PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN POLITICS. THE CASE OF MUTARE RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

BY

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A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS OF THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE HONOURS
DEGREE IN PEACE AND GOVERNANCE AT BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF
SCIENCE EDUCATION, FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES,
DEPARTMENT OF PEACE AND GOVERNANCE

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NOVEMBER 2014
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The Departmental Board of Examiners is satisfied that this dissertation report meets the examination requirements and I therefore recommend to the Bindura University to accept a research project by JAMBAYA DOREEN FADZAI titled PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN POLITICS: THE CASE OF MUTARE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Peace and Governance.

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ABSTRACT

Participation of women in politics has become an important step towards social, economic and political development of women in societies and nations at large. The study therefore, focused on the challenges that women face in participating in politics in Mutare Rural District Council. The research comes under the belief that there is low participation of women in politics despite efforts made at the international, regional and national levels to address gender inequality. This has resulted in underrepresentation and low participation of women in politics and decision making process as it causes women not to fully participate in political activities of the society as it is male dominated. The research was undertaken using a case study research design from Mutare Rural District Council using mainly qualitative research approach. The research noted that despite having sound policies which include, the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) of 1995, the SADC Gender Protocol on Gender Development, 2013-2017 National Gender Policy, and 2013 Constitution that aims to address the challenges being faced by women in politics such as discrimination, cultural and traditional practices, political culture, lack of support and fear of the unknown there is still a gap in as far as women participation in politics is concerned. The recommendations of the study included, improving women’s status in the society, women must form their own self help groups at the community level so that they will try to address socio economic challenges. Mutare Rural District Council in partnership with nongovernmental organizations should initiates adult learning programmes at the ward level so that women can be educated. The government must also initiate that the quota system also applies to local authorities bodies so as to increase women’s participation in Rural District Council and improve on implementation of policies so as to achieve gender equality and also they need to improve on monitoring and evaluation the effectiveness of gender policies in districts.
DEDICATION

To all Mutare Rural District Council Women.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I give glory to the Almighty God for bringing me this far in my academic pursuit and also His showers of blessings throughout my research project.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to my project supervisor Doctor Kurebwa, my friend Happy Chikanda and schoolmates, Tigere Njawaya, IP Mhlanga, Daniel Nyamaropa and Talent Marokwe for their exemplary guidance, monitoring and constant encouragement throughout my research project. Thank you!!!

Finally, I am also deeply thankful to my parents Rodgers and Lydia Jambaya, my brother Fortune and my two sisters Diana and Loraine for their love, care and support.
# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

<table>
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<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BPFA</td>
<td>Beijing Platform for Action</td>
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<tr>
<td>CCPR</td>
<td>Convention of Civil and Political Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEDAW</td>
<td>Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>IPU</td>
<td>Inter-Parliamentary Union</td>
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<td>MDGs</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goals</td>
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<tr>
<td>MWAGCD</td>
<td>Ministry of Women Affairs Gender and Community Development</td>
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<td>SADC</td>
<td>Southern Africa Development Community</td>
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<tr>
<td>WOZA</td>
<td>Women of Zimbabwe Arise</td>
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<tr>
<td>WIPSU</td>
<td>Women in Politics Support Unit</td>
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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Participation of women in politics has come into the view that women’s participation in democracy through politics is without no doubt an important step towards social, economic development of national and international peace, (Kumari and Kudwani, 1998). As a result, the participation of women in politics has emerged to be a critical issue around the world as it has been observed that women are heavily marginalized and excluded from the political sphere of the world yet they constitute over 50% of the world population, (National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, 2010:12). Participation of women in politics involves social change to bring about improved living conditions within a community and it would include women as voters, members of political parties, candidates, elected members of local government bodies taking part in decision making, planning, implementation and evaluation and members of women’s organization and their association with voluntary organizations.

In an effort to enhance the participation of women in politics, Zimbabwe among other African countries have granted women their right to vote, stand for election and to take part in political leadership positions through international, regional, and national conventions, declarations, and protocols, (Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development 2004). These include, the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) of 1995, the SADC Gender Protocol on Gender Development, 2013-2017 National Gender Policy, and 2013 Constitution. Nevertheless, despite the ratification and enactment of policies that aims to promote women representation and participation in politics at national, regional, and international level and the existence of women as the majority of the population, there is still gender inequality in the participation of women in politics.

According to Goetz (2003) women political participation is most measured in terms of the numbers of women to be found in formal politics, in positions of public office to which they have been elected. SADC Gender monitor of 2013 stresses that the average percentage of women in politics in the SADC region is 24.5% which is well above the global average of 19.5%, but it
falls short of the desired target of 50% of SADC Gender Development Declaration by 2015. Thus political participation can be seen in terms of the degree to which citizens are exercising their right to engage in political activities such as to influence or to get more energetically involved. As a result, women’s low representation is used as an indicator of gender inequality particularly the proportion of seats held by women in national parliament.

Disparity of women in participation in politics is also portrayed on lack of voice and influential positions they occupy in the political circles. Nzomo (1994) argues that most women who make it into the parliament are selected for ministerial positions usually hold less powerful positions associated with femininity. Most of the women became appointed as ministers usually occupy the portio-folio “special affairs” which is a stereotype itself. Davis (1997) concurs by asserting that no women was ever awarded the prerogative to take charge of important ministries such as ministry of finance, justice, foreign affairs and defense. This confirms that despite having a female vice president in Zimbabwe and other women at the council, senate and parliamentary level there is still a gap in as far as women participation in politics is concerned.

The study henceforth, focused on a comparative approach on the participation of women in politics during the period 2008 to 2013 and to analyse whether there are any changes or not. This was done to bring forth the challenges that women face in participating in politics with reference to Mutare Rural District Council resulting in low participation of women in politics. Hence, in this manner enabling the women, Mutare Rural District Council, Ministry of Gender Affairs and Community Development and Women Organizations to have an understanding of the challenges faced by women in participation in politics so as to come up with policies that address the existent challenges faced by women. This would be done in aim to achieve the Millennium Development Goal number 3 which aims to promote gender equality and empower women and SADC protocol on Gender and Development Article 12 which stipulates that state parties shall endeavor that by 2015 at least fifty percent of decision making positions in the public and private sectors are held by women including the use of affirmative action measures as provided for in Article 5, (SADC Gender Monitor, 2013).
1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

There is low participation of women in politics despite efforts made at the international, regional, and national levels to address gender inequality. This has resulted in underrepresentation and low participation of women in politics and decision making process and it causes women not to fully participate in political activities of the society as it will be male dominated.

1.3 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The research findings are going to enhance Mutare Rural District Council and scholars or academics knowledge on the factors affecting women’s participation in politics in their district as the study seeks to understand the challenges that women face in participating in politics in Mutare Rural District. This enables Mutare Rural District Council to come up with effective measures that can help women to fully participate in politics. The research also provides valuable input to other scholars existing literature on women’s participation in politics.

The research is also of importance because it will help to enlighten women in Mutare Rural District on the social, economic, and political challenges they may face in participating in formal political structures and decision making processes at all levels. This will increase understanding and awareness of factors that hinder women in politics. As a result, it will also help men and society at large to support women who intend to participate in politics.

Through the research findings and recommendations will contribute to the existing body of knowledge which might also assist the Ministry of Women Affairs and Gender and Community Development, International actors and Women Organizations to come up with possible solutions that addresses gender inequalities that are perpetuated by legal, social, political and economic structures that restricts the affirmative participation of women in politics.

1.4 ASSUMPTIONS

The research assumes that there is low participation of women in politics in Mutare Rural District Council.
1.5 PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The study seeks to understand the challenges that women face in participating in politics in Mutare Rural District Council.

1.6 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. To assess the causes of low participation of women in politics.
2. To examine the effects of low participation of women in politics.
3. To examine the role of other organizations in politics.
4. To provide recommendations on improving participation of women in politics.

1.7 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the causes of low participation of women in politics?
2. What are the effects of low participation of women in politics?
3. What are the contributions of Women Organizations in the participation of women in politics?
4. What measures can be undertaken to increase women’s participation in politics?

1.8 DELIMITATIONS

The research was carried out in Mutare Rural District Council of Manicaland Province and mainly focuses on the participation of women in politics from the period 2008 to 2013.

1.9 LIMITATIONS

According to Best and Kahn (1993) limitations are those conditions beyond the control of the researcher that may place restrictions on the conclusions of the study and its application to other situations. The study encountered challenges in reaching the key informants as some were occupied with their job responsibilities.
1.10 DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Crick (1962) refers politics as the activity by which different interest within a given unity of rule are conciliated by giving them a share in power in proportion to their importance to the welfare and survival of their community.

Delius (1989) refers participation as the involvement of significant numbers of persons in situations or actions which enhance their well-being, it is organized efforts to increase control over resources and regulate institutions on the part of the groups and movements hitherto excluded from control. Uhlaner (2001) refers political participation as “political engagement or public involvement in decision making.”

The notion of representation may be regarded as an effort by the elected or other public official to build more inclusive, deliberative and engaged relationship with the public, Orr and McAteer (2004:133). Verba, Schlozman, and Brady (1995) refers political representation as an activity that has the intent or effect of influencing government action either directly by affecting the making or implementation of public policy or indirectly by influencing the selection of people who make those pose.

Leadership is a process whereby an individual influences a group of people to achieve a common goal. North house PG (2010). Parsell and Bligh (2000) are of the opinion that leadership involves the possession and use of power and authority to bring about change in terms of influencing the thoughts and actions of other people.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (1995) defined gender as the qualities associated with men and women that are socially and cultural than biologically determined. According to Scott (1998) gender refers to the social organization of sexual differences. It is the knowledge that establishes meaning for bodily differences. These meanings vary across cultures, social groups, and time.
1.11 CHAPTER OUTLINE

Chapter One presents the introduction and the background of the study and outlines the statement of the problem, significance of the study, assumptions, purpose of the study, research objectives, research questions, and delimitations of the study, limitations of the research, ethical considerations, and definition of key terms.

Chapter Two outlines the literature review and the theoretical and conceptual framework underpinning this study.

Chapter Three presents the research design and methodology that will be used in the study. It outlines the sampling process, the data collection, and the data analysis procedures that will be used in the study.

Chapter Four presents the data presentation, analysis, and discussions of the findings of the challenges that women face in participating in politics in Mutare Rural District Council.

Chapter Five outlines summary, conclusions, recommendations and areas for further research. The proceeding chapter will then focus on the literature review and the theoretical and conceptual framework underpinning this study.
CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the theoretical framework which is the critical mass theory and the intrinsic and instrumentalist arguments and will attempt to review the existing literature related to the participation of women in politics in different African countries. Vakalisa (1999:38) refers literature review as the “focused attempt to get more familiar with what has been said and done in your problem area from documented information.” The chapter will therefore look on the existing literature on the significance of women’s participation in politics, the challenges that women face in participating in politics, the effects of low participation of women in politics, the contributions of women organizations in enhancing the participation of women in politics and the policies that have been implemented to enhance their participation.

2.2 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.2.1 The Critical Mass Theory

The critical mass theory has its roots in the writings of Kanter (1977) and Dahlerup (1988) who analyzed the experiences of women who form a small minority in the political spheres. Gender and Politics scholars argues that the critical mass theory is not based on the indications of female office holders, but rather to the fact that there are fewer women than men in almost elected decision making bodies. As result Dahlerup (1988) stresses that advocates to enhance women’s political representation and participation rely on the theory to argue for electoral gender quotas. This is also supported by a 1992 study by the United Nations, which concludes that “only a critical mass of 30% to 35% of women in politics will make a significant difference to the political culture due to the priority women give to ‘the needs of other women, children, elderly, disabled and disadvantaged” (Porter, 1999: 85). Therefore, the core idea behind quota system is to recruit women into political positions and to ensure that women are not only a few tokens in political life, (International IDEA, 2002).
2.2.2 Intrinsic and Instrumentalist Arguments

a) Intrinsic arguments

According to Jayal (2005) intrinsic arguments looks at equal participation of women in politics from the democratic and human rights perspective. Intrinsic argument stresses that if women make up 50% of the population they should also roughly make 50% of women in politics and decision making bodies, (Farzana, 2005). As a result, women have the right to participate in politics under equal conditions to those of men. The Beijing Platform for Action states that “no government can claim to be democratic until women are guaranteed the right to equal representation.” Therefore, Sawer (2002) stresses that this is a simple justice argument that no country can claim itself truly democratic if half of its female population is not represented in its political institutions. This then calls for formal representation of women in politics on an equal basis with men and it requires any barriers to women participation to be removed.

b) Instrumentalist arguments

The instrumentalist arguments are based on the utility and symbolic arguments. The utility argument stresses that women have different interests and priorities from men. This entails that women and men play different roles in a society and therefore women cannot be adequately represented in politics and decision making by men, (Corner 1997:4). Okechukwu, Tony, and Chimaraoke (2014) argue that the pragmatic, efficiency based thesis for women’s participation in decision making start from the recognition that women and men have different needs, interest, and priorities arising from their specific roles and decisions. The failure to incorporate women’s concerns in decision making represents a major loss for the society as a whole.

The symbolic arguments indicate that women’s active participation in politics and decision making is essential in order to ensure that women can promote and defend their needs and interest. According to IPU (2000) the presence of women in decision making improves social welfare of the state as women in leadership are more likely to represent the needs and interests of other women in vulnerable groups such as children and people living with disabilities than men.
As a result, equal participation should reflect the views and interest of both men and in the society.

The study henceforth will be based on the critical mass theory and the intrinsic and instrumentalist arguments as they stress that to enhance the participation of women in politics, women as full citizens constituting at least half of the population of the world has the right to proportional representation in politics. Therefore, women need to be at least a large minority to have an impact, Kanter (1977) and to make a difference women need to have a critical mass at least 30% of decision making bodies. This due to the reason that laws can ensure that women have an equal opportunity to vote and to pursue political careers but women may not come to the starting line with the same resources or skills as men and this can result in differences in outcomes even without differences in opportunity.

2.3 PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN POLITICS

Delius (1989) refers participation as the involvement of significant numbers of persons in situations or actions which enhance their well-being, it is organized efforts to increase control over resources and regulate institutions on the part of the groups and movements hitherto excluded from control. Women’s enhanced participation in governance structures is viewed as the key to redress gender inequalities in societies. Uhlaner (2001) refers political participation as political engagement or public involvement in decision making. Konadu (2001) indicates that the current state of women’s participation in politics is and public decision making is disappointing. Despite considerable efforts, women still remain marginalized and underrepresented in those areas of public life where important decisions are made.

In Africa, women’s participation in politics and at all levels of decision making is relatively low. SADC Gender monitor of 2013 stresses that the average percentage of women in politics in the SADC region is 24.5% which is well above the global average of 19.5%, but it falls short of the desired target of 50% of SADC Gender Development Declaration by 2015. Mauritius and Zimbabwe are the only two SADC Member States with women Vice Presidents. Botswana, Mozambique, and Tanzania have women Speakers of Parliament/ National Assembly. Angola, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe have women Deputy Speakers. Zimbabwe and Swaziland have women Presidents of the Senate while Namibia has a Deputy
Chairperson of the National Council, (Banda, and Masuka, 2013). At the continental level Rwanda has become a shining example by achieving gender parity, interpreted as the 50% goal set by the AU Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality. At 56% women representation in parliament, Rwanda is also the global leader, (Inter-Parliamentary Union 2009).

2.4 THE SIGNIFICANCE OF WOMEN’S PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS

According to World Bank (1996) women and children are more vulnerable because traditional usually gives them less decision-making power over assets than men, while at the same time their opportunities to engage in remunerated activities, and to acquire their own assets is more limited. Thus the presence of women in decision making improves social welfare of the state as women in leadership positions are more likely to represent the needs and the interest of women and vulnerable groups such as children and people with disadvantages than men, IPU (2000). Some have pointed out that, due to their socialization women tend to take decisions that are conducive to improvement in the welfare of the societies which include issues of health and education. Therefore, to exclude women from participating in politics hinders valuable contribution to the progress and welfare of the people, which are crucial for the attainment of Millennium Development Goals to be achieved by 2015.

The Beijing Platform for Action (1995) argues that women’s participation in political life plays a pivotal role in the general process of the advancement of women. Women’s participation in politics and decision making at the household to national levels has been found to be an important ingredient in development process. If women take part in development process as active participants rather than passive recipients and their interest and concerns are taken into account, this will enhance women’s equal access to fully participate in politics and decision making process. Paltry women participation of women in cabinet come with consequences to development because cabinet is the effective arm of government responsible for setting the policy agenda of a nation, determination of policy continent and overseeing, including its implementation and administration, (Dube 2012).

The World Bank (2001) argues that women are less corrupt than men. The world body has observed where there is a high level of women’s political involvement there is low levels of
corruption. It is therefore, argued that the participation of women in politics would make a substantive and quantitative difference to the governance of the countries.

2.5 CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN PARTICIPATING IN POLITICS

Barriers to participation of women in politics are not specific to one region as their form and severity differ among regions. According to SADC Gender Monitor (2013) the barriers range from patriarchy, cultural, social, economic and political factors that makes it difficult for women to the top echelons of political and decision making positions at all levels.

Tamale (2004) and Ssenyenjo (2007) argue that across the world women gender inequality remains the norm and women have continued to encounter discriminatory practices as a result of cultural practices. The World Conference on Cultural Policies of 1982 defined culture as the whole complex of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features that characterize a society or a social group. It includes not only arts and letters but also modes of life, the fundamental rights of human being, value systems, traditions, and beliefs. In a way each society or community has its own peculiar way of doing things and these practices go a long way in influencing the people’s perception, attitudes, and behavior in the conduct of business in the society. This makes the culture as the most important and authoritative cannon to the African world view whereby any form of liberation will have to come to terms with culture, (Kanyoro 2002). It is therefore argued that in African society the role and status of women is seen as a reflection of a culture that places a premium on the cohesion and strength of the family as a basis of society.

The socio-cultural norms have then resulted in formidable gender specific barriers between men and women in the society, (Kadzimira 1995). Women generally belong to the domestic spheres, managing and controlling the house hold economy while men belong to the public sphere of business, politics, military, and other roles deemed males. Meena (1992) indicates that women who are independent minded assertive and aggressive are regarded as evil, vicious, immoral and uncultured while the more submissive, humble and dependant characters are regarded as having the ideal qualities of the African woman. Beck (1994) and Hammond (1993) stresses that these cultural constructed stereotypes about women have their impact on the positions of women at the
work place, whereby male employers reward women as being less capable than men and unfit for responsible positions, claiming that their family obligations take priority and hence, subjects them to lower productivity and absenteeism. In a way this limits their opportunity to participate in public life whether political, social, or economic.

This is worsened by the patriarchal nature of the African society whereby women are subjected to male domination. Sanday (1981) looks at male dominance from two angles. First, is the exclusion of women from political and economic decision making and secondly, male aggression towards women. This results in men dominating the political arena and formulating the rules of the game, (Nazedsa 1998).

According to Dziva, Makaye and Dube (2013) low participation of women is blamed on women’s weaker socio-economic position, lack of education, the burden of and entrenched cultural prejudices. Gaidzwanwa (2011) indicates that education in the rural areas is still very low. Women’s education opportunities have been hindered due to different social factors in African societies which include social roles and responsibilities that are limited to bearing and caring for children and other cultural practices such as preference to educate male child, teenage pregnancy or early marriages. Djegal, Margaret and Kwadwo (1996: xii) stress that literacy is identified by women as the main stumbling block to becoming more involved in the community decision making process. This gave them a negative self-image and impact on women participating in politics as Burns (2001) stresses that education enhances other factors supporting political engagement, such as access to high income jobs that provide the resources and contacts for political activity.

Most women in African countries are economically marginalized and own a few resources in which everything to do with money have gender implications. For instance, election nomination deposits are usually a barrier for women to partake in politics. According to World Bank (2001) 70 % of the 1, 3 billion women are living in on less than a dollar per day. This indicates that women face financial challenges to fully participate in politics as Philips (1991:79) points out that “everyone knows to be the case that the extent to which individuals become involved in politics and thereby gain access to decision making channels is directly correlated with the resources they have at their command: that all else being equal, those who have everything else get political power as well.”
In some of the African countries such as Zimbabwe, Nigeria and Kenya women perceive politics as a dirty game which is characterized with violence and corruption, Obasanjo (2002) argues that political insecurity, harassment, violence, thuggery, uncertainties, and intimidations are strong factors militating against the participation of women in Nigerian politics. This is the reason why politics is considered as a dirty game. As a result, this restricts women from taking up political leadership positions as they are regarded as soft people with good morals in the African society. Heilman (1998) indicates that female leaders who display so called “masculine” traits and behaviors such as aggressiveness, tough mindedness, confidence and self-assurance which are theoretically what is expected of men, are negatively evaluated as they have violated gender roles. Elshatin (1987) argues that the way men and women think about themselves has a direct consequence on the way women and men act in matters concerning politics.

2.6 THE EFFECTS OF LOW PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN POLITICS

According to Dube (2012) paltry participation of women in political activities and cabinet comes with consequences to development as cabinet is the effective arm of government responsible for setting the policy agenda of a nation, determination of policy content and overseeing, including its implementation and administration. As a result, UN (2007) stresses that failure to ensure the participation and inclusion of women’s voices in decision making processes defeat the goals of equality, development and peace as it is essential to take women’s interests into account to strengthen democracy and promote its proper functioning.

Ayot (2007:189) argues that the state can be an extremely hostile environment for women, particularly in conditions of violent political conflict. In these conditions women may exit the political arena altogether and leave the dirty game of politics for men to fight out. This then has a negative effect on women whereby Phillips (1995: 66) asserts that, “there are particular needs, interests and concerns that arise from women’s experiences and these will be inadequately addressed in a politics that is dominated by men. Equal rights to vote have not proved strong enough to deal with this problem. There must also be equality amongst those elected to office.”

2.7 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

In an effort to address issues of gender inequality in women’s participation in politics, Zimbabwe among other African countries is a signatory to regional and international conventions that aims
to improve the participation of women in politics. The United Nations therefore, has identified six avenues by which female participation in politics and government may be strengthened. These include, equalization of education, opportunities, quotas for female participation in governing bodies, legislative reform to increase focus on issues concerning women and children, financing gender responsive budgets to equality, take into account the needs of men and women, increasing the presence of sex-disaggregated statistics in national and furthering the presence and agency of grassroots women’s empowerment, movements, UNICEF (2006). These are addressed by the conventions that have been implemented to address issues of gender inequality in women’s participation in politics.

2.7.1 Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948

The Universal Declaration (UDHR) is a declaration adopted by the United National General Assembly on 10 December 1948 in Paris. It is there to promote and protect human rights since they are fundamental rights which a person has by virtue of being a human being. Human rights are inherent to all human beings, regardless of nationality, place of residence, sex, national, or ethnic origin, color, religion, language, or any other status. Therefore, all human beings are equally entitled to these rights without discrimination. Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person. Women are recognised as a vulnerable group and there must be measures to assure positives enjoyment of human rights by women. It therefore, aims to promote the right of people to participate in the governance of their countries.

It includes, the civil and political rights, such as the rights to vote and to be elected, the rights to freedom of expression and assembly, access to information and the right to organize political parties and carry out political activities, (McFaul, 2005). The Beijing Platform for Action therefore, stresses that “No government can claim to be democratic until women are guaranteed the right to equal representation.” As a result, most countries in Africa which include, Nigeria, South Africa, Rwanda and Zimbabwe have granted women the right to vote, the right to stand for election women and the right to take part in political leadership positions through ratification and signing a number of conventions, declarations and protocols to correct the present gender imbalances in the participation of women and men in the political life.
These include, 1979 Convention of Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Universal Declaration of Human Rights OF 1948, the 1966 Convention on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR), the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 1952 Convention of the Political Rights of Women, SADC Protocol on Gender and Development of 1997 and the 2004 National Gender Policy (MWAGCD, 2004). These have managed in a way to enable women to participate in the governance of their countries. Kumari and Kidwani (1998) stress that women’s participation in democracy through politics is without doubt an important step towards social equality, economic development and national and international peace.

2.7.2 Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) 1979

According to UN (1995) up-to-date 186 member states worldwide have ratified CEDAW, which entered into force in 1981, signaling their commitment to fulfilling the human rights and breaking down the barriers to achieving gender equality and justice. CEDAW is based on the concept of substantive equality, which focuses on the outcomes and impacts of law and policies, (UN Women 2011).

The instrument defines discrimination as a distinction, exclusion, or restriction made on the basis of sex, which has the effects of impairing the exercise of rights. It also condemns discrimination against women in all forms and requires state parties to undertake constitutional, legislative policies aimed at eliminating discrimination against women in both public and private spheres. Article 2 of CEDAW affirms the obligation of state “to persevere by all appropriate means and without delay, a policy of eliminating discrimination against women.” In fulfillment of this obligation the Zimbabwean government has implemented the National Gender Policy and other policies also. Gadzaiwana (2006) asserts that by acceding to the CEDAW the government of Zimbabwe is bound to guarantee equality between men and women. However, some scholars argue that CEDAW is mainly affected by lack of stability in many African Countries since lack of stability contribute to the loss of fundamental rights, a secure life with a lack of fear is essential to empower women to have equal access to political life. Hence, good governance is also a crucial factor for women to enjoy life. This is evidenced in Somalia where they have been experiencing political instability and they have not ratified CEDAW.
2.7.3 Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) 1995

According to Minnesota Advocate for Human Rights (1996) the platform established twelve critical areas of concern that need to be addressed in order to achieve political, social, economic, cultural, and environmental security among all people. Two of the critical areas identified are the participation of women in politics and decision and the economic empowerment of women. It argues that women empowerment and autonomy and the improvement of their social, economic, and political status is essential for the achievement of transparent and accountable government and administration and sustainable development in all areas of life, (UN 1995). As a result, women need to be fairly represented among economic and political decision makers as it stresses that “no government can claim to be democratic until women are guaranteed the right to equal representation.” Therefore, it urged states to take measures to ensure women’s equal access to full participation in power structures and decision making. It then argues for 30% quota system, Ward (2004), though member states can choose to observe the provisions or not to as these frameworks has no legal power to protect women unless countries in cooperate the principles into domestic laws.

2.7.4 United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 2000

The Millennium Development Goals are eight international development goals that were implemented following the Millennium Summit of the United Nations in 2000. Goal number three aims to promote gender equality and empower women. The main target is to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2015 at all levels, (UN 2005). This means equality at all levels of education and in all areas of work, equal control over resources and equal representation in public and political life.

2.8 CONTINENTAL CONVENTIONS


The protocol requires member states to combat all forms of discrimination against women through appropriate legislative, institutional, and other measures. Article 9 on right to participation in the political and decision making process stipulate that “state parties shall take
specific positive action such as enacting laws that clearly stipulate and encourage the participation of women in the political life of their countries on equal footing with men. These affirmative action’s, national legislation and other measures should ensure that women participate without any discrimination in all elections and shall ensure increased and effective representation of women at all levels of decision making”, (WiLDAF- West Africa, 2005).

2.9 REGIONAL CONVENTIONS

2.9.1 Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Gender and Development 2008

Zimbabwe signed this protocol in 2008 and ratified it in 2009. Article 12 on Representation, section (i) stresses that State Parties shall endeavor that by 2015 at least fifty percent of decision making positions in the public and private sectors are held by women including the use of affirmative action measures as provided for in Article 5. The representation of women in decision making structures is recognized as fundamental human right by the national, regional and international instruments to which SADC member states are parties. Article 13 on Participation stipulates that State Parties shall ensure the equal participation of women and men in decision making by putting in place policies, strategies and programmes for changing discriminatory attitudes and norms of decision making structures and procedures, SADC Gender Monitor (2013). Nevertheless, considering the fact that SADC countries region average percentage on women in politics is 24, 5 % (SADC Gender Monitor 2013) one can argue that many SADC countries have failed to meet the target as they are left with only one year to be in 2015. As for Zimbabwe it is now waiting for the next elections in 2018.

2.10 NATIONAL LEGISLATIONS

2.10.1 Constitution of Zimbabwe 2013

The new constitution of 2013 argues for the quota system where it stipulates that “for the life of the first two Parliaments after the effective date, an additional sixty women members, six from each of the provinces into which Zimbabwe is divided, elected through a system of proportional representation based on the votes cast for candidates representing political parties in a general election for constituency members in the provinces” (Zimbabwe Constitution, 2013: 53).
The quota system is regarded as the only one route opened to the entry of women in politics without transforming the political reality of the country. According to Phillips (1995) the quotas dismantle the status quo and let women feel, and be seen, as represented in the formal decision-making process. Advantages of quota system according to International DEA (2002) include the fact that women have the right as citizens to equal representation as a result quota for women do not discriminate, but compensate for actual barriers that prevent women from their fair share of the political seats.

Various theorists (Kanter, 1977; Dahlerup, 1988; Phillips, 1995) have therefore, argued that quotas for women should be reserved because most representatives are confined to voting along party political lines, and have few moments of autonomy. In these opportunities for independent thinking, the character and identity of the representatives is significant. Women through their various identities can therefore contribute to the political discourse by adding their unique perspective. However, Ana Balletbo, Member of Parliament in Spain in International IDEA (2002) asserts that “quotas are double edged sword, on the one hand, they oblige men to think about including women in decision making, since men must create paces for women. On the other hand, since it is men who are opening up these spaces they will seek out women who they will be able to manage- women who will more easily accept the hegemony of men.”

In this effect, Costa (2010) stresses that for quotas to be successful there is need for a quota policy to consider a series of legal mechanisms for punishment and restriction of those who do not comply with the law. Brazil is one of the countries failed to uphold the quota system because it did not include mechanisms which guaranteed the mandatory nature of the quota system. Dahlerup (2003) also argues that an essential element of the effective implementation of quota systems needs to be engaged by women’s organizations and others in building the capacity of women to act effectively in political office. This is due to the reason that the greatest indication of lack of political will to include women in politics can be portrayed through the response to the campaign for quota representation of women in all levels of political decision making.

The quota system is in line with provisions in the new constitution of 2013 chapter 17 which advocates gender balance. It argues that “he State must promote full gender balance in Zimbabwean society, and particular-- a. the State must promote the full participation of women in all spheres of Zimbabwean society on the basis of equality with men; b. the State must take all
measures, including legislative measures, needed to ensure that-- i. both genders are equally represented in all institutions and agencies of government at every level, (Zimbabwe Constitution 2013: 18). Also it stresses that “Every woman has full and equal dignity of the person with men and this includes equal opportunities in political, economic and social activities,” (Zimbabwe Constitution 2013: 38). However, according to Legal Resources Foundation (2014) it should be noted that despite the provisions in the constitution there is little evidence that much has been done to ensure gender equality becomes a reality in Zimbabwe, particularly for women who have been marginalized for centuries. Zaba and Ndebele (2013) argued that the new constitution provision on gender equality is just on paper as it is not being upheld. This is evidenced by the male dominated cabinet with only three women out of twenty-six ministers, three out of thirteen ministers of state and 5 out of 24 deputy ministers which means that only 11.5% of the 50-50 ratio called by SADC.

2.10.2 National Gender Policy 2013-2017

To uphold these protocols and conventions, the Zimbabwean government implemented the National Gender Policy of 2013 to 2017 whereby its policy goal is to eradicate gender discrimination and in equalities in all spheres of life and development through different policy strategies such as gender, politics and decision making which aims to create a supportive environment for gender parity in politics and decisions making positions, (National Gender policy 2013).

2.11 THE ROLE OF WOMEN’S ORGANIZATIONS IN ENHANCING WOMEN’S PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS

Many international, regional and national nongovernmental organizations have played a crucial role in empowering women in politics. This through their activities which include, advocacy and lobbying for women rights, gender awareness activities such as celebrating the international women’s day.

2.11.1 United Nations Women

The UN Women is also known as the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and is working for empowerment of women. Its main goal is to support the intergovernmental bodies, such as
the Commission on the status of women, in their formulation of policies, global standards and norms. The UN Women mainly focus on violence against women, peace and security, leadership and participation, national planning and budgeting, economic empowerment and millennium development goals. Un Women’s fund for gender equality provides grants to governments and civil society organization to advance economic and political empowerment.

According to UN Women report 2013-2014, UN Women in partnership with Tunisia gender equality advocates for the 2013 Constitution managed to produce a steady stream of evidence and argument informing Constituent Assembly debates, covering issues which include, gender parity principle and commitments under CEDAW. When it was adopted the constitution included provisions to guarantee gender parity in all elected assemblies and require state action to eliminate all forms of violence against women. The UN Women Annual Report also asserts that through focused advocacy in Malawi helped to lead decision makers to the passage of its Gender Equality Act and it goes in line with CEDAW as it makes comprehensive commitments to women’s rights such as 40-60 quotas for women in the public service and the prohibition of traditional harmful practices such as sexual harassment.

2.11.2 The Southern Africa Gender Protocol Alliance

The Southern Africa Gender Protocol Alliance is a coalition of 16 gender and empowerment organizations working at regional and national levels. It seeks to make SADC governments commitment to gender equality legally binding as a tool for cementing the success already and accelerating action towards addressing the many gaps that still exists towards full equality between men and women.

The SADC Gender Protocol Barometer is one of the documents that have been implemented by SADC Africa Gender Protocol Alliance which aims to measure the progress in implementing of the SADC Gender Protocol by the member states. According to the SADC Protocol Barometer, representation of women in parliament within the SADC regions in 2011 was 25 % and is still only half way to the target of women representation by 2015.
2.11.3 Women of Zimbabwe Arise

It was established in 2003 as a women’s civic movement to provide women, from all walks of life, with a united voice to speak out on issues affecting their day to day lives, encourage women to stand up for their rights and freedoms and lobby and advocate on those issues affecting women and their families. It is based on the principles of strategic nonviolence and it creates space to allow Zimbabweans to articulate issues they may be fearful to raise alone. This has helped most women in Zimbabwe to exercise their political, economic and social rights fully.

2.11.4 Women in Politics Support Unit (WiPSU)

Women in Politics Support Unit plays a significant role in enhancing women’s participation in politics as it increases women’s qualitative participation and influence in policy and decision making with a clear understanding and commitment from these women to focus on women’s issues while holding those positions through advocacy and lobbying.

It argues fifteen reasons why vote for a woman and these are, women are know that people need decisions to be established on sustainability not opportunism; women in leadership influence power for collective empowerment; women listen more to a variety stakeholders; women channel their income to community infrastructure and improvement; women are also a leadership reserve or fallback consulted when in need of answers; women have learnt to unite marginal, excluded communities into collectively organized and governed microcosms; women are inclusive and comprehensive; creativity and originality is a quality women possess; membership is encouraged among women in leadership; women are less corrupt; women are protective of their constitution as they have the natural motherly instinct. The helps enhance the participation of women in politics as women and society at large are given the insight on the importance of women’s participating in politics.

2.12 Conclusion

This chapter has provided literature on the theoretical frame work on the challenges faced by women in participating in politics. The chapter also highlighted the legislatives and policies that have been established to enhance the participation of women participation in politics. The
literature review provided an important foundation for this study. The next chapter will present the research design and methodology and the sampling process, the data collection, and the data analysis procedures that will be used in the study to examine the challenges that women face in participation in politics in Mutare Rural District Council.
CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter outlines the research design and approach that were employed in the study. It also described the sampling process, the data collection, data presentation and analysis procedures. This helped in examining the challenges that women face in participating in politics.

3.2 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

According to Babbie (2001) research methodology refers to the strategy or decision lying behind the use of particular methods. Methodology is thus can be described as the framework associated with a particular set of paradigmatic assumption that can be used to conduct research, O’Leary (2004:85). According to Babbie (2010) qualitative research design is a research paradigm for social scientists to study human action from the perspective of social actors. The study used qualitative research methodology because it aims to better understand human behavior and experience. This gave the study a complete detailed description of the topic under study as it is interactive and subjective in nature which describes life experiences and give them meaning.

3.3 RESEARCH DESIGN

The research design refers to the researcher’s overall plan for obtaining answers to the research questions, (Polit and Hungler 1999:225). Therefore, the study used a case study research design to understand the challenges that women face in participating in politics. Creswell (1998) defined a case study as an exploration of a case over time through detailed in-depth data collection involving multiple sources of information rich in context. The research focused on Mutare Rural District Council as the case study from the period 2008 to 2013. The study used case study because it explores and analyses the interactions between different factors that can give an explanation to the challenges that women face in participating in politics. Bhattacherjee (2012:40) argues that the strength of a case study is its ability to discover a wide variety of social, cultural, and political factors potentially related to the phenomenon of interest that may not be known in advance. Although the result cannot be generalized to the wider population as
each person has different point of view towards various causes which result into different outlook for the same problem and finds different solutions.

3.4 STUDY POPULATION AND SAMPLE

3.4.1 Population

According to Scheaffer, Mendehall, Ott and Gerow (2012) population refers to a collection of elements about which one wishes to make an inference. Therefore, Kothari (2008:24) stresses that this refers to a group to which results of the study are intended to relate and from which those individuals selected to participate in a study are drawn. The target population of the study consisted of women of different age groups (young, middle aged and grownups) in Mutare Rural District Council. This was essential since their level of participation and responsibilities are also different. The study also focused on Mutare Rural councilors and gender officers of Mutare Rural District Council, Ministry of Women Affairs and Gender Community Development and Legal Resources Foundation.

3.4.2 Sample

Sampling refers to the process that is always strategic and sometimes mathematical, which will involve using the most practical procedures possible for gathering a sample that best represent a larger population, O’ Leary (2004:103). Field (2005) defines a sample as a smaller (but hopefully representative) collection of units from a pollution used to determine truths about that population. Bhattacherjee (2012:65) stresses that “it is extremely important to choose a sample that is truly representative of the population so that the inferences derived from the sample can be generalized back to the population of interest.” The sample size was 10% of the estimated 360 total population of women in Mutare Rural District Council per ward which is 36 women, one from each ward as Leedy (1980) indicates that between 10-15% is representative enough of the population.
3.5 SAMPLING TECHNIQUES

3.5.1 Simple Random Sampling

Simple random sample is a sub-set of statistical population in which each member of subset has an equal probability of being chosen (Kothari, 1985). Simple random was used to select women in Mutare Rural District Council. The questionnaires were used to collect data from Mutare Rural District Council women’s participation in politics. The researcher used the basket method to choose the number of respondents. A list of yes or no was written on pieces of paper. All the cards were placed in a basket. The basket was raised and shaken vigorously and a single card was drawn at a time by a friend, until we had 36 respondents to give the questionnaires.

3.5. 2 Purposive Sampling

Purposive sampling was used in this study due to the fact that it is a non-random sampling technique in which a researcher request persons with specific characters to participate in a research study, (Johnson and Christensen 2004:215). Kumar (2005:179) stresses that the primary consideration in purposive, is deliberating who can provide the best information to achieve the objectives of the study. The key informants of the study were Mutare Rural District Council councilors and Gender Officer from the Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development and Legal Resource Foundation as they are observant, reflective members of the community of interest who know much about the participation of women in politics in Mutare Rural District Council and they were both able and willing to share their knowledge.

3.6 DATA COLLECTION

For collecting information needed to find solutions to the problem under investigating primary, secondary, and documentary sources of information were used. Eckstein (2002) argues that data collection procedures involve the following steps, making appointments with research subjects, through telephone, fax, or letters, distribution and administering of instruments on the sample for example by hand, mail or through research assistants and lastly through retrieval of instruments (Eckstein. 2002).
3.7 Primary Data Instruments

Primary research refers to the collection of data from a firsthand experience. The key primary data instruments were key informant interviews and questionnaires.

3.7.1 Key Informants Interviews

Kvale and Flick (2007) describe the interview as a conservation that has a structure and a purpose determined by the interviewer and in which the researcher asks about, and listens to what people relate, in words, about their lived world. Babbie (2010) stresses that interview allow the participant to speak for him/herself instead of responding to predetermined hypothesis based questions. This technique is characterized by extensive probing and open-ended questions. As a result, the research used semi-structured interviews to the key informants as they give a room for deeper probing and explanation of issues to be raised. The key informants’ interviews were conducted to councilors and gender officers in Mutare Rural District Council and Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development and Legal Resources Foundation as they are observant, reflective members of the community of interest who know much about the participation of women in politics in Mutare Rural District Council.

3.7.2 Survey

The research used survey to collect data through the use of questionnaires. Johnson and Christensen (2004:164) define a questionnaire as a self-report data collection instrument that each research participant fills out as part of a study. They are research drafted questions used as guidelines to achieve the best results. Anderson (2004:208) contends that surveys questionnaires are perhaps the most widely used data gathering technique in research and can be used to measure issues that are crucial to the management and development of human resources such as behavior, attitudes, beliefs, opinions characteristics, and expectation and so on. Questionnaires were used in order to collect as much relevant information as possible from Mutare Rural District Council women.

Kumar (1996:114) stresses that the advantages of a questionnaire are that it is less expensive and offers greater anonymity while the disadvantages are that a response to a question may be influenced by the response to other questions, low response rate, and lack of opportunity to
clarify issues. Therefore, the researcher included open ended to prevent the limitations noted by Kumar as Cohen, Manion and Morrison (2007) stresses that open question enables participants to write a free account in their own terms, to explain and qualify their responses and avoid the limitations of pre-set categories of response. The researcher also used closed ended questions which also enabled comparisons that were made across groups in the sample.

Secondary data instruments refer to the already published documents in a given area of study. Secondary information was obtained from publications and existing records from the Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development, Mutare Rural District Council and Zimbabwe Election Support Network.

### 3.8 Documentary Research

Documentary search is the use of outside source, documents to support the view point or an argument of an academic work, Barbour (2000:69). Documents in research may include, inter alia: policies, acts, and written essays. In addition, the material may also be public records, textbooks, letters, films, tapes diaries, themes, and reports, Neuman (2006:323). Documentary information was obtained from publications and existing records from the Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development, Mutare Rural District Council and Zimbabwe Election Support Network. These include, the National Gender Policy 2013-2017, 2013 Constitution. The research used also documentary 2008 and 2013 elections results from Zimbabwe Election Support Network to compare and analyze the two elections results. As a result, documentary research helped to reveal the existing literature on what has been cover and what has not been given enough attention pertaining to the area of study.
3.8 Categories of Respondents

Table 3.8.1 categories of respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of respondents</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Data collection method</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>Mutare Rural District</td>
<td>Survey</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender focal person</td>
<td>1. Mutare Rural District Council</td>
<td>Key Informant Interview</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development</td>
<td>Key Informant Interview</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Legal Resources Foundations</td>
<td>Key Informant Interview</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Councilors</td>
<td>Key Informant Interview</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total of number respondents</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.9 DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

The data was presented in simple but meaningful tables, pie charts and graphs. The participant’s responses were analyzed using content qualitative analysis. Content analysis is a method of analyzing written, verbal, or visual communication messages, Cole (1988). De Vos (1998) and Vithal and Jason (2005) argue that the analysis of data is to make sense of the data bringing order, structure and meaning to the mass of data collected.

The study also employed thematic analysis. Creswell (2013) stresses that thematic analysis is a form of analysis that counts and reports the frequency of concepts/ words/ behaviors’ held within the data. The study therefore, used thematic data analysis because it allows the researcher to discover the major themes in the study.
3.10 RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY

Reliability provides information on whether the data collection procedure is consistent and accurate (Bell 2005:117). Reliability of the study is to be ensured through the review of available documents to supplement on given data. According to Sattler (1982:23) validity is the “extent to which a test measures what it is supposed to measure and also the appropriateness with which inferences can be made on the basis of the test results.” Validity involves collecting and analyzing data to assess the accuracy of an instrument. The researcher used pilot testing to measure the reliability and validity of the research.

3.11 PILOT TESTING

A pilot test is a method that is used to design and or methods and or instrument before carrying out a research. According to Kvale (2007) the pilot test will assist the research in determining if there are flaws, limitations, or other weakness within the interview design and will allow the researcher to make necessary revisions prior to the implementation of the study. The advantages of pilot testing are that it permits initial testing of the instruments for irregularities. It offers the investigator ideas, methods, and clues in improving the instruments before carrying out the research. Therefore, the research had a pilot test before carrying out the research as it allows a thorough check of the statistical and logical sequencing of the questions, for reliability and validity.

3.12 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

To adhere to ethical considerations, permission to carry out the study was granted from the District Administrators’ Office and Mutare Rural District Council. The participants received explanatory information describing the voluntary and confidential nature of the study as it was purely used for academic purposes only. Bhattacherjee (2012:137) argues that “subjects in a research project must be aware that their participation in the study is voluntary, that they have the freedom to withdraw from the study at any time without any unfavorable consequences and they are not harmed as a result of their participation or non-participation in the project.” Therefore, the participants were notified that the interviews and questionnaire were designed to collect information on the participation of women in politics in Mutare Rural District and the research was conducted in partial fulfillment of Bachelor of Science Honors Degree in Peace and
Governance with Bindura University of Science Education so as to receive consent from the participants.

3.13 CONCLUSION

This chapter has provided an overview of the research design and methodology in the study so as to get an adequate understanding on the challenges faced by women in participating in politics. The chapter also highlighted on how data is going to be presented and analyzed so as to come up with recommendations on improving participation of women in politics in Mutare Rural District Council and Nation at large after getting an insight of the research findings.
CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS OF FINDINGS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The chapter focuses on the data presentation, analysis and discussions of the research findings on the participation of women in politics in Mutare Rural District Council from the period 2008-2013. The data was collected from Mutare Rural District Council women and the key informants who included councilors and Mutare Rural District Council, Ministry of Women Affairs Gender and Community Development and Legal Resources Foundation gender focal person. The data will be therefore, presented in tables, graphs and pie charts and the discussion of the findings will be done according to question by question.

4.2 PARTICIPATION OF MUTARE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL WOMEN IN POLITICS

4.3 BIOGRAPHICAL DATA OF RESPONDENTS

1. AGE OF WOMEN

Table 4.2.1 age of women

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>(Percentage %)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16-25</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-40</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41-60</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61 and above</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The data presented above shows that 33% women were in the range of 41-60. 17% was characterized by women in the age range of 16-25, 42% was those between 26-40 years and 8% was of the age group 60 and above. The findings indicated that women who were in the age 60 and above had fewer respondents than the other age groups. The reason might be that that they are now old people and they are not mainly concerned in participating in politics. The age groups 16-25 also showed less participation of women in politics compared to the 26-40 and 41-60 age groups. The reasons being that they are still in school and some are in early marriages. As a result, due to schoolwork or family responsibilities their participation in other activities is therefore limited.

2. MARITAL STATUS

Table 4.2.2 marital status of women

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marital status</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The information above shows that married women had 15 respondents (42%) which was the largest representation of the respondents in the research, followed by single women who were 10 (28%) then widowed with 22% meaning that there were 8 and lastly the divorced were only three (8%). This shows that married and single women play a pivotal role in participation of women in politics.
3. Level of education of women

Table 4.2.3 Academic level of women

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic level</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tertiary</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No schooling</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 4.2.3 Level of Education
The graph shows that the academic level of women in Mutare Rural District Council is averagely low as only 11%, 4 respondents out of 36 indicated that tertiary is their highest academic level while 15 respondents (42%) managed to get to primary level, 10(28%) to secondary and 7 respondents (19%) indicated that they did not go to school.

4. Monthly income of women

Table 4.2.4 Monthly income of women

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monthly Income</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$50</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$200</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$300 and above</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 4.2.4 Monthly income of women
The diagram above presents that half of the respondents indicate that their monthly income is $50 US dollars which one can argue that is very low to earn a living considering the fact that they many financial responsibilities to take care of. Only 3 respondents (8%) indicated that they have US 300 and above monthly income while 8 respondents (22%) indicated $100 US dollars and 6 respondents (17%) highlighted that their monthly income is $200 US dollars.

5. How much do you know about politics?

Out of 36 respondents, no one indicated that they know a lot or none at all about politics. 75% of respondents (27) highlighted that they know a little about politics while 9 respondents (25%) indicated they have an average idea of politics. This clearly tells that most of the Women in Mutare Rural District Council they only have a brief idea on what is politics and they do not know how politics evolves and functions in a society. This is mainly caused by ignorance of women to political issues because most of them do not participate in politic so they are also not concerned with it.

6. Have you ever participated in decision making bodies?

14 respondents (39%) indicated yes and said 61% (22 respondents) no. This shows that there is low participation of women in politics. The reasons which hinder them may be lack of finance and education, cultural practices and political violence. The participation of women in politics involves social change to bring about improved living conditions within a community and it would include women as voters, members of political parties, candidates, elected members of local government bodies taking part in decision making, planning, implementation and evaluation but they only act as supporters. Hence, there is need to enhanced the participation of women in politics and decision making positions.

7. Do you think women are fairly represented in politics?

Out of 36 only 6 respondents (17%) said yes and 36, 30 (83%) said no. This is because there is gender imbalance between men and women in the political sphere. According to the Preliminary census report (2012), Mutare Rural District population number is 260 567. Out of this total females are a majority 135 020 which is 52% of the population and men are 125 547 which is 48%. Mutare Rural District Council gender focal person indicated that in Mutare Rural District
there are thirty-six (36) Councilors in its thirty-six (36) wards, three (3) of them being female Councilors and in 2008 they only had four female councilors. This means that in Mutare Rural District Council the average percentage of women in politics is 8% which is far from the 30% quota system stipulated in the constitution.

Gender imbalance has negative effects on women as their interest needs and priorities will not be seriously taken into account. The female councilors highlighted that due to the fact that they are outnumbered by men, they have less voice when it comes since most of the resolution in the council are passed by voting. As a result, failure to take into consideration of women needs and interest into account affects the development process because it is argued that full participation of women in politics will make a substantive and quantitative difference to the governance of the countries. This is also indicated by Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW) (1995) which asserts that without active participation of and incorporation of women’s perspectives at all levels of decision making, the goals of equality, development and peace cannot be achieved.

It is therefore critical to improve the participation of women in politics because as long as aspects of low participation of women in politics are existent, gender inequality and gender discrimination will always prevail and women will always be deprived of their rights.

8. Do you know of any organization that advocate for gender equality of women in politics?

50% of the respondents said yes. This is because there are many nongovernmental organizations who advocating for women rights. Mutare Rural District Council gender focal person indicated that Ministry of Women Affairs Gender and Community Development and Legal Resources Foundation are some of organizations they are working with in empowering women both politically and economically. Ministry of Women Affairs Gender and Community Development gender focal person stressed that the main duty of the ministry is be responsible for gender and community issues in the district empowering women through policies, strategies and programs that promote the participation of women in national development and also promoting gender equality and equity so that there is equal and equitable access, control, utilization and ownership of resources.

On the other hand, the reason for the other half who indicated that they do not know the organizations, it is because of lack of funding which limits the organizations to operate in the
whole district. This shows that women who have knowledge are not cascading the information to other women as half of the women are empowered. This may be the reason why women do not support other women in politics.

9. **Do you know of any legislative policy that the government has implemented to ensure gender equality?**

16 respondents (44%) said yes while other 20 respondents (56%) said no. This entails that most of Mutare Rural women are not familiar with policies that have been established to ensure gender equality. This can be due to the fact that women in rural areas have little access to the policies. Mutare Rural District Council gender focal person indicated that in as much as women in Mutare Rural try to have those documents many of them they cannot interpret some of the statements in English. These policies include, the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) of 1995, the SADC Gender Protocol on Gender Development, 2013-2017 National Gender Policy, and 2013 Constitution.

Considering the fact that the government has introduced a lot of policies which advocate for women’s participation in politics, these are lacking implementation which is crucial in improving the participation of women in politics since some of the challenges being faced by women in politics can be addressed by women knowing legislatives policies that promote women rights.

10 **What are the causes of low participation of women in politics?**

Women in Mutare Rural District Council argued that the causes of low participation of women in politics vary with societies an in Mutare Rural District women mainly face discriminatory, cultural, traditional, economic and political challenges that hinder women to fully participate in politics.
Table 4.2.10 Causes of low participation of women in politics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenge</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Culture</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>socio-economic factors</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political violence</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 4.2.10 causes of low participation of women in politics.

(i) Culture

The data presented above shows that 50% of respondents highlighted that culture is the major cause of low participation of women in politics. This because culture has traditional values,
beliefs and practices that hinder women to fully participate in any political activities. These include socio-cultural norms which subjects women to male domination in the society. Women are therefore, regarded as inferior to men and they belong to the domestic spheres of managing and controlling the household economy while men belong to the public sphere of politics and other roles deemed males. One female councilor stressed that the rights of women in society are determined by customary and practices are administered by traditional mechanisms where gender equality is seen contrary to culture where patriarchal beliefs systems are deeply embedded. Therefore, infringement of women’s rights is usually exercised in the name of tradition and culture whereby women are restricted to participate in politics as it is believed to be traditionally believed to be meant for men.

This was also indicated by Mutare Rural District Council gender focal person who stressed that women’s role in the society is limited to working in the fields, domestic chores and child bearing because they bear the significance responsibilities of family’s subsistence as a result the have limited time to participate in politics.

In related literature review, Sanday (1981) stresses that low participation of women in politics is a result of male domination whereby women are excluded from the political arena and economic decision making processes. One can therefore, argue that it is of great importance to fully implement the conventions and legislations such as CEDAW and National Gender Policy so as to eradicate gender discrimination practices that affect the advancement of women in any political process.

(ii) Socio-economic factors

28% of women highlighted that lack of education also hinders women to participate in politics. This was evidenced in figure 4.2.3 of level of education which portrayed that the academic level of women in Mutare Rural District Council is averagely low as only 11%, 4 respondents out of 36 indicated that tertiary is their highest academic level. Lack of education in most of the women is caused by lack of money and cultural beliefs which believe that educating girls is less important as they will leave their family and married to another family unlike a boy child who will carry the name of the family. Mutare Rural District Council gender focal person also
indicated that traditional practices such as forced early marriages and polygamy affects the education process of women as once they are married they will be focusing on their marriage.

Lack of education cause women not to fully participate in politics and those who participate in politics are not selected to be on influential decision making positions because men usually argue that women are less educated as a result they do not have adequate education qualifications to be on influential positions. Women therefore, end up being on less influential positions such as secretaries. This is also stressed by Nzomo (1994) argues that most women who make it into the parliament are selected for ministerial positions usually hold less powerful positions associated with femininity. Most of the women became appointed as ministers usually occupy the portio-folio “special affairs” which is a stereotype itself. Though women are less educated than men, this does not make women any less than men since it is argued that there are also many men in politics who are less educated also. In a way women have the right to participate in politics under equal conditions to those of men

This has negative impacts on the participation of women in politics. Due to lack of education Ministry of Women Affairs Gender and Community Development argued that most of the women in Mutare Rural District Council do not work and those who go to work have low paying jobs. This affects women to participate in politics as some of the political activities require money. According to Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN) report on the 31 July 2013 Harmonized elections in Zimbabwe asserts that at the local authority election nomination deposits were $10 US dollars per person. As a result, looking at the fact that half of the women indicated that their monthly income is averagely $50 us dollars, one can argue that economically marginalization of women is a challenge for women to participate in politics. Philips (1991:79) points out that “everyone knows to be the case that the extent to which individuals become involved in politics and thereby gain access to decision making channels is directly correlated with the resources they have at their command: that all else being equal, those who have everything else get political power as well.” Women must be empowered economically also so as to enhance their participation in politics.
(iii) Political Violence

22% of the women also highlighted that political violence is also a barrier to women’s participation politics. Mutare Rural District Council gender focal person argued that in 2008 elections there was a lot political violence and this caused women to withdraw from politics to the extent that some of them did not participate in it due to fear of political violence. She indicated that:

*Politics kazhinji kazhinji ine kunetsana, kutukana, nekurowana, sezvo umwe neumwe anenge achirwira kuti zvake zviite saka vakadzi tinopedzisira tasiyanana nazvo.”*

This is indicated in by Shvedova (2005) who refers politics as a dirty game which is characterized with violence and corruption. This is the reason why women reject to participate in politics because they usually fall victims of political violence. Less participation of women results in a male dominated arena and it is difficult to promote gender equality between men and women in these conditions which are hostile or unfriendly to women.

4.3 Conclusion

The chapter presented and gave an analysis and interpretation on the data obtained from the questionnaires from Mutare Rural District Council women and key informant interview responses from Mutare Rural District Council councilors and gender focal person, Ministry of Women Affairs Gender and Community Development and Legal Resources Foundation gender focal person. The findings noted that participation of women in politics in Mutare Rural District Council is being hindered by different factors which include, culture, tradition, discrimination and lack of education and resources to fully participate in political activities. This then have a negative impact on women as they are lowly represented in politics. The effects of low participation of women in politics include the fact that men cannot adequately represent the needs, interests and priorities of women in society. Also the goals gender equality and Quota system set by the United Nations and SADC protocol on gender and development cannot be fully achieved. Therefore they argued that to enhance participation of women participation in politics, women should also make an effort to because that is the one of the easiest way to discover how to overcome the challenges they are facing.
CHAPTER FIVE
SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND AREAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

5.1 INTRODUCTION

The chapter focuses on giving summary on the research findings on the participation of women in politics in Mutare Rural District Council from the period 2008 to 2013 and then conclude the findings of the whole study providing recommendations on how to improve participation of women in politics and highlighting areas for further study.

5.2 SUMMARY

Chapter 1 Introduction focused on the background history of women’s participation in politics in Zimbabwe and other African countries. It also highlighted the research objectives which were to understand the causes of low participation of women in politics, the effects of low participation of women in politics, the role of other organization in politics and to provide recommendations on improving participation of women in politics.

Chapter 2 focused on literature review of women’s participation in politics and it was based on the critical mass theory and intrinsic and instrumentalist arguments. The literature review provided an important foundation for the study as it revealed some of the challenges that women face in participating in politics. The chapter also highlighted the legislatives and policies that have been established to enhance the participation of women participation in politics.

Chapter 3 outlined the ways used for data collection, processing and interpretation. The chapter mainly focused on the actual procedures following on the data collection while highlighting the data analysis plan. The study used case study as its research design and a qualitative method in collecting data. Questioners were distributed to the targeted population and conducted 4 interviews with key informants from Mutare Rural District Council, Ministry of Women Affairs Gender and Community Development and Legal Resources Foundation.
Chapter 4 has focused on data presentation, analysis and discussion of findings. The findings of the study stress that the causes of low participation of women’s low participation in politics include, culture, political violence lack of education and resources.

Chapters 5 outlined the summary drawn from the research and the recommendations are made according to the themes of the study.

5.3 CONCLUSIONS

One can therefore argue that participation of women in politics is very critical as it have negative and positive impacts on the wellbeing of women and nation at large. As it has been evidenced in the key findings and literature review that women face multiple challenges which hinders them to fully participate in politics. These include discrimination, cultural and traditional practices, political culture, and lack of support and fear of the unknown. Thus despite having sound policies that aims to address gender inequality between men and women, there is still a gap in as far as women participation in politics is concerned. As a result, considering the fact that women are lowly represented in politics it is important for the government to effectively implement and monitor the promotion and protection of quota system so that women can have a critical mass at least 30% representation in politics and decision making bodies so as to make a difference.

5.4 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. In an effort to improve women’s status in the society, women must form their own self-help groups at the community level so that they will try to address socio-economic challenges. At their self-help group they must do activities like farming and poultry projects and money laundering so as to empower themselves economically and avoid dependency syndrome.

2. Mutare Rural District Council in partnership with nongovernmental organizations should initiates adult learning programmes at the ward level so that women educated. This will enable women to fully participate in politics with confidence knowing that they have the rights to participate in politics and they are educated enough to compete with men. Hence through educating women, chances of women’s participation in politic will also improve.

3. They must initiate that the quota system also applies to local authorities bodies so as to increase women’s participation in Rural District Council and improve on implementation of
policies so as to achieve gender equality. Also they need to improve on monitoring and evaluation the effectiveness of gender policies in districts.

4. There is need for the government to also continue closely work with NGOs as they are the major partners in enhancing the participation of women in politics. These include WPSU, WOZA, LRF and others

5.5 AREAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Looking that most of the women in Mutare Rural District Council indicated that culture is the major challenge they are facing to participate in politics, areas recommended for further study is the challenges faced by women participating in politics in urban areas.
REFERENCES


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Dear Respondents

**Topic: Participation of Women in politics from 2008-21013. A case study of Mutare Rural District Council.**

My name is Doreen Fadzai Jambaya (student registration number B1129165). This research is conducted in partial fulfillment of Bachelor of Science Honors Degree in Peace and Governance with Bindura University of Science Education. You have been selected to participate in the study and all the information provided will be kept confidential and will be purely for academic purposes. The information you provide will help to examine the challenges that women face in participating in politics and to come up with measures to improve women’s participation in politics in Mutare Rural District Council.

Your cooperation is highly appreciated.

Yours faithfully

Doreen Fadzai Jambaya

Approved/Not Approved………………………………….Date………………………….

Participant
Instructions

1. Do not write your name on the questionnaire.
2. Indicate your answers by ticking the appropriate boxes or filling in your responses in the space provided in this questionnaire.

SECTION A

Biographical Data

1. Age
   16-25 □  26-40 □  40-60 □  60 and above □

2. Marital Status
   Single □  Married □  Widow □  Divorced □

3. Academic level
   Primary □  Secondary □  Tertiary □  No schooling □

4. Monthly Income
   50 □  100 □  200 □  300 and above □

SECTION B

5. How much do you know about politics?
   Little □  Moderate □  A lot □  Non at all □

6. Have you ever participated in decision making bodies?
   Yes □  No □

7. Do you think women are fairly represented in politics?
   Yes □  No □
8. Do you know of any organization that advocate for gender equality for women in politics?

[ ] Yes  [ ] No

9. Do you know of any legislative policies that the government has implemented to empower women in politics?

[ ] Yes  [ ] No

SECTION C

10. What are the causes of low participation of women in politics?

……………………………………………………………………………………………………
……………………………………………………………………………………………………
……………………………………………………………………………………………………

11. What do you think needs to be done to ensure the equal participation of women and men in politics?

……………………………………………………………………………………………………
……………………………………………………………………………………………………
……………………………………………………………………………………………………

12. Any other comments

……………………………………………………………………………………………………
……………………………………………………………………………………………………
……………………………………………………………………………………………………

THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR MUTARE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
GENDER FOCAL PERSON

My name is Doreen Fadzai Jambaya, (student registration number B1129165) from Bindura University of Science Education. I am carrying out a research on the participation of women in politics from 2008-2013. This research is conducted in partial fulfillment of Bachelor of Science Honors Degree in Peace and Governance. The information you provide will help to come up with ways that can enhance the participation of women in politics and it is only going to be used for academic purposes only. I would like to request for your cooperation to the following questions.

1. How long have you been a Gender Focal Person in Mutare Rural District Council?
2. What is the level of participation of women in politics?
3. What are the challenges faced by women in participating in politics?
4. What are the effects of low participation of women in politics?
5. What is the significance of women in participating in politics?
6. What are the measures that Mutare Rural District Council has implemented to increase gender awareness?
7. Are the any women organizations in your district that advocates for gender equality and what roles do they play in empowering women in politics?
8. What measures can be undertaken to improve women’s participation in politics?
9. Any other comments?
KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR MUTARE RURAL DISTRICT MINISTRY OF WOMEN AFFAIRS, GENDER AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GENDER FOCAL PERSON

My name is Doreen Fadzai Jambaya, (student registration number B1129165) from Bindura University of Science Education. I am carrying out a research on the participation of women in politics from 2008-2013. This research is conducted in partial fulfillment of Bachelor of Science Honors Degree in Peace and Governance. The information you provide will help to come up with ways that can enhance the participation of women in politics and it is only going to be used for academic purposes only. I would like to request for your cooperation to the following questions.

1. How long have you been a Gender Focal Person in Mutare Rural District?
2. What is the level of participation of women in politics?
3. What are the challenges being faced by women participating in politics?
4. What are the effects of low participation of women in politics?
5. What is the significance of women in participating in politics?
6. What are some of the measures that have been implemented by the ministry to increase gender awareness?
7. What are the challenges being faced by the ministry in implementing them?
8. What measures can be undertaken to improve women’s participation in politics?
9. Any other comments?
KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR MUTARE RURAL DISTRICT FEMALE COUNCILLORS

My name is Doreen Fadzai Jambaya, (student registration number B1129165) from Bindura University of Science Education. I am carrying out a research on the participation of women in politics from 2008-2013. This research is conducted in partial fulfillment of Bachelor of Science Honors Degree in Peace and Governance. The information you provide will help to come up with ways that can enhance the participation of women in politics and it is only going to be used for academic purposes only. I would like to request for your cooperation to the following questions.

1. How long have you been in politics?
2. What are the challenges that you are facing participating in politics?
3. What are the effects of low participation of women in politics?
4. What is the significance of women in participating in politics?
5. What measures can be undertaken to improve women’s participation in politics?
6. Any other comments?
KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR LEGAL RESOURCES FOUNDATION

My name is Doreen Fadzai Jambaya, (student registration number B1129165) from Bindura University of Science Education. I am carrying out a research on the participation of women in politics from 2008-2013. This research is conducted in partial fulfillment of Bachelor of Science Honors Degree in Peace and Governance. The information you provide will help to come up with ways that can enhance the participation of women in politics and it is only going to be used for academic purposes only. I would like to request for your cooperation to the following questions.

1. How long have you been working in Mutare Rural District Council?
2. What is the level of participation of women in politics?
3. What role do you play in empowering women in politics?
4. Can you describe their response to your activities?
5. What are the challenges faced by women in participating in politics?
6. What are the effects of low participation of women in politics?
7. What are some of the measures that have been implemented by the organization to increase gender awareness?
8. What are the challenges being faced by the organization in implementing them?
9. What measures can be undertaken to improve women’s participation in politics?
10. Any other comments?