TITLE: AN ASSESSMENT OF COMMUNITY SHARE OWNERSHIP TRUST AS A STRATEGY OF YOUTH ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT; A CASE OF BINDURA SHARE OWNERSHIP TRUST

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ABSTRACT

The study assessed community share ownership trust as a strategy of youth economic empowerment. The study explored the projects that are promoting youth economic empowerment in Bindura urban, challenges being faced by youth in accessing the projects initiated under CSOT and strategies to overcome these challenges. The study used a qualitative research paradigm and used a case study as the research design. The target population comprised of 50 youths of which 25 youths were selected using systematic random sampling which represented a sample size of 50 percent. Semi structured interviews were used to gather data from the 25 youths and 2 key informants who were the Youth Development Officer (YDO) and the Youth Officer and this translated to 50 percent as the sample size. The key informants were selected using purposive sampling technique. Data collected from the respondents and the key informants was presented using Microsoft Excel in form of tables. The study obtained that youths in Bindura had benefited from CSOT and that it had greatly improved their lives. They also faced challenges in the projects that were initiated under CSOT and various strategies were highlighted s ways of addressing the challenges that youths face in their economic empowerment. Youths uphold that the projects had greatly improved their lives and helped earn a living. The study identified that youths engage in retail business, manufacturing, cosmetology, poultry through CSOT. They benefited through financial support and technical support as well as being linked to resources. They face challenges which include lack of skills, lack of resources, political interference and limited business I running their projects. In trying to address these challenges the youths highlighted that there should be workshops, seminars and vocational training centers were they can learn more skills, and the government should also engage the donor community to help in funding youth projects since the government is struggling economically