on the ethical principles.

3.10 Ethical Principles

When studying the experiences of marginalized groups like street fruit and vegetable vendors in Bindura Town, ethical concerns play a crucial role in research with human participants. Tichapondwa (2013) indicates that ethical considerations are a professional code of conduct which explains the dos and don'ts during the research process. This research is based on ethical principles that focus on the participants' well-being, dignity, and rights during the entire research process. Necessary approvals from relevant authorities was obtained which include a letter from the Sustainable Department (see Appendix E) and a letter from the Bindura Municipality (see Appendix F), to conduct the research in Bindura Town

Ethical research is built upon the foundation of obtaining informed consent (see Appendix A). Before taking part, vendors received detailed and thorough information about the study's goals, processes, possible dangers, and advantages. This information was presented in a way that is simple to comprehend, considering the different reading abilities of the participants. If participants cannot read or write, verbal consent was recorded to ensure transparency and accountability, whenever written consent is not feasible.

The importance of maintaining confidentiality is another key ethical concern. The research used methods to safeguard the identities of participants and any confidential information disclosed in interviews. Information were made anonymous through the use of false names and by eliminating any identifying information from transcripts and reports. Moreover, all audio recordings and transcripts were kept in a secure location, with access restricted to the researcher and required research staff. Participants were also told that they can choose to leave the study at any point without facing any consequences, which supports their independence and control.

Moreover, the researcher took into consideration the socio-economic background of the participants to prevent any exploitation of their situation for academic purposes. This involved being aware of power dynamics in interviews and creating a safe space for participants to freely share their experiences. The researcher also considered how the study results could affect the

vendors' livelihoods and public image, aiming to share their narratives with dignity and empowerment. Approval was requested from the appropriate institutional review board or ethics committee before the research. This structured evaluation procedure was created to guarantee compliance with ethical guidelines and protection of the rights and well-being of participants. The following section presents the chapter summary, detailing what has been covered in the chapter and also introducing chapter 4.

3.11 Summary of the Chapter

This chapter has provided a comprehensive overview of the research methodology for studying street fruit and vegetable vendors in Bindura Town. It utilized a qualitative approach that emphasized the viewpoints of vendors using purposive sampling and semi-structured interviews. The chapter highlighted the importance of building rapport when gathering data and confirming the credibility and consistency of results with member checking and triangulation. Moreover, it emphasized the significance of conducting pilot tests to improve research tools and discussed ethical factors to safeguard the rights and privacy of participants. In general, this approach establishes a strong basis for documenting the diverse encounters of street vendors. Chapter 4 present the findings from the data collected, highlighting the key themes and insights that emerged from the interviews, observations and document analysis conducted with the vendors.

CHAPTER 4: DATA PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses and analyses the results of the phenomenological study exploring the lived experiences of street fruit and vegetable vendors in Bindura Town. Data was obtained through semi-structured interviews, observations and document analysis as outlined in the earlier chapters, to gain a thorough understanding of the vendor's daily difficulties, social and economic effects on their lives and their coping mechanisms. The data is presented in form of tables, pie chart and descriptions for clear illustration of the themes that came out from the study. The presentation of data is structured in accordance with the research goals. Below is a detailed description of each heading and sub-heading.

4.2 Response Rate

Figure 4.1 below illustrates the response rate for this study. Out of the total 20 street fruit and vegetable vendors approached in Bindura Town, 11 participated in the study resulting in a response rate of 55%. Conversely, 9 vendors did not participate due to data saturation, representing a 45% non-response rate.

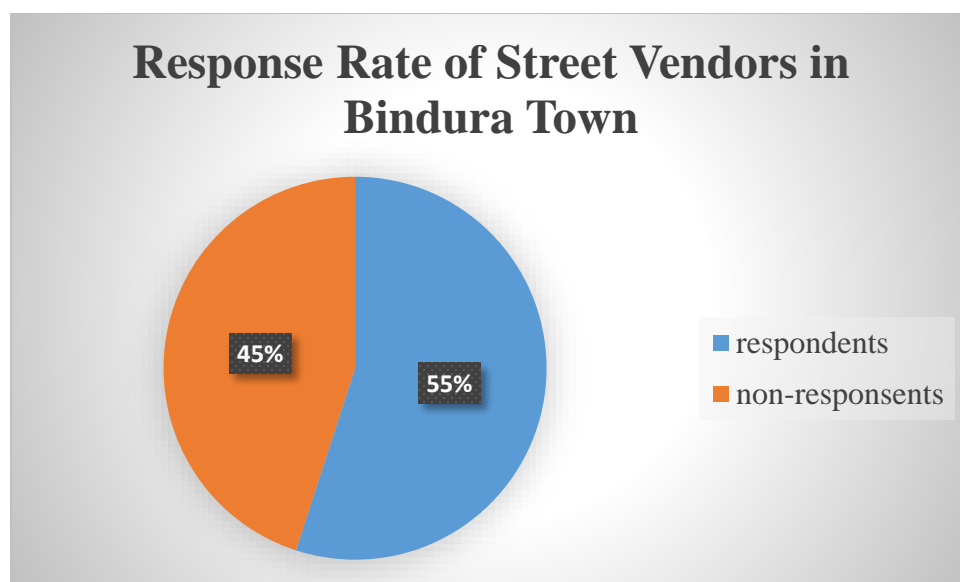


Figure 4.1 Response rate of Street Fruit and Vegetable Vendors in Bindura Town

The following section focuses on the demographic profile of participants.

4.3 Demographic profile of Participants

Table 4.1 below, reveals that 11 street vendors participated in the study which included 5 males and 6 females. The respondents included both males and females since the experiences in street vending affect them both. However, as shown by the table 4.1, the participants were mostly female, this shows that women comprise the majority of street fruit and vegetable vendors.

Table 4.1 Demographic profile of respondents

Respondents	Sex		Intended	Actual total
	Male	Female		
Street vendors	5	6	20	11
Total	5	6	20	11

The following section outlines the challenges faced by street vendors.

4.4 Challenges faced by street vendors

This section explores the various challenges faced by street fruit and vegetable vendors in Bindura Town. The challenges as articulated by the respondents and observed by the researcher included economic hardships, health and safety concerns and regulatory and social obstacles.

4.4.1 Economic hardships

The assessment showed that street vendors in Bindura Town encounter notable economic difficulties that impact their way of life. A key issue was raised by all participants of the necessity to pay three dollars to the municipality each Monday, which vendors characterized as a financial strain. Vendor testimonies emphasized this concern, with vendor (6) mentioning,

“Zvinonetsa kubhadhara madhora matatu pasvondo kana tisingazive kuti tinowana mari”

(it’s tough to pay three dollars weekly when we’re uncertain of our earnings.)

This expectation creates pressure to generate enough sales before struggling to meet this obligation, which further complicates their financial stability.

Moreover, vendors shared stories about changing prices for fruits and vegetables. Some expressed that prices can fluctuate significantly from day to day, frequently beyond their influence, with vendor (1) stating,

“mumwe musi madomasi angu anogona kutengeswa zvakanaka, asi zuva rinotevera, anoderera mutengo, zvoita kuti ndishaye mari yandakahodhesa”

(One day my tomatoes might sell well, but the next day, they are cheaper, and I end up losing money).

Observational data also showed fluctuations in pricing trends throughout the week, which had direct impact on vendor sales and morale.

4.4.2 Regulatory and social obstacles

The rules regarding street vending in Bindura Town became a significant obstacle. Interaction with law enforcement was frequently highlighted, mainly focusing on harassment issues when vendors failed to meet city requirements or couldn’t pay three dollars’ fee on time. Vendor (3) commented,

“Kana ndisingabhadhari madhora matatu nenguva, mapurisa anotyisidzira kundedzinga pandotengesera, uye izvi zvinowedzera kushushikana muzuva rangu”

(If I don’t pay the three dollars on time, the police threaten to move me from the streets and it adds stress to my day).

This sense of threat signifies an unstable working environment where vendors feel marginalized. Document analysis of local government policies regarding street vending indicated a lack of clear communication and support for vendors. Policies seemed randomly enforced, putting vendors at risk of negative interactions with authorities.

4.4.3 Health and safety concerns

Health and safety became vital issues of importance. Vendors frequently reported operating in unclean environments, which put them at risk for health issues. Concerns regarding food safety and hygiene were at the heart of this issue. Participants observed that the absence of adequate sanitary facilities hindered their ability to uphold hygiene standards during food preparation. Vendor (8) noted,

“ndinoita chido chehutsanana, asi nzvimbo yebasa haina chimbuzi uye inowanzova isina kuchena. Izvi zvinomutsa kunetseka nezvehutano hwangu uye hwevatengi vangu”

(I make an effort to maintain cleanliness, but the workplace lacks a restroom and is frequently unclean. It raises worries about my well-being and that of my clients).

Along with hygiene, exposure to severe weather conditions also presented a risk to the quality of their products. Suppliers indicated that severe heat or rainfall could damage their fruits, especially bananas and apples, leading to monetary losses. Vendor (7) expressed,

“kana kuchinaya, ndinotya kuti mabanana angu anogona kushata akanaiwa; handingambodi kurasikirwa nemari yangu”

(when it rains, I fear that my bananas might get bruised or harmed; I can’t bear to lose my inventory).

Observational findings supported these assertions, revealing a widespread deficiency in vendor facilities, which worsened their unstable working environments and posed additional risks to their

health and the safety of the food they provide. The following section presents the social and economic impacts of street vending.

4.5 Social and Economic Impacts of Street Vending

This section explores the social and economic impacts associated with street fruit and vegetable vending. The findings expressed that economic empowerment, social connections and community building, personal growth and self-esteem are the main socio-economic impacts of street vending.

4.5.1 Economic empowerment

Vendors indicated that their income while frequently varying, offered a feeling of financial independence that enabled them to control their spending. Vendor (11) stated,

“Kunyangwe dzimwe nguva zvichirema, ndinozokwanisa kubudirira kuwana yekuchengeta mhuri yangu nekubhadhara zvikoro”

(Even though some days are tough, a can usually make enough to feed my family and pay for school fees)

The capacity to directly influence their income fosters a sense of empowerment in vendors, allowing them to manage their financial situations. Observational evidence revealed that vendors frequently employ tactics to enhance sales, like modifying their stock according to seasonal trends and customer preferences, thereby demonstrating their entrepreneurial drive.

Participants also reported that money made from vending contributes to their children’s education, healthcare and everyday meals. As vendor (4) expressed,

“mari yese yandawana inobatsira kudya kwemhuri yangu uye nekuyendesa vana vangu kuchikoro”

(Each dollar I earn contributes to feeding my family and guarantees my children can attend school)

Moreover, the purchasing ability of these vendors supports local business and aids Bindura Town’s economy, emphasizing the important function they fulfill in the community. However, the

marginalization of street vending affects their ability to secure formal economic opportunities such as loans, training and business support. Vendor (9) explained,

“Tinoonekwa sevanhu vasinabasa; zvakaoma kuti tiwane rubatsiro kubva kumabhanga kana zvirongwa zvehurumende nekuti atina zvikwanisiro”

(We are seen as outcasts; it’s hard for us to get help from banks or governmental programs because we don’t have documents)

The inability to access these resources perpetuates their marginalization, reinforcing the cycle of poverty and instability.

4.5.2 Social connections and community building

The research results underscore the cooperative aspect of street vending since numerous vendors create supportive networks. These networks provide emotional and practical assistance, fostering a feeling of unity among those engaged in similar work. This friendship is particularly important for those who feel marginalized. For example, multiple vendors shared stories of helping one another during difficult times, such as sharing resources or providing assistance during busy sales seasons. Vendor (6) stated,

“Kana mumwe ane zuva rakamuomera, isu vamwe tinobatsira; tiri mhuri imwe”

(If someone is having a tough day, the rest of us contribute to assist; we are like a family)

This companionship enhances resilience and fosters a feeling of belonging. Also, frequent engagement with local customers fosters a sense of community, as customers often return to vendors they trust and whose products they enjoy. Vendor (2) noted,

“Ndinoziva vazhinji vevatengi vanhu nezita uye vanodzoka nekuti vanovimba nehunhu hwechimiro chemichero yangu”

(I know many of my customers by name and they come back because they trust the quality of my fruits)

These relationships contribute to a sense of identity and connection within the community, enriching the social fabric of Bindura Town.

4.5.3 Personal growth and self-esteem

Through their experiences, many vendors develop essential skills such as negotiation, financial management and customer service and these skills promote personal development and improve business knowledge. Vendor (7) remarked,

“Handaiziva kuti ndingakwanisewo bhizimusi rangu, asi zvino ndinogona kutaurirana mitengo uye kushandisa mari yangu semunhu ane hunyanzvi”

(I never thought I could run my own business, but now I can negotiate prices and manage my earnings like an expert).

Gaining these skills enhances their self-assurance and lead to more opportunities in the future. As vendors take pride in their work, their self-worth and sense of self are positively influenced. Selling products direct to consumers empowers them, enabling them to provide for themselves and contribute productively to their families and communities. Vendor (10) expressed,

“Ndinonzwa kudada kana michero yangu ichibatwa nevatengi vachifara. Zvinondirangaridza kuti ndikuuta chinhu chakakosha”

(I feel proud when I see my fruits in the hands of happy customers. It reminds me that I’m doing something valuable)

This feeling of value is vital for their general mental health and can improve their life experience. Below is a detailed description of the coping strategies employed by street vendors.

4.6 Coping Strategies Employed by Street Vendors

This subsection focuses on the coping mechanisms being implemented to overcome challenges in street fruit and vegetable vending. Respondents’ results are presented below.

4.6.1 Resourcefulness and adaptability

Vendors showcased remarkable resourcefulness in running their business. Many adopted tactics like expanding their product range according to seasonal supply and consumer preferences. Vendor (5) stated,

“Kana mutengo wemabanana wakakwira, ndinotengesa maapple kana miriwo yakawanda”

(If the price of bananas is high, I will sell more apples or vegetables instead.)

Such adaptability maximized their sales opportunities and enabled them to reduce risks associated with changing market conditions.

4.6.2 Support networks

The significance of social networks was clear during the study. Vendors frequently depend on one another for both emotional and practical assistance. In difficult times, they would work together, exchanging details about trustworthy supply sources or client preferences. Observations indicated regular interactions between vendors, suggesting a strong communal bond formed through shared experiences. An important aspect of this support network is the existence of a representative called Tunje, who promotes the interests of vendors in their interactions with the municipality. Vendors characterized Tunje as an essential supporter saying,

“Anotimiririra kana kanzuru ichida kutidzinga; pasina iye, andifunge taikwanisa kushanda zvakanaka”

(He defends us when the municipality poses threats; without him, I’m not sure how we would make it)

This illustration highlights the significance of having an individual who understands their challenges and skillfully engage with local officials on their behalf, aiding in the protection of their rights and guaranteeing that their issues are taken into account.

4.6.3 Developing alternative marketing strategies

The fruit and vegetable vendors in Bindura Town created alternative marketing approaches to connect with customers and remain competitive. These strategies involve using social media channels to promote their products, communicate updates and connect with customers, in addition to depending on word-of-mouth referrals and endorsements from pleased customers. Vendor (8) stated,

“Tinoshandisa social media kushambadza zvatinotengesa uye zvatibatsira kuwana vatengi vakawanda”

(We use social media to advertise our products and it has helped us to attract more customers)

This approach helps them reach a wider audience, increase visibility and attract more customers. Furthermore, vendors use inventive packaging and presentation methods to enhance the attractiveness and appeal of their products to customers. By focusing on particular markets like offices, shops, bus terminals vendors expand their customer reach and sales, distinguish themselves from rivals, enhance brand awareness and reputation and boost their overall business outcomes. Discussion of the findings is presented in the next section.

4.7 Discussion of Findings

The main aim of the study was to get an insight into the lived experiences of street fruit and vegetable vendors in Bindura Town. The study was guided by phenomenological approach to understand the daily experiences of these vendors. This research sought to explore the daily challenges faced by vendors, the social and economic impacts of street vending on their lives and families and the coping strategies they employ to navigate their work environment. The daily challenges they face include harassment from local authorities, economic hardships.

Street vending serves an important source of income for vendors, thereby influencing their quality of life, family support, despite its precarious nature. Vendors employ various coping strategies such as resourcefulness and adaptability and support networks. The following sections will discuss the findings in relation to the objectives, highlighting the similarities and differences with existing literature and providing context to the observed variations.

4.7.1 Discussion for objective 1: Daily challenges faced by vendors

From the findings the researcher noted that, the ongoing difficulties encountered by vendors in Bindura align closely with a significant portion of the current literature. The participants described ongoing harassment from local officials, such as unjust penalties reflecting the issues highlighted by Bhila and Chiwenga (2023). This study emphasizes how regulatory frameworks frequently establish unstable conditions for street vendors around the world. This also concurs to the findings by Masawi et al (2023) who expressed that in 2014 Zhangazha argued that vendors sell more at

night due to fear of harassment and arrest. The anxiety of facing forced displacement from their selling spots, expressed by many vendors in this study, reinforces earlier research findings, emphasizing the persistent socio-political challenges encountered by street vendors in urban settings.

However, differences emerged in the extent of these challenges, informed by local cultural and socio-economic contexts. For example, while other studies emphasize severe repression and marginalization, vendors in Bindura also expressed a detailed understanding of the regulatory landscape showing moments of cooperation with municipality. This difference is attributed to the specific socio-political dynamics within Bindura, where recent efforts have been made to establish dialogue between vendors and local government. Therefore, this shows the role of local cultures and governance in shaping vendors' experiences, presenting a richer and more detailed context than some of the stark accounts observed in previous studies.

Moreover, it was shown from the findings that restricted access to essential resources like financial capital and infrastructure limits vendors from operating. It was noted that the streets in Bindura frequently lack suitable infrastructure for vending, reflect the situations noted in earlier studies such as of Mazhambe (2017), where insufficient amenities obstruct vendors' efficiency and income. Participants observed that the absence of adequate sanitary facilities hindered their ability to uphold hygiene standards during food preparation. Also, exposure to severe weather conditions also presented a risk to the quality of their products, as participants indicated that severe heat or rainfall could damage their fruits, especially bananas and apples, leading to monetary losses. This resemblance highlights a systemic problem impacting the informal economy, evident in many urban areas globally.

4.7.2 Discussion for objective 2: Social and Economic Impacts of Street Vending

Findings from this study express that vendors in Bindura Town turned to this line of work mainly because of limited formal job opportunities and financial difficulties. This is in strong agreement with results from earlier research, including that of Dharejo et al (2022), which recognized street vending as an essential economic approach for survival within disadvantaged groups. Women in Informal Employment Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO, 2020) corresponds with this by arguing that an increase in street vending is due to financial difficulties and contributes to local

food security. The vendors' statements that street vending frequently serves as their main or only source of income highlights a common element of this phenomenon in different situations.

From the findings the vendors in Bindura took pride in their positions and viewed themselves as active contributors to the economy instead of victims of their situations. This feeling of agency contradicts some traditional stories that portray street vendors merely as marginalised figures, indicating a change in understanding their economic agency similar to the perspectives laid out by Gamielien and Van Niekerk (2017). The literature indicates that street vendors may be regarded as entrepreneurs who generate economic prospects, especially in the informal sector, a view that aligns with the feelings communicated by the vendors in this research.

However, differences arose regarding the social impacts of their work. While literature often portrays street vending as a source of social isolation due to stigmatization, vendors in Bindura expressed a strong sense of community with fellow vendors whom they get advice and support. This communal aspect showed in the findings suggests a divergence from literature that tends to emphasize individual struggles, demonstrating that local context, interpersonal relationships and cultural norms influence the social dynamics of vendors.

4.7.3 Discussion for objective 3: Coping Strategies Employed by Vendors

The coping strategies utilized by the vendors in Bindura Town also mirror themes commonly found in the literature regarding street vending. The vendors stated that they utilize social networks to exchange information on market trends, weather conditions and sources of fresh produce. This complex network of social connections aligns with the research by Giuffre (2013), who highlighted the importance of social capital in bolstering vendor resilience. The significance of community backing in these networks further supports earlier research indicating that social connections offer essential resources that assist vendors in overcoming their difficult circumstances.

Furthermore, the results emphasize particular coping strategies, including adjustable pricing and product options based on customer demands, demonstrating adaptive approaches that reflect the entrepreneurial flexibility identified by scholars such as Mazhambe (2017). The alignment of these results demonstrates that street vending is rarely a static endeavor; instead, it is marked by flexibility and endurance, qualities that have been well documented in the literature.

However, notable differences emerged regarding the advancement of coping strategies employed by vendors in Bindura Town compared to findings in other contexts. Literature shows that vendors often depend on short-term survival tactics, while vendors in Bindura displayed a more strategic approach that included forming cooperatives for better bargaining power and resource sharing. Such differences are due to specific socio-economic conditions and cultural contexts within which they operate, showing that local dynamics dramatically shape coping strategies. The following section presents the chapter summary, detailing what has been covered in the chapter and also introducing chapter 5.

4.8 Chapter Summary

This chapter has explored the lived experiences of street fruit and vegetable vendors in Bindura Town, focusing on the everyday difficulties they encounter, the social and economic impacts of their work and the strategies they use to cope. The findings from this study highlight the strength of these vendors and the necessity for policies that provide support for their specific challenges. The next chapter will examine the consequences of these findings for policy and practice, promoting a more conducive environment for street vendors in the area.

CHAPTER 5: SUMMARY OF RESEARCH FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter summarizes the key findings of the phenomenological study exploring the lived experiences of street fruit and vegetable vendors in Bindura Town. It discussed the core themes that emerged from the data collected, providing insights into the challenges and opportunities faced by these vendors. By reflecting on the findings, this chapter draw conclusions related to the research objectives and questions, ultimately presenting actionable recommendations aimed at providing the conditions for street vendors. Below is a detailed summary of the study.

5.2 Summary of the study

The study focused on exploring the lived experiences of street fruit and vegetable vendors in Bindura Town, addressing the challenges they face as part of the informal economy. The main problem identified was the numerous obstacles that hinder their ability to operate effectively, affecting their livelihoods and overall wellbeing.

The purpose of the study was to understand these lived experiences through a phenomenological view, gaining insight into vendors' perspectives on the socio-economic conditions surrounding their work including regulatory issues, environmental vulnerabilities. Using qualitative research methods, data were collected through in-depth interviews with diverse range of street vendors, observations and document analysis. Thematic analysis was employed to identify key themes and patterns in the data which are inked to the research questions and objectives, allowing for a deeper understanding of their lived realities.

The key findings include economic hardships, regulatory and social obstacles, health and safety concerns which are linked to objective 1. On the objective 2 of social and economic impacts of street vending economic empowerment, social connections and community building and personal growth and self-esteem are the themes that emerged. Resourcefulness and adaptability, support networks and developing alternative marketing strategies are prominent strategies which provide emotional and practical assistance. Next section is the conclusions.

5.3 Conclusions

The findings of this study provide a comprehensive understanding of the lived experiences of street fruit and vegetable vendors in Bindura Town, directly addressing the research questions and objectives.

5.3.1 Daily challenges faced by street fruit and vegetable vendors in Bindura Town

The study conclusively identified several daily challenges which include economic hardships, health and safety concerns and regulatory and social obstacles. The economic strain affects their ability to provide for their families, save for future investments and paying a weekly fee to the council. Vendors reported fears foodborne illness due to lack of adequate sanitary facilities, posing risks to both their health and that of their customers. Uncertain and inconsistent regulatory frameworks create an environment of fear and instability for vendors. These factors collectively create a precarious environment for the vendors, impacting their livelihoods and business sustainability.

5.3.2 Social and economic impact of fruit and vegetable vendors in Bindura Town.

Street vending plays a dual role in the social and economic wellbeing of vendors in Bindura Town. Economically it serves as a critical source of income for many, allowing them to support their families and contribute to household expenses. However, economic hardships make it difficult in saving or investing in their businesses. Socially, street vending fosters a sense of community among vendors, providing emotional support and collaborative networks for resource sharing.

5.3.3 Coping strategies of street fruit and vegetable vendors in Bindura Town.

From the findings reliance on social support networks is a prominent strategy which provide emotional and practical assistance. These networks facilitate the sharing of resources, information and collaborative problem-solving among vendors facing similar challenges. Additionally, some vendors adapt by diversifying their product offerings to mitigate risks associated with economic hardships and health concerns, such as introducing non-perishable items alongside fresh produce. Others focus on developing alternative marketing approaches to connect with customers and

remain competitive. These coping strategies reflect the resilience and adaptability of street vendors as they confront the complexities of their daily lives. The following section is the recommendations.

5.4 Recommendations

Based on the conclusions drawn from the findings, the following recommendations are proposed for practitioners, policy makers and relevant stakeholders to improve the circumstances of street vendors in Bindura Town:

- Financial institutions should develop tailored loan products and microfinance options for street vendors to provide them with capital necessary for stock procurement and business expansion.
- Local authorities should prioritize the development of infrastructure such as increased designated vending areas, access to clean water and sanitation facilities to create a more conducive environment for street vending.
- Implementing programs to provide vendors with training on hygiene and food safety practices will help promote better sanitary standards. Also, establishing mobile sanitation facilities would address immediate health concerns.
- Policymakers should create frameworks to support vendors in navigating environmental challenges such as weather related disruptions. This could include providing information on market conditions and improving access to weather-resistant storage solutions.
- Local government should engage with vendor associations and stakeholders to create inclusive policies that recognize the rights and contributions of street vendors. Establishing clear and supportive regulations would help in reducing fear and uncertainty among vendors.
- Encourage the formation of networks and cooperatives among vendors to strengthen their bargaining power, share resources and provide support to one another in overcoming shared challenges.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A

PARTICIPANT CONSENT LETTER

STUDY TITLE

LIVED EXPERIENCES OF STREET FRUIT AND VEGETABLE VENDORS IN BINDURA TOWN: A PHENOMENOLOGICAL STUDY.

Researcher: Angellah Nyakudya

Supervisor: Dr. Mukwenyi

The Study objectives are as follows:

1. To understand the daily challenges faced by street fruit and vegetable vendors in Bindura Town.
 2. To examine the social and economic impacts of street vending on the vendors' lives and families.
 3. To highlight the coping strategies employed by street vendors to navigate their work and environment.
-

I or (We) the undersigned do hereby confirm that:

- The purpose of the study and the level of my involvement were clearly explained to me. I have understood the importance of the study and the value of my participation. I therefore, voluntarily agree to take part in the study without any reservations.
- I understand that I am free to withdraw from participating in the study at any given time and I will not be affected in any way.

- I further agree to audio-recording of my dialogue with the researcher. I also understand that this consent form will not be linked to any of the research instruments to ensure that my participation remains confidential.
- I am informed that upon completion of the research, feedback will be availed to my parent ministry on the findings.
- As confirmation of my willingness to participate in this study, I herein- under sign and give my essential details:

Full Name:

Signature:

Date:

Area /Ward:

Appendix B

SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEW GUIDE

INTRODUCTION AND CONSENT

I am Angellah Nyakudya, a Bindura University of Science Education undergraduate student conducting research on: **LIVED EXPERIENCES OF STREET FRUIT AND VEGETABLE VENDORS IN BINDURA TOWN: A PHENOMENOLOGICAL STUDY**. This is in partial fulfilment of the **DEGREE IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**. The data to be collected is solely for academic purposes and will therefore not be made public. Please note that there is no follow up benefit for participating in this research, and therefore, participation is strictly voluntary.

SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

1. Sex: Male: [] Female []
2. Age: [] years
3. For how long have you participated in street vending?
4. What type of fruits and vegetables do you sell?
5. Do you possess any formal education? If so, please provide details
6. What is your family composition (e.g., number of dependents)?

SECTION B: DAILY CHALLENGES FACED BY STREET AND FRUIT VEGETABLE VENDORS

1. Can you describe the specific challenges you face on a daily basis as a street vendor?
2. In what ways do external elements like weather or location influence your operations?
3. Have you faced any disputes with local authorities or other suppliers? If so, kindly provide more details.
4. What financial difficulties do you face in your business?
5. In what ways do these difficulties affect your general well-being and that of your family?

SECTION C: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL EFFECTS OF STREET VENDING

1. How does street vending contribute to your household income?

2. What social advantages do you gain from being a street vendor?
3. How has street vending influenced the relationships within your family? (Do you involve your family in your vending activities? If yes, how?)
4. What is your perspective on the significance of street vending in Bindura's local economy?
5. What are the future goals you have for your family due to your vending activities?

SECTION D: STRATEGIES FOR COPING USED BY STREET VENDORS

1. What techniques do you employ to handle the difficulties of street vending?
2. How do you manage stress related to your work?
3. Do you seek support from community members or other vendors? If so, how?
4. How does your individual resilience contribute to your capacity to keep vending?
5. How do you adapt your business practices in response to challenges?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR COOPERATING IN THIS INTERVIEW!!!!

Appendix C

OBSERVATION GUIDE

TITLE: LIVED EXPERIENCES OF STREET FRUIT AND VEGETABLE VENDORS IN BINDURA TOWN: A PHENOMENOLOGICAL STUDY.

OBJECTIVE OF THE OBSERVATION

To document the daily experiences of street fruit and vegetable vendors in Bindura Town.

KEY AREAS OF OBSERVATION

SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

1. Vendor identification

- Gender (Male or female)
- Types of fruits and vegetables sold (fruits only, vegetable only or mixed)

SECTION B: DAILY CHALLENGES FACED BY STREET FRUIT AND VEGETABLE VENDORS

1. Environmental challenges

- What are weather conditions present during observation?
- Physical obstacles in the vending are (e.g., poor infrastructure, crowded spaces)

2. Interactions with authorities

- Inspections or conflicts between vendors and local authorities.
- Note any signs of harassment or support from authorities.

3. Competition

- Number of vendors present in the vicinity.
- Types of products being sold by competitors.

4. Financial challenges

- Visible signs of financial strain (e.g., low stock, lack of customers).
- Pricing strategies used by vendors.

5. Customer interactions

- How they engage with customers (greetings, negotiating).
- Noticeable challenges in attracting customers.

SECTION C: SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF STREET VENDING

1. Economic contributions

- Volume of sales during observation period.
- Note discussions about income or financial goals among vendors.

2. Social interactions

- Ways of interaction within themselves (collaboration, competition).
- Community events or gatherings among vendors.

3. Family involvement

- Observe discussions about family responsibilities related to vending.

SECTION D: COPING STRATEGIES EMPLOYED BY STREET VENDORS

1. Adaptation to challenges:

- Methods of coping to adverse weather conditions.
- Changes in product offerings based on demand or supply issues.

2. Support systems:

- Visible signs of support among vendors (sharing resources, advice).
- External support from community organizations or NGOs.

3. Resilience

- How they demonstrate resilience in the face of challenges (persistence).
- Coping mechanisms employed during stressful interactions.

Appendix D

DOCUMENT ANALYSIS FRAMEWORK

TITLE: LIVED EXPERIENCES OF STREET FRUIT AND VEGETABLE VENDORS IN BINDURA TOWN: A PHENOMENOLOGICAL STUDY.

OBJECTIVE OF THE DOCUMENT ANALYSIS

To investigate the legal regulations pertaining to street vending in Bindura Town, and the emphasis will be on council regulations and associated documents to understand their effects on street fruit and vegetable vendors.

Questions for Analysis

1. What do the regulations from the council say regarding street vending?
2. Do the by-laws clearly support street vending? If so, to what extent?
3. Are there particular zones outlined in the by-laws where vending is allowed?
4. What rules are specified concerning the operation of street vendors?
5. Do vendors need to secure permits or licenses?
6. Where does the council keep seized items from vendors?
7. What processes exist from vendors to retrieve their seized items?
8. What consequences are enforced on vendors who breach the by-laws?
9. In what ways are these penalties imposed, and what typical violations result in penalties?
10. Are there any clauses in the by-laws that provide assistance for vendors, like training or resources?
11. In what ways do the regulations meet the requirements of at-risk vendors, like women or individuals with disabilities?
12. How do the regulations impact the everyday activities and livelihoods of street vendors?
13. Are there any recorded examples that demonstrate the effects of these regulations on vendors?

Appendix E

DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
P Bag 1020
BINDURA, Zimbabwe
Tel: 071 - 7531-6, 7621-4
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BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

21 January 2025

To Whom It May Concern

**ETHICAL CLEARANCE FOR THE STUDENT WHO IS SEEKING
INFORMATION FOR RESEARCH PROJECT**

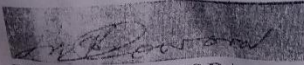
This is to confirm that Nyakudya Angellah Registration Number: B200836B is a student doing Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Development Studies at Bindura University of Science Education and is required to do a research project as a requirement for completing the degree program. The student is expected to gather data for the research project from various sources including your institution.

This letter therefore, serves to kindly ask you to assist the above-mentioned student with information relating to her project entitled:

LIVED EXPERIENCES OF STREET FRUIT AND
VEGETABLE VENDORS IN BINDURA TOWN: A
PHENOMENOLOGICAL STUDY

Feel free to communicate with us if any further assistance/ information is required

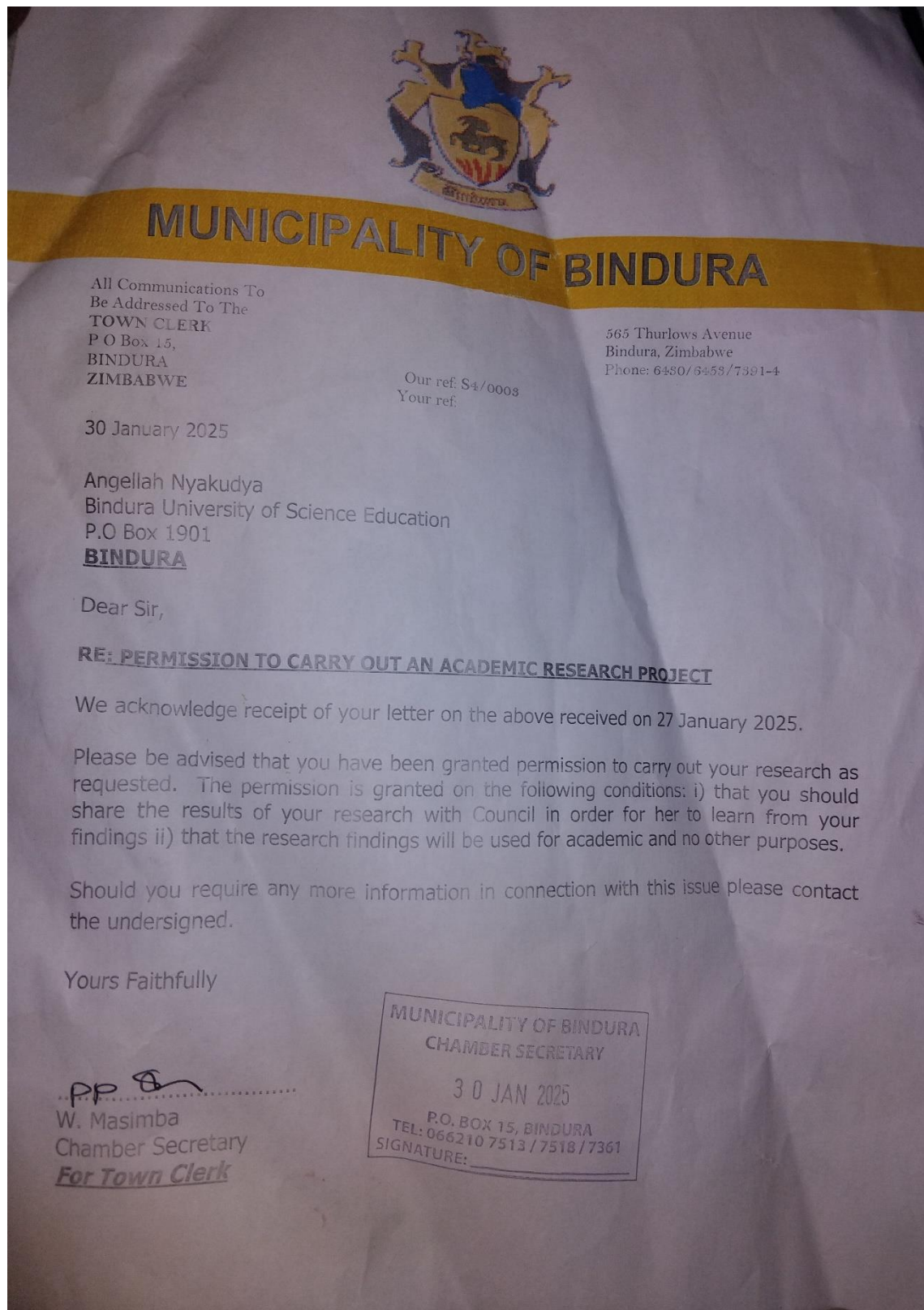
Thank you.


DR JOHN BOWORA
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**CHAIRMAN
GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF SCIENCE**

**MUNICIPALITY OF BINDURA
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SIGNATURE:**

Appendix F



Appendix G

angellah nyakudya dissertation.docx			
ORIGINALITY REPORT			
8%	5%	3%	4%
SIMILARITY INDEX	INTERNET SOURCES	PUBLICATIONS	STUDENT PAPERS
PRIMARY SOURCES			
1	Submitted to Midlands State University Student Paper	1%	
2	www.wiego.org Internet Source	<1%	
3	Submitted to Woxsen University Student Paper	<1%	
4	uir.unisa.ac.za Internet Source	<1%	
5	Lagamang, Daniel. "Investigation of Supply Chain Constraints of Fresh Produce to Johannesburg Street Vendors.", University of Johannesburg (South Africa), 2020 Publication	<1%	
6	Thandokuhle, Zwane Siphephile. "Food Safety Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices of Tshwane Street Vendors When Managing Fresh Produce.", University of Pretoria (South Africa) Publication	<1%	
7	listens.online Internet Source	<1%	
8	Submitted to Southern New Hampshire University - Continuing Education Student Paper	<1%	
9	Submitted to University of South Africa Student Paper	<1%	