CHILDREN IN ‘EMPLOYMENT’: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF CHALLENGES FACED BY STREET VENDING CHILDREN IN HARARE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT.

BY

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

MAY 2017
APPROVAL FORM

The undersigned certify that they have read and recommended to Bindura University of Science Education for acceptance a research entitled, Children in ‘Employment’: A critical analysis of challenges faced by street vending children in Harare Central Business District submitted by CYNTHIA KANYATI in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Science Honours in Social Work Degree (HBScSW).

Supervisor

I certify that I have supervised Cynthia Kanyati for this research entitled Children in ‘Employment’: A critical analysis of challenges faced by street vending children in Harare CBD in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Science Honours in Social Work Degree and recommend that it proceeds for examinations.

Supervisor’s Name………………………..Signature………………… Date……………

Chairperson of the Department of Board of Examiners

The department 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 Cynthia Kanyati entitled Children in ‘Employment’: A critical analysis of challenges faced by street vending children in Harare CBD in partial fulfilments of the requirements for the Bachelor of Science Honours in Social Work Degree.

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DEDICATION

This research is dedicated to all the disadvantaged children who work on the streets in order to meet their basic needs. A special dedication to the Kanyati family, my brothers Lee and Leashneck, sister Sandra and sister-in-laws Memory and Vimbai for your spiritual, social and financial support without you this study would not have been a success. Not forgetting my friends Joylene Dzoro, Tafadzwa Jakaza and all my fellow social work students, I will always cherish your support.
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Firstly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my research project supervisor Dr C. Nyoni for his unwavering support, guidance and expert advice throughout this study. His efforts and patience is greatly appreciated, without him I would not reached this level on my own. It is my radiant sentiment to place on record my deepest sense of gratitude to all the participants of this study, without your presents this study would not have been achieved. Above all, I would like to give thanks to the Almighty God for being there for me since the commencement of this study.
ABSTRACT
Growing number of children have increasingly joined ‘employment’ through vending in order to supplement family income despite the fact that the practice is outlawed in Zimbabwe. Vending in Zimbabwe’s streets is premised on the survival of the fittest and not fit for the children. The study analyses the challenges faced by street vending children on the streets of Harare Central Business District. The study objectives were as follows to understand the characteristics of child street vendors, to examine the causes of street vending among the children, to critically examine the challenges faced by street vending children and to investigate the strategies adopted by the children to mitigate the challenges they faced in the course of vending. The study was underpinned by the social capital theory. The study was fully qualitative and employed interview guides and direct observations to collect data. A sample size of 16 respondents and 5 key informants was purposively selected. Thematic analysis was employed to analyse data in this study. The study findings revealed that children vending on the streets are from different types of families like nuclear, single parenting, child headed and extended families. Poverty, unemployment of the parents and lack of jobs were some of the reasons which led children to engage on street vending activities in order to supplement the family income. Children are exposed to various risks and dangers of the streets and some of the challenges they encountered include working in harsh conditions, exposure to diseases, child abuse, hunger and starvation, victimization and harassment. The study revealed that these challenges have detrimental effects on children’s physical, psychological, moral and social well-being. The study also found that children adopted various strategies such as paying bribes, seeking social support, educational attendances and diversifying their goods in order to mitigate the challenges they faced in the course of vending. The study identified various recommendations including effective implementation and enforcement of laws which protects the children from child labour activities. Social workers should be involved in awareness raising on the dangers associated in street vending. There is need of educating the community on children’s rights and informing them that engaging children in vending activities is illegal and people should be responsible for the welfare of their children. The government should offer free and compulsory education to all disadvantaged children to reduce cases of school dropouts. This study also encourages the government and civil societies to engage poor households in self-sustaining projects so that the children will not be forced to engage on street vending to supplement the family income.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACWRC</td>
<td>African Charter on the Welfare and Rights of a Child</td>
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<td>AIDS</td>
<td>Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome</td>
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<tr>
<td>CBD</td>
<td>Central Business District</td>
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<td>CDs</td>
<td>Compaq Disc</td>
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<td>DCWPS</td>
<td>Department of Child Welfare and Protection Services</td>
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<td>ESAP</td>
<td>Economic Structural Adjustment Programme</td>
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<td>HIV</td>
<td>Human Immune Virus</td>
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<td>ILO</td>
<td>International Labour Organisations</td>
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<td>IPEC</td>
<td>International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour</td>
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<td>NAVUZ</td>
<td>National Vendors Union-Zimbabwe</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organisations</td>
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<td>SDGs</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goals</td>
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<td>UK</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
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<td>UNCRC</td>
<td>United Nations Conventions on the Rights of a Child</td>
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<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations Children Education Funds</td>
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<tr>
<td>ZBC</td>
<td>Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation</td>
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<td>ZCRSA</td>
<td>Zimbabwe Child Rights Sector Analysis</td>
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<td>ZNCWC</td>
<td>Zimbabwe National Council for the Welfare of Children</td>
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<td>ZRP</td>
<td>Zimbabwe Republic Police</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
# Table of Contents

APPROVAL FORM .................................................................................................................. ii
DECLARATION AND RELEASE FORM .............................................................................. iii
DEDICATION .......................................................................................................................... iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ......................................................................................................... v
ABSTRACT .............................................................................................................................. vi
ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMMS .......................................................................................... vii
LIST OF TABLES ................................................................................................................... xiii

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION .............................................................................................. 1

1.0 Introduction ..................................................................................................................... 1
1.1 Background of the study ............................................................................................... 1
1.2 Statement of the problem .............................................................................................. 3
1.3 Aim of the study .......................................................................................................... 4
1.4 Research objectives ...................................................................................................... 4
1.5 Research questions ........................................................................................................ 4
1.6 Significance of the study .............................................................................................. 4
1.7 Assumptions ................................................................................................................. 5
1.8 Definition of key terms ............................................................................................... 5
1.9 Chapter summary ......................................................................................................... 6

CHAPTER 2. LITERATURE REVIEW .................................................................................. 7

2.0 Introduction ..................................................................................................................... 7
2.1 Theoretical framework ................................................................................................. 7
2.2 Children in labour activities ....................................................................................... 8
   2.2.1 Conceptualization on children’s involvement in labour activities ....................... 8
   2.2.2 Global Overview on children’s involvement in labour activities ....................... 10
   2.2.3 Regional Overview on children’s involvement in labour activities .................. 11
   2.2.4 Local Overview on children’s involvement in labour activities ....................... 11
2.3 Characteristics of child street vendors ..................................................................... 12
   2.3.1 Gender distribution ............................................................................................ 12
   2.3.2 Children from low income households ................................................................ 13
   2.3.3 Child headed families ....................................................................................... 13
   2.3.4 Household or Family size .................................................................................. 13
2.4 Causes of child street vending ................................................................................... 13
   2.4.1 Poverty .............................................................................................................. 13
   2.4.2 Lack of Jobs ...................................................................................................... 14
CHAPTER 3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction ................................................................................................................. 22
3.1 Research Design ........................................................................................................... 22
3.2 Study Setting .................................................................................................................. 22
3.3 Target Population .......................................................................................................... 23
  3.3.1 Sample size .............................................................................................................. 23
  3.3.2 Sampling techniques ............................................................................................... 23
3.4 Data Collection Methods ............................................................................................. 24
  3.4.1 Data collection instruments ................................................................................... 24
  3.4.2 In-depth interviews with Child Street Vendors ...................................................... 24
  3.4.3 Key informant interviews ..................................................................................... 24
  3.4.4 Direct observations ............................................................................................... 25
3.5 Data Collection Procedure ........................................................................................... 25
3.6 Data Presentation and Analysis .................................................................................... 25
3.7 Ethical issues ................................................................................................................ 26
3.7.1 Informed consent .................................................................................................................. 26
3.7.2 Confidentiality ...................................................................................................................... 26
3.7.3 Voluntary participation ........................................................................................................ 27
3.8 Feasibility .................................................................................................................................. 27
3.9 Possible Limitations ................................................................................................................. 27
3.10 Delimitation .......................................................................................................................... 27
3.11 Chapter Summary .................................................................................................................. 27

CHAPTER 4. .............................................. DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS
28

4.0 Introduction ............................................................................................................................ 28
4.1 Demographic information of the respondents ........................................................................... 28
   4.1.1 Demographic information of the respondents by Sex, Age and Educational level . . . . . . . 28
4.2 Characteristics of child street vendors ..................................................................................... 29
   4.2.1 Children from low income households .............................................................................. 30
   4.2.2 Orphaned Children ........................................................................................................... 30
4.3 Nature of street vending activities amongst children ................................................................. 30
   4.3.1 Types of goods sold by the children .................................................................................. 30
   4.3.2 Children’s financers on street vending ........................................................................... 31
   4.3.3 Period of Child Street Vending ....................................................................................... 31
4.4 Causes of child street vending ................................................................................................. 31
   4.4.1 Poverty ................................................................................................................................ 32
   4.4.2 Unemployment and/or underemployment of the parents .................................................... 32
   4.4.3 Parent’s socio-economic status ......................................................................................... 32
   4.4.4 Lack of jobs ....................................................................................................................... 33
4.5 Challenges faced by street vending children ............................................................................ 33
   4.5.1 Harsh working conditions ............................................................................................... 33
   4.5.2 Exposure to diseases ......................................................................................................... 34
   4.5.3 Educational interference ................................................................................................... 34
   4.5.4 Child Abuse ....................................................................................................................... 35
   4.5.5 Victimization and Harassment ......................................................................................... 36
   4.5.6 Loss of capital .................................................................................................................... 36
   4.5.7 Lack of Contracts ............................................................................................................. 37
   4.5.8 Hunger and Starvation ....................................................................................................... 38
   4.5.9 Stress ................................................................................................................................ 38
   4.5.10 Lack of Leisure time ....................................................................................................... 38
Appendix V. Direct Observation Questions.................................................................60
Appendix VI. Permission to conduct a research project (Department of Social Services).61
Appendix VII. Authorization to undertake a research (City of Harare).........................62
LIST OF TABLES

TABLE 1: Demographic Information of Respondents..............................................28
CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This study focused on the challenges faced by street vending children on the streets of Harare CBD. The chapter addresses background of the study, statement of the problem, justification and significance of the study that guided the researcher to highlight the motive behind the study. Research aim, objectives and questions are also outlined in this chapter.

1.1 Background of the study

Globally, street vending has turned into a source of living among low income households. Economic instability in Zimbabwe resulted in many job losses. Many households resultanty ventured into street vending in order to deal with the problem of joblessness. Street vending has been largely reserved for mature men and women. Recently because of the failing economy, children joined endeavours with their families to provide food in their households.

Economic hardships have pushed many people into street vending in Zimbabwe. Due to stiff competition in street vending, many people are using various ways to earn more money like coming with their children to sell on the streets. Some children are put in strategic corners in order to earn more money from their goods. Mella (2012) postulates that about 60% of children in Zimbabwe, vend on the streets to support their families. The economic downfall of the country led to an alarming increase of children vending on the streets of Harare selling various items like vegetables and airtime in times they are expected to be in school. Children are now used to get money through vending activities on the streets which led to an increase of child street vendors in Harare CBD.

Due to poverty, generally the situation of child vendors is linked into that of their family and households. In Zimbabwe because of poverty, 35% of children in Harare are working on the streets during the day and return home at night and they are earning income from selling sweets, phone cards, car chargers and cigarettes (Zimbabwe National Council for the Welfare of Children, 2014). In many cases, urban child vendors are both a creation of and reaction to poverty in the sense that children are forced to engage in street vending activities because their families are failing to provide for their basic needs. Children are also involved in street trade as a way of dealing with their poverty-stricken life. Many households rely on additional incomes which is derived from vending activities of the children and becomes the survival of their households. Muzvidziwa (2000) revealed that children from poor households are
participating more on vending activities to support their parents in the provision of family needs.

Street vending children are exposed to hazardous environments which is harmful to their well-being (Roever, 2014). Many carry their goods from one point to another and the environment lacks adequate infrastructure such as clean toilets and solid waste removal. This exposed them to diseases like cholera and typhoid. These children also worked for about 9 to 12 hours a day and most of them worked in unfavourable conditions, in temporary roadside stalls or the open air (Mapisa, 2015). Many complained of headaches, colds and malaria and the street environment put their lives in danger.

Ennew (2000) noted that children who start working at an early age are more likely not to attend school. These children are unable to advance themselves academically and their future is being affected which might also affect the future of the whole nation. Studies revealed that children vending on the streets whilst going to school fall behind their studies and they are likely to repeat their grades or to drop out of school (Manwa, 2013). This is due to the incapability of their work and school hours which restrict them to manage both (Mickelson, 2000 cited in Ferguson, 2006). Thus, street vending led to academic deprivation which impedes children to attain sustainable employment in future.

The World Counts (2014) estimated that 120 million children are involved in harmful working environments and 73 million of these children are under 10 years of age. Approximately 168 million children from the ages of 5 to 14 are formally and informally employed in the world (ILO, 2015). UNICEF (2016) estimated that 150 million children worldwide are involved in child labour which has detrimental effects to their health. Therefore, children are involved in economic exploitations which is harmful to their well-being. Okoli (2009) found that Nigeria has about 12 million child workers despite being a signatory to the UNCRC which prohibited economic exploitation of children. Sub-Saharan Africa has about 48 million children who are economically and actively engaged on working activities (UNICEF Statistical Report, 2016). This shows that the number of children working on the streets are increasing rapidly instead of decreasing internationally and regionally.

Third world countries have the largest number of children involved in economic exploitations. Zimbabwe is among the countries which has high rates of child labour. The Zimbabwe Child Rights Sector Analysis (ZCRSA, 2013) noted that there are approximately 12 000 children living and/or working on the streets of Zimbabwe and they are exposure to all forms of abuse
during their operation on the streets. Moyo (2013) postulates that 63 000 children below the age of 15 are working as vendors in Zimbabwe and the number increased from 42 000 which was reported in 2010. Therefore, this shows that the figures of children working on the streets are increasing daily due to instabilities of family incomes. Children are involved in child labour yet there are too young to work in hazardous environments which has detrimental effects to their physical, social and psychological health.

However, in the African context children are perceived to carry out some roles and duties within their households as a way of grooming them to be responsible persons hence, it’s different to child labour. It is important to note that work in itself is not bad or damaging but the types of job diminishes child development (UNICEF, 2016). Therefore, in order to respond to social ills which, arise from involving children in labour processes, the international, regional and national communities come up with various laws, statutes and conventions. The United Nations on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the African Charter on the Welfare and the Rights of the Child (ACWRC) and Zimbabwe’s new Constitution made great efforts to denounce and eradicate harmful child labour activities. The UNCRC article 32, ACWRC article 15 and Children’s Act chapter (5.06) section 10 and 10A state that children must be protected from economic exploitation and prohibited to perform any work which is hazardous to their physical, mental, social and spiritual development. Children should be assigned to work that is likely not to interfere with their education when they are expected to be in school as one of their fundamental right. These laws and conventions mainly focused on upholding children’s constitutional rights and not involving them in any form of child labour.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Street vending has become a source of living among low income households in many urban areas across the world. Harare has outlawed street vending, resultantly there have been fights between street vendors and municipality officials (Research and Advocacy Unit, 2015). Street vending has become a scary activity for vendors. Few researches have been carried out in Zimbabwe on vending. Njaya (2014) carried out research on street vending in general and the research revealed that 98% of street vendors operate illegally on the streets. Tambo (2015) also carried out a research on street vending in Bulawayo. The study revealed that street vendors are susceptible to harassments, evictions and confiscations by city council police officers. Researches recorded focused on street vending in general and no research has looked at street
vending by children specifically. Therefore, this study sought to examine the challenges faced by street vending children on the streets of Harare CBD.

1.3 Aim of the study

The study sought to examine the challenges faced by street vending children and suggest possible solutions to address these problems.

1.4 Research objectives

The study was meant to achieve the following objectives:

1. To understand the characteristics of child street vendors.
2. To examine the causes of street vending among children.
3. To critically examine the challenges faced by street vending children in Harare CBD and its effects on physical, psychological, emotional, moral and spiritual aspects on children’s well-being.
4. To investigate strategies adopted by children to mitigate the challenges faced in the course of vending.

1.5 Research questions

The study sought to address the following research questions:

1. What are the characteristics of child street vendors?
2. What are the causes of child street vending?
3. What are the challenges faced by child vendors on the streets of Harare CBD?
4. What are the strategies adopted by the children to mitigate the challenges they faced in the course of street vending in Harare, Zimbabwe?

1.6 Significance of the study

This study attempted to address the challenges faced by street vending children in Harare. The results of the study shall provide a better understanding and awareness to policy makers, to design an effective and efficient strategy for the improvement of the livelihoods of child vendors and enhancing their well-being. The study shall work as a stepping-stone and make the modest contribution for those who are interested to conduct research on children vending on the streets. This research may help in the development of projects which benefit both
children and their families in order to earn a living rather than surviving on street vending. This study may assist civil societies, associations, trusts and NGOs with the information of children who are vulnerable to child labour and assist them through their families in ways of earning a living, children enjoying their rights without going to the streets. In addition, the findings of the study may provide information to advocate activists who advocate on the rights and welfare of children hence, they can provide legal and social safety nets in order to alleviate or minimize the challenges faced by children especially those from poor backgrounds.

1.7 Assumptions

There is assumption that all respondents will cooperate effectively in the study. The respondents assumed to provide true and relevant information and not biased answers in response to questions asked in data collection. The methodology chosen assumed to be ethically accepted. The resources are assumed to be readily available and the study is assumed to be carried out within a given period of time.

1.8 Definition of key terms

**Child**- refers to a person below the age of 18 years (Zimbabwe Constitutional Amendment 20 Act 2013). The Children’s Act chapter (5.06) defines a child as a person below the age of 16 years. Therefore, this study worked with these two definitions but mainly focused on the first definition.

**Street vending children or Child street vendors**- these phrases were used interchangeably in the study. This refers to the same group of children who are involved in street vending activities.

**Child vendor or hawker**- refers to any person below the age of 18 years who sell from fixed locations without a stall structure, displaying the merchandise on cloth or plastic sheets or mobile vendors who walk with bicycle through the streets as they sell (Roever, 2010). A child vendor can be defined as a person who offers goods or services for sale to the public without having a permanent built up structure but with a temporary static structure or mobile stall (Girma, 2009). Therefore, child vendors can be understood as stationary or mobile vendors.

**Street vending**- is the sale of merchandise informally on the streets mainly in urban settings although the practice is also rampant in rural areas. (Bhowmik, 2007). Kamunyori (2007) defines street vending as an activity within the informal economy, the segment of a country’s economy that operates outside the regulation and protection of the state.
1.9 Chapter summary

This chapter introduced the research. The background to the study, statement of the problem, research objectives, research questions and aims of the study were included in the chapter. The significance of the study was alluded and the reasons of carrying out the study were highlighted. The next chapter looks on the literature reviewed pertaining the study and the theoretical framework.
CHAPTER 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

Crawley, Hemming and Prince (2011) define literature review as a text of scholarly paper which includes the current knowledge including the findings, theoretical and methodological contributions on a particular topic. Literature review is very important in any study because it enables the researcher to review the gap from previous researches in regards to the research area. This chapter looked at empirical and theoretical evidence from journal articles and textbooks related to the involvement of children in street vending activities. This chapter looks at child street vending as a form of child labour and the challenges faced by children engaged in street vending activities. The research is underpinned by the Social Capital Theory which explains the various facets in regards to the engagement of children in street vending. Global, regional and local overview on the engagement of children in child labour in general and street vending in particular will be presented.

2.1 Theoretical framework

This study is underpinned by the Social Capital theory propounded by Coleman (1988) which insists on social obligations and connections within members in a group. Andriani (2013) defines social capital as the actual or potential resources which are linked to possession of a durable network of more or less institutionalized relationships of mutual associate and recognition. According to Coleman (1988) in Mella (2012), social capital refers to resources available within the structure of relations between children and adults within the family, making possible the achievement of certain ends that in its absence would not be achieved. This theory draws a link between family structure and home-leaving. For a child to have access to other resources in society, the family should possess some social capital, which should be accessible to the child in the entire life.

Coleman (1990) claims that the absence of social capital in the family leads children to leave home to seek alternative avenues that may meet their basic needs, hence street vending is seen as an alternative measure. In this case, children are vulnerable to all forms of abuse and they are engaged in child labour activities. Wright et al (2001) acknowledges that, children with little or no social capital are bound to leave their home in search of better life through street vending. In Zimbabwe, due to economic instability most people are unemployed and to cope with the situation they exposed their children into street vending activities in order to supplement the family income. These children are likely to be involved in activities that are
exploitative. Due to conflicts that arise between street vendors and city council officials, street environment is not conducive for child development since child vendors are seen as perpetrators of the environment. According to Coleman (1990), the family structure becomes the important component in the transmission of social benefits but failing to provide basic necessities, children joined efforts in the provision of food which exposed them to abuses, exploitation and hazardous environments.

In the African context children are perceived to carry out some roles and duties in their homes in a way of grooming them to be responsible persons. However, gender determined amongst the siblings who should work to fend the family and boys turned to work as compared to their female counterparts. To fulfil cultural obligations in a crisis, children might work to settle family debts, pay medical fees, and contribute to their own education or of their siblings. Some children are forced to drop out of school to earn money to solve the problems at hand rather than their future life. Therefore, lack of social capital made children to leave their homes and spend more time selling on the streets. In this case their rights to education, to life and to protection are being violated. Lack of social capital within family settings is a major causal factor which led children to engage on street vending activities to sustain their families yet it exposed them to various risks and harmful environments.

2.2 Children in labour activities

2.2.1 Conceptualization on children's involvement in labour activities

For several years, child labour has been one of the biggest challenge which led to the suffering of many children (Omsent, 2014). Osment (2014) further noted that child labour impedes children to attain their physical, mental and social development. The term child labour has been defined by various scholars with different meanings. According to Osment (2014), child labour refers to children who missed their childhood and they lack access to basic services which impedes their growth. Engaging children in any type of work which is dangerous to their health and the work is likely to interfere with their educational attendance can also be understood as child labour. However, Moyi (2011) links child labour with low wages, long hours, physical and sexual abuse. Therefore, child labour can be understood as any work that has physical, mental, social and moral detrimental effects on children’s well-being, and it also negatively interrupts their education.

Various organisations defines the term child labour differently, ILO (2015) defines child labour as a work that deprives children their childhood or any work that is harmful to their physical,
social and psychological development. World Counts (2014) locates the term child labour to any work done by children below 15 years of age and the work is depriving them their childhood and dignity. The children are also forced to leave school or to combine schooling with work. The World Bank proposes that child labour can do serious threat to long term national investment. According to ILO (2013), the problem of child labour can have more negative consequences besides all the concerns of investment or its contribution to economic incomes. International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (2010) defines child labour as involving children under the age of 18 on the work that it is likely to harm their health, safety or morals. These organisations place child labour to any form of work that is harmful to children but their age of a child varies.

Lack of agreement amongst international organisations and governments on the age of a child is considered as causing confusion on categorizing a particular work as child labour. ILO (2010) notes that child labour depends on the type of job, if the child is under 18 years and if the job interrupts with child’s educational development. The UNCRC of 1989 and ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour of 1999 (182), define a child is a person below the age of 18 years (Bhat, 2011). The Zimbabwe new Constitution of 2013 defines a child as a person below the age of 18 whilst the Children’s Act chapter (5.06) defines a child as a person below the age of 16. Therefore, this clearly shows that the age of majority varies from one society to another taking for instances, in Africa and Asian any work done by a person who is 15 years of age is not viewed as child labour. However, Omokhodian and Odusote (2006) in Osment (2014) note that these two continents distinguish between child labour and child work. They further noted that child work is considered to be part of children’s training to be responsible persons whilst child labour is seen to be exploitative.

It should be noted that not all work done by children should be considered as child labour for instances household chores. The World Counts (2014) articulates that a child’s participation in after school activities or work can be positive for his/her social and intellectual development. It is noted that not every work done by the children can have negative impact on their health but it varies with the types of work they are involved in, hours spend and working conditions (UNICEF, 2016 and Aquil, 2012). Weston (2005) disagrees that any work children do, can have harmful effects to their health because it can include abuse, exploitation or risks. However, it is viewed that children who works outside home are prone to environmental dangers which may affect their health and safety.
In developing countries, work which is now seen as child labour used to be a way of life and not only a means of earning income (Agbu, 2009). He further notes that in eastern part of Nigeria, boys are taught to be traders or vendors at an early age of life. This is supported by the Symbolic Interactionism Theorists who views men as being socialized into instrumental roles or earner roles and emancipate them to be responsible bread winners. However, this can be seen as exploitation of the children whilst perceiving them to carry out social roles and responsibilities in their homes.

2.2.2 Global Overview on children’s involvement in labour activities

Child labour commenced long back, during industrial revolution where children were forced to work in agricultural farms, factories and in preparing food for the family (Osment, 2014). Industries were used as sources of income. Children were forced to work in exploitative environments. Osment (2014) noted that during that time, industries gave first preference to children because they provide cheap labour and operate without contracts. First legislations were put in place to prohibits child labour. The laws imply that children below the age of 15 should not be employed to any form of work and the major aim was to eliminate all children from labour forms which interferes with their education. However, despite having international laws which prohibits child labour the rates of child labour continued to increase each and every day as highlighted by (Bhat, 2011).

Developed countries made some efforts to reduce the rates of child labour as compared to developing countries. A study by Research Advocacy Unit (2015) revealed that the number of children involved in labour forms increased due to rapid population growth, high unemployment or underemployment rates, poverty, economic instabilities, corruption and poor governance. Thus, child labour is taking place throughout the world in countries with low incomes. Osment (2014) is of the view that children are engaged in all sectors of the economy which encompass agriculture, manufacturing, fishing, construction, domestic services like street vending and prostitution. Basically, children are working without being regulated as workers and they operate in conditions which has detrimental effects to their health.

Abuse and exploitation of children happens in all countries and societies across the world. Mella (2012) postulates that in 2008, there were 215 million children working illegally on the eyes of the International Laws with almost 14% of world’s children under 18 years. The World Counts (2014) estimated that 120 million children are engaged in hazardous work and 73 million of these children are below the age of 10 years. ILO (2015) states that approximately
168 million children from the ages of 5 to 14 are formally or informally employed worldwide. UNICEF (2016) estimated that 150 million children worldwide are engaged in child labour which has harmful effects to their health. Therefore, the frequency of children involved in labour forces fluctuate. Hence there is need for collaboration of international organisations, civil society organisations and national governments to prohibit all forms of child labour in order to promote the academic, social and health of millions of children around the globe.

2.2.3 Regional Overview on children’s involvement in labour activities

UNICEF report (2016) revealed that Sub-Saharan Africa has about 48 million children who are economically engaged on working activities. According to United States Department of Labor (2015) findings, Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest incidents of child labour. The findings revealed that 59 million children between the ages of 5-7 are engaged in child labour activities. ILO (2010) seconds that Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest prevalence of child labour with 25.3% of 257,108 which gives a total of 65,064 children involved in child labour activities like street vending. This shows that the figures of children who are involved in child labour are fluctuating. A study by Okoli (2009) found that Nigeria has about 12 million child workers despite being a signatory of the UNCRC which prohibits the economic exploitation of children. The University of South Pacific (2010) gave some of the countries which have high rates of child labour including Somalia with 49%, Ghana with 34%, Nigeria 29% and Angola 24%.

Poverty is prevailing in many of African countries and many developing countries are characterized by extreme poverty. Due to poverty stricken life experienced by many developing countries, children from low-income households are forced to work on the streets to assist their parents in fending for the family. Mella (2012) noted that the percentage of children working on the streets rise up to 25. A study by Epkenyong and Sibri (2011) in Nigeria, noted that children were selling various items such as vegetables, phone juice cards, cigarettes and candies in order to boost the family income. Poverty resulted as a causal factor which led to an increase of children engaged on street vending activities in Sub-Saharan Africa

2.2.4 Local Overview on children’s involvement in labour activities

Due to economic instability, Zimbabwe has seen an increase of child labour. Economic hardships have pushed many people into street vending in the country. Due to stiff competition in street vending, many people are using various ways to earn more money like coming with their children to sell on the streets. Some children are put in strategic corners in order to earn
more money from their goods. Mella (2012) postulates that about 60% of children in Zimbabwe, vend on the streets to support their families. A survey results by ZNCWC (2014) in Harare, indicated that 35% of children are working on the streets during the day and return home at night. They are earning income from selling sweets, airtime, car chargers and cigarettes. Moyo (2013) also observes that 63 000 children under the age of 15 years are working as vendors in Zimbabwe and the number increased from 42 000 which was reported in 2010. According to Mapamhidze (2014), UNICEF report of 2010 indicates that widespread poverty, lack of social services and poor enforcement of laws were some of the reasons which led to an influx of child street vendors. The economic downfall of the country led to an alarming increase of children who are working on the streets of Harare. These children are deprived their rights such as right to education, life and health.

UNICEF Zimbabwe (2011) statistics shows that about 10% of children between the ages of 5 to 17years are engaged in economic activities encompassing street vending. The statistics continue to show that 15% of the children who are economically exploited are not in school. These children are more likely to fall behind their studies or to repeat their grades or totally drop out of school. Mushohwe (2014) is of the view that engaging children on vending activities surely affects their educational lives and impedes them to acquire sustainable employment in future. Muradzikwa (2012) further notes that academic deprivation perpetuates the vicious cycle of poverty. Engaging children in all forms child labour has some detrimental effects to their academic lives.

2.3 Characteristics of child street vendors

Characteristics of children involved in street vending are critical to understand the problem of vending by children.

2.3.1 Gender distribution

A study by Ashimolowo, Aromolatan and Inegbedion (2010) in Lagos, Nigeria revealed that 60.8% of child street vendors were female while 39.2 % were male. Osment (2014) is of the view that due to gender differences, boys are more likely to attend school than girls who missed school in order to assist their mothers to fend for the family. This clearly shows that girls are involved in street vending activities compared to their male counterparts.

According to Dasgupta and Betaman (2007) female vendors sold perishable goods such as vegetables and other prepared food stuffs whilst boys sold goods which are more likely to be
consumed by man such as newspapers, cigarettes, clothing, CDs, juice cards to mention but just a few. However, girls turned to make more profits than boys because they sell goods which are used in the households on daily basis.

2.3.2 Children from low income households

Ashimolowo et al (2010) state that children from low income households with mothers who are involved in trading are more likely to participate in trading activities. It is therefore, important to note that children are involved in street vending in order to supplement the household income because their parents are failing to fend for the family. A study by Osment (2014) in Sweden, revealed that children from low income families are forced to engage on street vending to supplement family income.

2.3.3 Child headed families

Osment (2014) postulates that HIV and AIDS increased the number of orphaned children in Sub-Saharan Africa. According to Mapamhidze (2014), about 100 000 children are in child headed households, they neglect school and involved in street vending in order to support themselves and their siblings. Due to the fact that street vending is not regulated, children’s engagement in such an activity is very easy but it exposed them to various risks and dangers.

2.3.4 Household or Family size

Children from large poor households are usually engaged in street vending activities compared to children from smaller households (Osment, 2014). Thus, parents force their children to work because they are failing to meet the demands of their large families. The family size increased the risk of children to be involved in street vending which has detrimental effects to their lives.

2.4 Causes of child street vending

The causes of child street vending are also critical to understand child street vending.

2.4.1 Poverty

Poverty is one of the major cause of street vending amongst children. Poverty is understood in two dimensions that is absolute and relative poverty. In most developing countries, absolute poverty is viewed as the major driving force of street vending. According to Akindola (2010), absolute poverty is lack of access to basic necessities such as food, shelter, clothing, healthcare to mention but just a few. Ekpenyong and Sibiri (2011) state that lack of decent housing,
insufficient food and health care service forced parents to engage their children in child labour activities such as street vending. The disadvantaged children without families, homes or those with single parents are the most vulnerable to these social ills. Chirwa (2015) claims that poverty leads to the deprivation of basic necessities and children are engaged in street vending activities to boost the family income. Despite having access to basic necessities, the families are violating the children’s rights.

2.4.2 Lack of Jobs

Lack of jobs in urban areas is another causal factor which cause children to engaged on street vending. Girma (2009) states that rapid population growth in urban areas resulted in job scarcity. Many children opted to join the informal sector like street vending in order to survive. Midjitey (2014) postulates that young persons are involved in petty trading and street vending due to lack of formal jobs. However, children encountered many problems during their operations on the streets and they are prone to various risks.

2.4.3 Parents’ socio-economic status

Due to economic hardships, many people are employed in the informal sector and it could be difficult for them to provide for the family. A study by Ogochukwu, Okeke, Onubogu and Edokwe (2012) in Nigeria reveal that many parents in low socioeconomic groups keep their children out of school in order to work and boost the family income. In addition, parents from low income households are more likely to force their children to drop out of school to supplement the family income by selling candy, cigarettes or lottery tickets on the streets (Zienchuk, 2014, Ekpenyong and Sibiri,2011). Mushohwe (2014) observes that in Zimbabwe, children from poor households are most likely to engage in street trading activities. Chopra (2015) postulates that some children forced to join street vending in order to earn money for medical bills for their parents or siblings as it is believed that access to healthcare services is one the fundamental human right. This shows that parents’ socioeconomic status increases the vulnerabilities of children to be involved in street vending.

The HIV and AIDS epidemic especially in Sub-Saharan Africa led to the proliferation of orphans, who find themselves engaged in street vending in order to make a living. According to Mapamhidze (2014), UNICEF Zimbabwe revealed that out of 1,3 million orphans in the country about 100 000 of them are in child headed households and they are more likely to leave
school and find work as street vendors. Therefore, the epidemic can be viewed as the driving force of children to street vending activities.

2.4.4 Poor Education

Poor education in schools is one of the causal factors of child vending and many children who dropped out of school venture into the informal sector as street vendors. Chopra (2015) agrees that lack of qualified teachers in schools, poor infrastructure and unsuitable curriculum are some of the reasons which result in dropouts, mostly at high school. The financial constraints of Zimbabwe in 2007-2008, led to school drop outs of many children due to shortage of qualified teachers (Millennium Development Goals progress report, 2012). Due to economic instabilities of the country, it resulted in migration of skilled personnel in search of green pastures. Therefore, many children were wondering off in schools without teachers and the situation forced them to engaged on street vending activities as a form of employment.

2.4.5 Unemployment and/or Underemployment of the parents

Most developing countries are associated with high unemployment and underemployment rates. Midjitey (2014) acknowledges that most African governments embarked on Economic Structural Adjustment Programme (ESAP) proposed by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in a bid to revamp the failing economy. Surprisingly, the SAPs worsened the situation which resulted in retrenchment of many people and also the closed down of many industries and companies. It also resulted in rising costs of living which forced the poor to venture into the informal sector. The Research and Advocacy Unit (2015) reports that unemployment, underperformance of the economy and rising costs of living causes many Zimbabweans to venture into the informal sector and forced their children to be involved in street vending activities to supplement the income. Therefore, unemployment and underemployment can be viewed as a driving force which increases the susceptibility of children to engaged on street vending.

2.5 Challenges faced by street vending children

A number of challenges faced by children in the course of vending have been identified in different studies. These challenges have negative effects on children’s development.
2.5.1 Interruption on education

Street vending activities interrupts with children’s educational attendance. Ennew (2000) and Gamble (2011) claim that children who work full time on the street do not attend school at all. They also added that children who work part-time on the street while studying basically they perform 12% lower than those who devote their time to study. It is therefore, understood that children who vend on the streets on part-time basis their likelihood to pass is very low because they do not have adequate time to do their school work. Manwa (2013) agrees that children who are vending on the streets whilst going to school fall behind their studies and there are likely to repeat their grades. Mushowe (2014) supports the idea that street vending on children resulted in constant absenteeism from school which affect their educational life. In many developing countries, children from low income households are forced to drop out of school and engage on street vending in order boost the family income (Ogochokwu et al., 2012 and Zienchuck, 2014). A research done in Nigeria on child street traders, 28% of the children had primary education, 50% had no education and only 22% had secondary education (Ekpenyong and Sibiri, 2011). This shows that children’s educational live is being interrupted. The children are unable to advance themselves academically and their future is being affected which led to a vicious cycle of poverty for the next generation of the household. These children are more likely not to access sustainable employment or to break laws in future in order to survive.

2.5.2 Kidnappings and accidents

Child street vendors are exposed to dangers such as kidnappings and accidents during their operations on the streets. Ekpenyong and Sibiri (2011) in their study on child street trading indicate that 24% of children are prone to kidnappings and 40% are at risk of accidents as they go for street hawking. In Brazil, children involved street vending activities are exposed to accidents as they cross the roads when selling their goods (Levine, 1997 cited in Muhwati, 2015). Due to nature of their operations, children are more susceptible to kidnappings because they operate until late hours like going home around 8pm. Children are at risk of accidents as they operate on busy streets and some of them in pick-up points with high traffic.

2.5.3 Lack of Leisure time

Street vending activities have negative impact on children’s social development. Gamble (2011) believes that child street vendors spend most of their time selling on the streets other than being with their peers and learning how to interact. Vygotsky the social development
theorist is of the view that children learn the norms and values of their society through interaction and playing with others (Davey, 2014). Young children who spend more than 20 hours per week working on the streets are at high risk of developing unwanted social behaviors like drug abuse and aggression (Gamble, 2011). Therefore, working full-time or part-time on the streets prevent children to develop proper relations leading to deviant behaviors. Due to nature of street vending, children lack adequate time to play with their peers.

2.5.4 Poor physical development

Street vending initiatives affect children’s physical development because they are involved in taking physical tasks that are too heavy for them (Gamble, 2011). Roever (2014) supports the view that child street vendors are exposed to hazardous environments which have detrimental effects to their health. Most of the environments lack proper infrastructure such as clean water, toilets and solid waste removal. This made children prone to diseases such as cholera and typhoid. Mapisa (2015) reveals that children work in unfavorable conditions such as temporary roadside stalls or open air and many of them complained of headaches, colds or malaria. There are also affected by heavy rains and extreme sunlight. Therefore, these harsh conditions affect children’s physical development.

2.5.5 Child Abuse

Child street vendors are vulnerable to all forms of abuse from passersby, consumers, guardians and others on the streets. Middlebrooks and Audaga (2009) are of the view that child abuse includes malnutrition, sexual abuse, verbal abuse, emotional and physical abuse. Hosin (2007) cited in Ekpenyong and Sibiri (2011) brought another view of child abuse as it implies to the misuse or exploitation of children for economic reasons. A study by Okoli (2009) in Nigeria on street vending children, reveals that some children were physically abused by their guardians after failing to meet the daily targets. A systematic survey by Dada (2013) in Nigeria on child street hawking, indicates that 60% of girls below 12 years are sexually abused. The children are also verbally abused by passersby for occupying the pavement and disturbing them to walk freely. Therefore, these forms of abuses have detrimental effects on children’s well-being.

2.5.6 Exposure to Robbery and Thieving

Street vending children are exposed to robbery and thieving during their operations on the streets. A research by Chirwa (2015) in Mzuzu City street vending children, reveals that
children are prone to robbery because they are minors and they cannot fight back. Dada (2013) acknowledges that most of the children went home at 8 pm and they are more susceptible to robbery because the time it’s not safe. This becomes a serious challenge for the children because they went home without money yet they spend the whole day working for it.

2.5.7 Victimization and Harassment

Research and Advocacy Unit (2015) highlights that there have been fights between street vendors and Municipality Police Officers because in Harare street vending has been banned. It is understood that street vendors are susceptible to harassment, confiscation and victimization from the City Council Police Officers (Njaya, 2014 and Tambo, 2015). A study by Estrada (2016) in Los Angeles, reports that 65% of children vending on the streets are being victimized, harassed and confiscated by Municipality Officers because street vending is illegal. According to the study conducted in Bindura town, 27% of children vending on the street claimed that they were victimized by Municipality Officers who harassed them and threatened to arrest them (Muhwati, 2015). In January 2017, the City of Harare Town Clerk sent a 48hour ultimatum to all street vendors as they were blamed for causing the outbreak of typhoid disease (ZBC News, 2017). Contrary to that, street vendors were not complying with the ultimatum because they were blaming the City of Harare for not collecting the litter which led to an outbreak of typhoid.

The children vending on the streets were not spared because they are in the same category of street vendors. Roever (2014) disagree with the view that children are being harassed by Municipality Officers but the Officers took stuff for adults only. Looking closely to this view, Roever (2014) claim can be invalid as the children were in the same category of street vendors hence they faced harassment, confiscation and victimization from Municipality Officials like adult vendors.

2.6 Case Study: Nigeria

Nigeria like other African countries is characterized by a large number of children engaged in street vending activities (Okoli, 2009). Children are vending on the streets at a tender age. According to Okoli (2009), approximately 12 million children are economically exploited and working on the streets of Nigeria. Street vending was used as tool to escape various socio-economic challenges faced by people in Nigeria (Dada, 2013).

The ages of children working on the streets of Nigeria ranges from 5 to 16 years (Dada, 2013). Many study results revealed that children vending on the streets of Nigeria were from low
income households and child headed households (Okoli, 2009). Poverty was one of the causal factors of street vending amongst children. Ekpenyong and Sibiri (2011) state that lack of decent housing, insufficient food and healthcare services forced parents to engage their children on street vending activities.

Most study findings in Nigeria indicated that children vending on the streets exposed to various risks such as kidnappings and accidents, abuse, robbery and they are also prone to diseases like cholera or typhoid (Ekpenyong and Sibiri, 2011). A study by Dada (2013), in Nigeria reveals that 60% of girls below the age of 12 are sexually abused in the course of hawking. The study recommends the government to protect and provide free education to disadvantaged children as well as to alleviate poverty in order to reduce the plight of children in street vending activities.

2.7 Legal Instruments which protect children in labour activities

2.7.1 ILO Convention No.138

The Convention 138 was ratified in 1973 by 161 countries. Its aim was to establish the minimum age of employment and children below the age of 15 should not be employed. For example, countries like China, Brazil and Kenya have already set the minimum age for hazardous work at 16 (ILO, 2012). Children above the age of 13 should be involved in light work but the work must not be harmful to their health or to their educational attainment. Nonetheless, countries with poor economies and inadequate educational facilities may consider 14 years as the minimum age of employment.

2.7.2 ILO Convention No. 182

The Convention focuses on the elimination of all worst forms of child labour like street vending. It was ratified in 1999 by 177 countries. All State Parties sought to establish legislations, legal frameworks and policies which seeks to prohibit the exploitation of children. In many poor countries, children are more likely involved in hazardous work where they lack access to healthcare services or information on health risks and protective measurements (ILO, 2012; Aqul, 2012 and Miller 2010). Due to economic status of the family, some parents are aware of hazardous environments their children are working on but they insist on sending their children to vending activities in order to earn more money. Therefore, the Convention 182 urges the countries to draw up a list of all worst forms of child labour including child vending and take public action to abolish.
2.7.3 The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

The UNCRC was originated in 1989. It defines a child as a person below the age of 18 years. Article 32 states that a child must be protected from economic exploitation and prohibited to perform any work which is harmful to his/her physical, mental, social and spiritual development. Many countries have ratified it including Zimbabwe and it amended a number of its legal frameworks to reduce child labour issues.

2.7.4 African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

Aim of the ACRWC is to promote and protect children’s rights. Article 15 states that every child shall be protected from economic exploitation and prohibited to perform any work that is harmful to his/her health or interfere with his/her education. All State Parties were obliged to create or amend the legislations which promotes the implementation of the article.

Article 11, on Education, Article 12 on Recreation, Leisure and Cultural Activities and Article 16 on Protection Against Child Abuse helps to eliminate child labour and create conducive environment for child development. In support of that, in 1991 the Heads of African States declared 1990 as the ‘Decade of the African Child’ and 16 June was set as the ‘Day of the African Child’ (Okoli, 2009). This day is still marked in Zimbabwe and associated with celebrations. It pays attention to the specific needs of the African child and promoting their rights.

2.7.5 Legal instruments in Zimbabwe

Children have been protected from harmful working activities including street vending. Street vending can be regarded as one of the forms of child labour. In countries like Brazil, civil society organisations have been playing a significance role in influencing the governmental programs to address issues of child labour (Schmitz, Traver and Larson, 2004). Nigeria has also ratified to ILO conventions 138 and 182 to protect children from all worst forms of child labour (Okoli, 2009).

Zimbabwe has made efforts to address issues of child labour including child vending. The country as a signatory body to ILO Conventions 138 and 182, plays an instrumental role to abolish the involvement of children in harmful working activities. The new Constitution of Zimbabwe amendment 20 (2013) defines a child as a person below the age of 18 years. The constitution had section which states 18 years as the minimum age of employment and it helps to protect children from working in harmful environments. The Labour Relations Act chapter
(28:01) supports that all employers are obliged not to sign any employment contract with a child under the age of 13 years. The Children’s Act chapter (5:06) defines a child as a person who is below 16 years and their rights were protected.

Although, Zimbabwe made a great effort to come up with these legal frameworks to protect children’s rights from all forms of child labour. However, it needs to amend its legislations regarding the definition of a child. The legal frameworks must align with the Constitutional definition to avoid contradictions on the minimum age of employment of a child. This helps to protect children from economic exploitation.

2.8 Gaps left by other researches

The literature that exist on street vending is general. Literature that focused on the involvement of children in street vending is limited. The reviewed literature on child street vending as a form of child labour is based on Western point of view. However, there is need of viewing child labour activities in the African context.

Generally, street vending has been viewed as having negative effects on children’s educational attainment. Mushowe (2014) lamented that street vending interrupts on children’s educational attainment like constant absenteeism from school. However, Dasugpta and Bateman (2007) claim that some children can attain better grades regardless of being involved in street vending. Therefore, not all children were deprived their education but some can maximize their grades whilst vending on the streets

2.9 Chapter Summary

The chapter has highlighted some previous researches in regards to children’s engagement in street vending activities. A theoretical framework was drawn from the social capital theory. Global, regional and local overviews were discussed which indicates the increase of children in child labour particularly street vending. This chapter highlighted the causes of child street vending, characteristics of child vendors, challenges faced by children vending on the streets in various cities of the world. It also gave the legal instruments which protects children from child labour. A case study of Nigeria was employed in the study. The next chapter focuses on research methodology that was employed to collect data and describe the research process.
CHAPTER 3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the research methodology that was employed by the researcher to collect data and describes the research process. This chapter describes the research design, study area, target population, sample and sampling techniques, data collection methods and tools and the research ethic and lastly the chapter summary.

3.1 Research Design

In undertaking a study, a research design is programmed so as to collect, analyse and interpret observed facts (Walliman, 2011). According to Robson (2011), research design is a detailed outline of how an investigation was take place which typically encompass how data was collected, instruments employed, and the intended methods of analysing data. Therefore, in this research a case study was employed to collect data from the respondents.

A case study enables the researcher to generate answers to questions like ‘How’ and ‘What’ (Cresswell, 2014). Applied to this study, the researcher is concerned about the questions like, “What are the causes of child street vending?” and “What are the challenges faced by the children in the course of vending? A case study design enables the researcher not to control the variables or the environment. In this regard, the researcher did not disturb anything but she went into the field and conduct interviews unlike other designs where the researcher may need to control the research objects. The researcher employed this design as it provides in-depth data collection and used multiple sources of collecting data. The aim was to come up with a detailed explanation and understanding of challenges faced by child street vendors. It also gave the researcher room to generalize the figure of respondents who participate in the study.

3.2 Study Setting

This research was carried out in Harare the capital city of Zimbabwe. The study mainly focused on Robert Mugabe way, Jason Moyo and Julius Nyerere Streets. The researcher chose these streets because street vending is highly practised in these streets and the roads are very busy with traffic and passers-by. Purposive sampling technique was used basing on the assumption that it is the largest city which constitutes a large percentage of child street vendors.
3.3 Target Population

White (2010) defines a population as the collection of respondents who have relevant information to the study from which outcomes are to be attained. According to Engel and Schutt (2013), target population represent the larger community to which the researcher wishes to generalise the study findings. Therefore, population can be defined as group of human beings or objects known to have similar characteristics or interest. According to Moyo (2013), approximately 160 children are vending on the streets of Harare CBD. The researcher worked with the target population of 160 and the respondents were drawn between the ages of (9-17 years). The research targeted approximately 3 streets of Harare such as Robert Mugabe Way, Jason Moyo and Julius Nyerere Streets which have high dominance of street vending activities.

3.3.1 Sample size

Sample size consists of the number of individuals, groups, context, observations and activities that serves as the data source (Obwuegbuzie and Frels, 2013). The sample size constituted of 16 respondents both boys and girls (aged from 9-17 years) and 5 key informants from the Department of Child Welfare and Protection Services, National Vendors Union-Zimbabwe and City of Harare Police Department. The total number of child participants constituted 10% of the target population. This brought to the total number of respondents to 21.

3.3.2 Sampling techniques

According to Creswell (2014), sampling is the process of selecting participants for a study from the total population. This research employed purposive sampling technique to select child street vendors to participate in the study. Child street vendors operate along Jason Moyo, Robert Mugabe way and Julius Nyerere were purposively selected. According to White (2010), purposive sampling is a technique which is selected in a deliberative and non-random fashion. The significance of selecting this technique was to encompass respondents who were readily available with the useful information which was not biased. The technique is based on the subjects’ experience and knowledge about a topic under study. It was chosen because it’s fast, very cost effective and time consuming. The key informants from NAVUZ, DCWPS and City of Harare Police Department were conveniently selected to participate in the study basing on the view that they are professionals and they have knowledge on child street vending.
3.4 Data Collection Methods

3.4.1 Data collection instruments

Research instruments are data collection tools or equipment’s employed to collect data from respondents. Research instruments were employed to obtain standardized information from all subjects in the sample. This research employed in-depth interviews for both child street vendors and key informants to collect data.

3.4.2 In-depth interviews with Child Street Vendors

An interview guide was used and semi-structured questions were developed which helped with probing when conducting an interview. In depth interviews were employed to generate information from 16 child street vendors who were selected on what they perceive and expert to be done on the challenges they faced on the course of vending on the streets of Harare CBD.

An in-depth interview is a primary data collection method which allows the researcher to gather data in quality (Mason, 2012). It also permits the interviewer to ask further questions and gave room to respondents to ask for clarifications. This technique was ideal to gather data because the researcher was dealing with minors and some of them were illiterate. The guide was wrote in English but during interviews, the researcher interpreted it in Shona which was understood by majority of the children. Marshall and Rossman (2006) noted that interviews allows the researcher to understand the meanings of everyday people’s activities as they interact physically. The researcher gathered adequate information within a short period of time because the interview took about 30 to 45 minutes.

3.4.3 Key informant interviews

The key informant interviews were conducted with 5 key informants from DCWPS, NAVUZ and City of Harare Police Department on what they perceive on child vending and its implication on children. The interviews were conducted with key informants to understand the challenges faced by children who are involved in street vending activities and how best they can handle the situation. This technique was very crucial as it gave the researcher enough time to discuss with experts who are involved in the welfare of the children. The key informant interviews were ideal in the study because it enables the researcher to gather first-hand information from the authorities. However, interviews may have some limitations whereby the interviewee may say answers to please the interviewer which results in falsification of information.
3.4.4 Direct observations

The researcher observed the nature and working environments of children vending on the streets of Harare CBD. The researcher prepared an observation check list which include types of goods sold by children and their reactions to various challenges they encountered on the streets like raids from municipal police or harsh weather conditions.

3.5 Data Collection Procedure

The researcher sought consent from the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare (MPLSW) at the Department of Social Services and City of Harare. The researcher was authorized to conduct the research on challenges faced by street vending children. The researcher identified child street vendors in Robert Mugabe way, Jason Moyo and Julius Nyerere streets. The researcher introduced herself to the participants and sought consent from them before she commenced her core business. The respondents were interviewed using interview guides and data was also gathered through direct observations.

The researcher started by structuring an interview guide for child street vendors. A pilot study of the interview was carried out away from the area of use to check the validity of the questions and the check was done in Bindura town. Amendments to the original document were done to improve on its efficacy as a data collection tool.

A total of 21 respondents were selected to participate in the study. To achieve this, a purposive sampling technique was employed. The researcher interpreted the interview guide in Shona since majority of the respondents were minors with low levels of education. Therefore, questions were asked in English or Shona language and each respondent was interviewed in the language of his/her own choice.

3.6 Data Presentation and Analysis

Data presentation and analysis can be understood as a process of inspecting, transforming and modelling data with the aim of discovering important information, suggesting conclusions and supporting decision making (Mason, 2012). Thematic data analysis was used in this study to analyze qualitative data from the interviews. According to Sarantakos (2013) thematic analysis is a method employed to analyze data focusing on themes identified by means of coding. Themes are patterns across data which are very important to the research area under study. Therefore, themes can be understood as key findings of the study. The responses from the interviews and data gathered from direct observation were arranged into thematic frames.
determined by the theoretical proposition and research objectives. The researcher employed thematic data analysis method because it allows to discover the major themes in the study taking for instances, the researcher was able to identify themes like the characteristics of child street vendors, the causes of child street vending and the challenges faced by the children. This therefore, enabled the researcher to analyze the research findings in the form of themes.

3.7 Ethical issues

In every research, the researcher considers ethical issues that surround the study. Ethical principles were upheld to protect the interest of respondents and the researcher sought for consent from respondents before the research commence. The researcher informed the respondents about the research and the reason behind the study and safeguard them that they may not suffer adverse consequences during or after the research period. Ethical principles considered were as follows voluntary participation, confidentiality and privacy. In this research, ethics were extended to data publication, where the researcher ensure that the outcomes are treated with honest, objectivity, integrity, carefulness, competence, responsibility and legality. This is said by Babbie (2011) who emphasized that the researcher must treat research outcomes with great responsibility and openness.

3.7.1 Informed consent

Informed consent is a process whereby the participants were informed about the procedures, risks and benefits associated with the project and the respondents decided to participate (McLaughlin, 2012). The researcher informed child respondents and key informants about the procedures of the research and also the benefits and effects of participating in the study. The principle was upheld and helped the respondents to participate freely in the study without being forced to answer the questions. Therefore, participants made decisions of participating in the research. They signed a consent form which protects their integrity.

3.7.2 Confidentiality

The participants were assured confidentiality of their responses. The researcher kept information disclosed by participants in confidential and did not share the data with anyone else (Engel and Schutt, 2013). The participants were guaranteed that their names or any of their personal details will not be published by the researcher. The purpose of the study was fully enlightened to them prior to data collection. The respondents were fully informed on the issues
to do with the research. The respondents were informed that the information was strictly used for educational purposes.

3.7.3 Voluntary participation

As part of ethical considerations, the participants were guaranteed in the consent form that participation was voluntary. Resultantly, only participants who showed interest took part in the study and all of them were treated with respect, dignity and worthy as human beings.

3.8 Feasibility

The study was feasible as the necessary data was collected and analysed by the researcher. It was feasible because the streets were very busy with street vending activities and this enables the researcher to access the respondents in their working environments. The respondents were very effective and willing to cooperate in the study.

3.9 Possible Limitations

The researcher anticipated ignorance and hostile behaviour from respondents since they can be afraid of being victimized by the media. The study was limited with time and funding since the research was self-sponsored. The study sought of information on very sensitive issues in this regard, the respondents may tend to lie on certain issues this may resulted in falsification of information. To minimise limitations the researcher assured participants that information gathered will be used for academic purposes only and their identities will be protected.

3.10 Delimitation

The study was carried out on the streets of Harare CBD. The respondents were drawn from child street vendors between the ages of 9 to 17 years both male and females. The study examined challenges faced by street vending children on the streets of Harare CBD.

3.11 Chapter Summary

The chapter discussed research methodology. It outlined the research design, data collection, instruments used to collect data, sampling procedures and techniques being used by the researcher. It also highlighted the ethical principles upheld during the study and the researcher was guided by research ethics during data collection period. The next chapter focuses on presentation of the findings and analysis of data which was collected.
CHAPTER 4. DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents and discusses data on the challenges faced by street vending children in Harare CBD. The objectives of the study were to understand the characteristics of child street vendors, to examine the causes of street vending among the children, to critically examine the challenges faced by street vending children and to investigate strategies adopted by children. A sample size of 21 comprising 16 child vendors and 5 key informants were interviewed for the study. Interview guides and direct observations were used to gather data.

4.1 Demographic information of the respondents

Demographic data of the respondents is very crucial on this study because it helps to understand individuals involved in street vending activities. The demographic data on respondents was explored.

4.1.1 Demographic information of the respondents by Sex, Age and Educational level

The sex, age and educational level of respondents was examined (table, 1). Sixteen respondents were purposively selected for in-depth interviews.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEX</th>
<th>AGE DISTRIBUTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9-12 years</td>
<td>13-15years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIRLS</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th>GIRS</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>In secondary education</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary dropouts</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary dropouts</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
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</table>

TABLE 1.

A total of 16 respondents interviewed for the study, nine were boys and seven were girls. Four of them were aged between (9-12years) while seven were aged between (13-15years) and five
were aged between (16-17 years). The study results revealed that more boys were vending on the streets of Harare compared to their female counterparts and the reasons could be culturally explained. In African societies girls are perceived as helpers who helped their mothers and families with household chores while boys are viewed as the head of the families and they need to be taught to be responsible persons. Another reason could be that girls are being protected from the vagaries of the streets. The results indicate that, the number of girls in street vending decreased as they grew up and the reason could be that girls are involved in other activities which give them money like prostitution or house maids. This finding is in line with the findings by Ngulube (2010) cited in Mella (2012) and Msekiwa (2009) who state that the majority of children involved in street working activities are boys. The study was in line with the findings by UNICEF Zimbabwe (2011) which states that about 10% of the children between the ages of 5 to 14 years are involved in street vending activities. The study also found that children engaged in street working activities at an early age and this was supported by Ekpenyong and Sibiri (2011) who state that in Sub-Saharan Africa children below 10 years are involved in trading activities.

Eleven respondents were in primary and secondary school while the remaining 5 were primary and secondary school dropouts. The eldest of the respondents were 17 years and they were below the minimum age of employment. Children who were not going to school cited that they are permanently involved in street vending while those in school indicated that they came on temporary basis. The findings compliment Ngulube (2010) in Mella (2012) who state that 85% of children in primary education are involved in street economic activities.

However, the number of girls vending on the streets decreased compared to their male counterparts. This finding dispels claims by UNICEF (2012) study findings which states that girls worked more than their male counterparts. The study results contradict the findings by Ashimolowo et al (2010) in Lagos, Nigeria who state that girls were more involved in street vending with 60.8% while boys with 39.2. This study found that the number of boys increased as they grew up and they find street vending as another form of employment. ILO (2013) predicts that the number of girls involved in street vending activities had a potential of growing and this was shown by the 12% difference.

4. 2 Characteristics of child street vendors

The study sought to understand the characteristics of children involved in street vending activities and below are the characteristics of child street vendors in Harare.
4.2.1 Children from low income households

Children from low income were vending on the streets of Harare. Ten respondents indicated that their parents are employed in the informal sector as street vendors, commuter omnibus drivers or unprofessional hairdressers but 6 of them are street vendors. A total of 7 respondents highlighted that they are staying with both of their parents while 2 with their single mothers and 1 with his grandmother. Key informant C highlighted that, “the incomes earned by people in the informal sector especially street vendors is very little and it cannot meet the needs of their families”. Children from low income households engaged in street vending activities to supplement the family income. The findings are in line with Ashimolowo et al (2010) who state that children from low income households with mothers in street trading are more likely to engage on trading activities. Therefore, children from low income households are involved in street vending activities compared to those from rich families.

4.2.2 Orphaned Children

Orphaned children were vending on the streets of Harare and 6 respondents indicated that they are orphans while 2 are from child headed families and 4 from extended families. The respondents indicated that they are vending in order to take care of themselves and their siblings while others are selling goods on behalf of their custodians to supplement the family income. The findings are in line with the findings by Mapamhize (2014) who claims that more than 100 000 children are in child headed households and they are involved in economic activities like street vending in order to meet their needs.

4.3 Nature of street vending activities amongst children

The activities that the children are involved in are explored below. The children indicated that they are selling various goods and the types of goods sold by children determined the time spent on the streets.

4.3.1 Types of goods sold by the children

The goods that children sold in the streets were perishable and non-perishable. The goods sold by the children determined the time spent on the streets. Twelve of the respondents were selling non-perishable goods such as snacks, sweets, airtime, CDs, newspapers, textbooks, pesticides, cigarettes, shopping bags while four were selling perishables such as vegetables and fruits.
The children were focusing on busy streets of Harare because it helps them to earn more money since it was convenient to consumers and passers-by. The study noted that children who were selling non-perishable goods start selling around nine o’clock and went home at eight in the evening while those selling perishable goods start around 11.00 am and knock-off at eight in the evening. The study found that children approximately spent more than 8 hours per day selling on the streets and it’s not good for them to work for a long period of time without resting. The findings were in support of the study by Zienchuk (2014) in Latin America who revealed that children from poor households sell various types of goods such as candy, cigarettes, juice cards and lottery tickets on the streets to supplement the family income. This support the findings by ZNCWC (2014), which states that 35% of children are working on the streets during the day return home in the night.

4.3.2 Children’s financers on street vending

Children interviewed in the study were financed by their custodians who include parents, cousins, siblings, uncles and aunties whom they stayed with. Nine of the respondents reported that they were financed by their parents and the goods they were selling belonged to their parents. Five of the respondents claimed that they were given capital by their guardians and the goods belonged to their guardians. Two of the respondents claimed that they financed themselves to start vending and the goods belongs to them. Huni (2015) posits that children were financed by the parents or guardians in order to boost the family income.

4.3.3 Period of Child Street Vending

The period that the children had been vending on the streets was explored. Nine respondents indicated that they have more than 1 year while, 4 have less than 1 year and 3 have more than 2 years of selling on the streets of Harare. The study found that children involved in street vending activities have either to drop out of school or to engage on street vending activities on temporary basis. The finding was in line with the findings by Osment (2014) who states that children with more than 2 years of working on the streets combined vending with their studies.

4.4 Causes of child street vending

The study sought to examine the reasons for child street vending in Harare and the following were highlighted as the causes for vending.
4.4.1 Poverty

Poverty was cited as one of the reasons why children were vending on the street of Harare. Twelve respondents indicated that poverty was a causal factor which led them to be engaged on street vending activities. One respondent (11 years) said “Mama ndivo vakati hande totengesa kuti tigowana mari yekutenga chikafu nemabhuku ekuchikoro”. (The child claimed that she was influenced by her mother to start selling in order to raise money for household necessities).

Key informant A states that, “many people in Zimbabwe are living in absolute poverty. Due to lack of access to basic human needs, the majority of urban people have embarked on street vending as an alternative measure of sustaining their families”.

ZNCWC (2014) states that because of poverty in Zimbabwe, 35% of children are working on the streets of Harare to supplement the family income. This is in line with the findings by Chirwa (2015) in Mzuzu City, who revealed that poverty leads to the deprivation of basic necessities and children were forced to start selling on the streets in order to increase the family income.

4.4.2 Unemployment and/or underemployment of the parents

Unemployment or underemployment were cited as driving forces behind street vending. Four respondents cited that unemployment and/or underemployment of their parents caused them to engage on vending activities. The child (10 years) said, “Ndinogara natete vanotengesawo saka mari yandinotoshanda ndiyo yatotengesa zvinhu kumba”. (I stay with my auntie who is a vendor. We use the money that we realised to buy food and other basics at home). Due to high unemployment or underemployment rates in Zimbabwe, many people rely on the informal sector. Due to stiff competition in the informal sector, many parents put their children in strategic corners in order to earn more money. Girma (2009) supports that unemployment and/or underemployment of the parents contributed to the exploitation of children in street vending activities.

4.4.3 Parent’s socio-economic status

The socio-economic status of the parents was cited as one of the causal factors which drove children to engage on street vending. Ten respondents indicated that their guardians are employed in the informal sector as street vendors, commuter omnibus drivers and hairdresser. One participant (14 years) said “My mother is a vegetable vendor and my father sold
newspapers and juice cards”. The socio-economic status of the parents contributed to the engagement of children in street vending activities. The earnings of their custodians are very little hence children are used as alternatives to raise more money. Zienchunk (2014), Ekpenyong and Sibiri (2011) are of the view that parents from low income households forced their children out of school to work and boost the family income. Therefore, parents with low socio-economic status engaged their children in street vending which exposed children to risks associated with street activities.

4.4.4 Lack of jobs

Lack of jobs was highlighted as one of the factors which causes children to engage on street vending. Two respondents (17 years) indicated that, “they came to Harare looking for jobs after completing their ordinary level examinations”. Due to job scarcity in Zimbabwe, the children started street vending in order to cater for their needs and those of their families. The findings are in line with the findings by Midjitey (2014) who postulates that young persons are involved in petty trading and street vending due to lack of formal jobs.

4.5 Challenges faced by street vending children

In the course of vending, children claim that they faced a number challenges which had detrimental effects on their well-being. Below were the challenges identified in the study.

4.5.1 Harsh working conditions

Harsh working conditions was found as one of the challenges faced by children. Eleven respondents revealed that working conditions were not conducive on their well-being. Another child (14 years) said, “Kana kuchitopisa mal nekuti hapana shade pano kutongotengesa zvakadaro asi musoro unopedzisira wakurwadza”. (When it’s very hot it becomes a problem because there is no shade here. I am exposed to direct sunlight and sometimes it caused me headaches).

He also added that, “Senguva ino yekunaya business haritombofambe nekuti macustomer haatombode kumira panonaya. Ndinotombomira kutengesa kusvika mvura yagasa”. (In this rainy season, the business is not going very well especially when it’s raining because the customers are not willing to stand in an open space without a shade).

The study observed that the vending stalls from which children operated had less or no protection at all which exposed them to direct sunlight, wind, coldness and rain. Lack of proper
vending stalls also affected the business. Bromely (2009) supports that open-air environments increased children’s susceptibility to risk factors like bad weather.

4.5.2 Exposure to diseases

Exposure to diseases was cited as a challenge encountered by children in the course of vending. Eleven of the respondents indicated that lack of toilets and clean water to drink exposed them to various diseases such as cholera and typhoid. One respondent (17 years) said, “I drink water from the public toilets because I have no money to buy drinking water and that tapped water it's not safe”. The respondents added that, toilets are not clean because they used public toilets and it exposed them to diseases. Recently, in Harare there was an outbreak of typhoid and it placed children at the risk of contracting the diseases. Therefore, the working environment has detrimental effects to children’s health. This is supported by Roever (2014) who claimed that street vending affect children’s physical development as it exposed them to various diseases due to lack of safe water to drink and access to clean toilets.

4.5.3 Educational interference

The respondents cited that street vending interferes with their education as they face a challenge to balance schooling and vending. Street vending activities affected children’s school attendance and five of them had totally drops out of school to cater for the needs of their families. Poverty made children to drop out of school as their parents failed to raise money for school fees. Three of them wished to raise money for school fees and return to school because they had failed their ordinary level examinations while another one wished to start secondary education since he dropped out at primary level. The child (15 years) lamented that, “If we managed to raise more money, I would like to resume my studies because I dropped school at grade7”. This means that, the children are wishing to restart their education.

However, one of the respondents had no hopes of going back to school but he wants to survive through street vending.

“Sister, I didn’t collect my form four results because my mother failed to clear the outstanding balance. I have no hopes of going to school again but I want to raise money for a driver’s licence”, said the child (17 years).

Street vending has detrimental effects on children’s educational attainment as they face a challenge to balance their schooling and vending activities. Children involved in street vending claimed that they spent more time on vending rather than studying. The study revealed that
majority of the respondents are still going to school and they are selling either during school holidays or weekends. Another child added that street vending affected his studies since he came every day after school. This gave him limited time to study after work because he would be very tired. The findings are in line with Gamble (2011) who states that children who work part-time on the street while studying basically they perform 12% lower than those who devote their time to study.

Economic crisis in the country made children to involve in street vending activities to sustain their lives. It made some children to have negative attitudes towards school and they engaged in the informal sector in order to solve their problems.

4.5.4 Child Abuse

Child abused was cited as one of the challenges faced by the children. All respondents revealed that they experienced various forms of abuse including verbal, emotional and sexual from various people in the course of vending. Thirteen of the respondents reported that they experienced verbal and emotional abuse while three experienced sexual abuse or assaults.

The child (15years) said,

“Street vending is affecting me emotionally because some of my friends laughed at me when they saw me here and they told everyone in my class. They gave me a nickname called ‘Mr Phidza’ because I am making money through vending. From now, when I see anyone from my class I will try to hide to avoid embarrassment”.

Other respondents revealed that they were verbally abused by adult vendors and passers-by. Another respondent (16years) openly stated that, “he was verbally abused by passers-by for occupying the pavement and disturbing them to walk freely”.

Three girls reported that they experienced sexual abuse or assault from either male customer or touts. One of the girls (17years) said, “As you can see, I am operating at an illegal place and the touts sexually assaulted me with vulgar words but I remain silent in order to avoid continuous insults”.

The study found that children vending on the streets suffered verbal, emotional and sexual abuse which can impact negatively on their development. The reason could be that they were disturbing the passers-by to walk on the streets or adult vendors were jealous of the children because they were earning more money than them. The study also found that girls vending girls
are more vulnerable to sexual assault or abuse compared to their counter male parts. This is similar to findings by Dada (2013) who reveals that 60% of the girls selling on the streets of Nigeria were sexually abused or assaulted by men.

4.5.5 Victimization and Harassment

Victimization and harassment was cited as a challenge faced by children vending on the streets of Harare. Eleven respondents indicated that they were subjects of victimization and harassment by municipal police officers. One of the respondents freely stated that “she was victimized and harassed by municipal police officers and at times threatened with arrest”. Key informant B from Municipal Police department supported the claim that they harassed the children and interrogated them so that they won’t engage on street vending again.

“We all know that street vending is illegal and we arrest all street vendors during our operations because we are maintaining our standards and for the safety of the children since we know the dangers associated in street vending”, said the key informant.

However, another respondent disagreed with the claim that children are victimized by Municipal Police. The child (14years) said, “I had never been victimized, harassed or confiscated by the Municipal police during their operations but they would say leave her she is a kid”.

From the observations, children were seen packing their goods like their adult counterparts when Municipal Police Officers approaching their selling points. The findings correlate with what was found by Estrada (2016) in Los Angeles, who states that children vending on the streets victimized and harassed by Municipality Police. A study by Tambo (2015) in Bulawayo highlighted that all street vendors experience harassment and confiscation from City Council Police Officials. This clearly shows that children are victimized, harassed or arrested by Municipality Police and this affects the children psychological.

4.5.6 Loss of capital

Children cited that they experienced loss of capital due to raids and bad weather conditions. Eleven respondents complained that they suffered loss of capital due to raids from Harare Municipal Police and/or bad weather conditions. The children indicated that they were raided by Municipality Police and lost their goods. One of the respondents (13years) said, “Kanzuru inotora zvinhu zvedu, zvinotitorera nguva kuti mama vawane imwe mari yekunohodha
Another key informant C supported the claim that children suffered loss of capital due to raids from Municipality Police. She added that, “street vendors do not earn more money and they use their money on daily basis, if they are raided it could be difficult for them to resume the business”.

Another respondent (17years) freely explain that, he suffered loss of capital due to bad weather conditions.

He said, “during this rainy season, it becomes a loss when my goods are rained because I end-up using my salary to replace the damaged goods. My employer doesn’t consider that it was raining, but what she wants is her money”.

From the observation, the child was distracted about the loss he suffered due to bad weather conditions. The findings correlate with the findings by Dada (2013) in Nigeria who revealed that child hawkers experienced severe losses due to bad weather conditions and it takes them time to get another capital to resume the business.

4.5.7 Lack of Contracts

Lack of contracts was found as another challenge encountered by children in the course of vending. One of the respondents indicated that he was working for someone but without a contractual agreement. The child (17years) said, “I'm just working without even a contract and I don't even know what a contract is”. The respondent added that, “he had challenges with his employer when it comes to payments because sometimes she gave him half salary or even after two weeks yet they agreed payments on weekly basis”. Due to lack of contractual agreements, the child cannot sue his employer. The study found that, the child did not understand his rights and had no idea of legal instruments like contracts which can protect him.

However, due to nature of street vending in Zimbabwe most children who are vending to support their families are not viewed as employees but as family helpers. Ekpenyong and Sibiri (2011) noted that children are not aware of the dangers associated with street vending and their rights are being violated
4.5.8 Hunger and Starvation

Hunger and starvation was cited as the challenge faced by children in the course of vending. Twelve of the respondents indicated that they had a challenge in accessing adequate food and the majority highlighted that they had two meals per day.

One respondent (10 years) lamented that “Ndinongodya kamwe chete patodzokera kumba. Kumba kwacho kunengekusina chikafu tinototenga nemari yatinenge tashanda pazuva”. (I eat once per day because there is no food at home and we buy food on daily basis with the money that we realise).

The reasons could be that, there is shortage of money in the household which could be difficult for them to have at least three meals per day. This finding is in line with Gamble (2011) who states that shortage of food attributed to malnutrition which leads to poor physical and psychological development on children.

4.5.9 Stress

Stress was indicated as another challenge experienced by the children during vending. Three respondents complained of stress caused by the nature of their job. They indicated that stress was caused either by spending most of their time standing selling the goods or when the business is not going well.

Another respondent (17 years) said, “it becomes stressful when the business is not going well because my employer wants her money and I also want money for food, rent and other necessities”. Other respondents added that, “they came straight from school to town to sell their goods and they did not get enough time to rest”. Therefore, Osment (2014) states that excessive stress impacted negatively on children’s psychological development.

4.5.10 Lack of Leisure time

Lack of leisure time was indicated by the respondents as a challenge they faced. Seven of them explained how vending was robbing them time to play with their friends.

One of the participants (11 years) stated that, “Ndasuwa kutamba neshamwari dzangu, nekuti nguva zhinji ndinenge ndiri kuno ndichitengesa kanyanya paholiday”. (I miss playing with my friends because most of the time especially on holidays I spend here selling).
Street vending has negative impacts on children’s social development as they need time to play with their peers. These children were deprived their freedom of association with other peers. The findings are in line with Gamble (2011) who states that children spending most of their time selling on the streets lack adequate time to interact with their peers. Adequate socialization is very important in the development of children as they learn societal norms and values through interaction with others of their age. The respondents’ childhood might have been compromised and they are likely to develop unwanted social behaviours and it can lead to moral degradation.

4.5.11 Exposure to Robbery and Thieving

Exposure to robbery was cited by the respondents as one the challenges they faced in vending. One respondent (10 years) indicated that, “children of the streets attempted to rob her but she was rescued by a passer-by”. The children are at risk because they cannot defend themselves but they need protection from the elders. This finding is in line with the findings by Dada (2013) and Chirwa (2015) who state that children vending on the streets are prone to robbery and thieving since they are minors who cannot fight back.

4.6 Strategies adopted by children to address the challenges they faced in street vending

Children vending on the streets identified various strategies to cope with the challenges they faced and the strategies are explored below.

4.6.1 Paying Bribe

Paying bribes was a major strategy adopted by the children in the course of vending. Thirteen respondents indicated that they paid bribes to Municipal Police Officers or to base owners so that their goods cannot be taken during street operations. One of the respondents (14 years) said “I pay about $3 to Municipal Police so that I won’t lose my stuff”.

Another respondent (16 years) added that, “I keep my goods in a hidden place. I pay $1 per day to the base owner where it’s not easily accessible by Municipal Police”.

It was found that paying bribes was a better option than to let their goods being taken. Therefore, this strategy was very effective for the children not to suffer any loss of their goods.
4.6.2 Seeking social support

Seeking social supported was cited as a strategy adopted by the children. Five of the respondents indicated that they sought social support from their extended family members whenever they faced problems. Another respondent (17 years) explained that “his grandmother gave him accommodation and food”. This helped him to have a place to stay whilst doing his vending business in order to look after for his unemployed parents and siblings in the rural areas. The nuclear, extended family and/or community came in as forms of social support. Due to kinship ties, the extended family was fast to respond. Okoli (2009) states that the six-tier system is effective in children’s lives as the respondents used the system to address their problems.

4.6.3 Educational attendance

Children are given opportunities to attain their education regardless of being involved in street vending. Eleven respondents are still going to school in primary and secondary education and three dropped out of school but they have hopes of going back to school to resume their studies.

One of the respondents (15 years) claimed that “he maximised time at school and study in the evening so that he can acquire better grades in his studies”.

Another child (10 years) added that “she never failed her studies because her mother helped her to do homework”. Hence, she managed to balance her schoolwork and home business.

The respondent (15 years) said, “If we managed to raise enough money, my grandmother would send me back to school and I will be able to secure a better job”. Education was seen as a way of escaping the vicious cycle of poverty and a way of securing sustainable employment.

4.6.4 Diversifying the goods

Diversifying the goods was a strategy adopted by the children in order to lure customers and maximise their profits. Eleven of the respondents revealed that diversifying their goods was a great strategy. From the observations, the children were selling various types of goods from food stuffs to household items. They used this strategy in order to decentralised their products which helped them to lure a large number of customers and realising maximum profits.

One key informant A said, “There is no difference on goods sold by the children and adult vendors. You would see children selling pesticides, vegetables, snacks, juice cards, books,
lotions, CDs etc”. A study by Zienchuk (2014) in Latin America revealed that children are selling various types of goods in order to withstand competition in street vending.

4.7 Roles played by Government and other institutions in assisting the disadvantaged children

The government and other institutions intervened in assisting the disadvantaged children and below are the roles identified in the study.

4.7.1 Child Welfare Services

The Department of Child Welfare and Protection Services provided social services to disadvantaged children. Key Informant D from the Department said, “they created a data base of children who came looking for assistance but some of them do not disclose their status”. He also stated that some children are put in Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM) and it gives them opportunities to go to school. He further noted that, in December 2015 the Department together with City of Harare and ZRP Public Relations department conducted an operation in the CBD. They raided all the children who were working and living on the streets with the aim of reducing the number of children who are economically exploited. They are trying to protect children from the dangers of the streets. He added that DCWPS is in a committee called Task Force Team which include City of Harare, ZRP Public Relations department, various NGOs and Volunteers for Orphans and Vulnerable Children. The committee is working towards assisting vulnerable children and protecting them from child labour activities. This shows that the government is working hard towards assisting children who are disadvantaged

4.7.2 Social Welfare Services

Another key informant E from DCWPS indicated that the department was providing social services to disadvantaged families which benefits children indirectly. He said, the department is providing food assistance through the drought relief programme and monetary allowance to parents through the programme called Harmonised Social Cash Transfer. This helped the poor households to earn a living and it reduced the number of children who are forced into vending activities for family sustenance. This clearly indicated that the government was responsible for the well-being of the people.

A key informant C from National Vendors Union-Zimbabwe indicated that they partner with UNICEF-Zimbabwe and provide various services to children vending in the streets. Some of
the children were given financial assistance to go back to school. She also lamented that they link vendors to service providers such as those who provide legal services, medical services and training skills. These services were benefiting all vendors including child street vendors. Therefore, it shows that various organisations intervened in addressing the problems faced by children in the course of vending.

4.8 Perceptions on the involvement of children in street vending

The respondents viewed street vending both negatively and positively and below are the perceptions of respondents towards street vending.

4.8.1 Perceptions of Children on street vending

So many respondents expected their families to provide basic needs in the households. Children viewed street vending as a most stressing job which can affect their normal development. One male respondent (17 years) perceived street vending as embarrassing and it must be done by women not men.

He said, ‘Zvekutengesa izvi zvinonyadzisa kunyanya kuvarume zvinotoda kuitwa nevakadzi kungoti hapana zvekuita kungoita kuti tiwane kurarama’. The children were not happy of being street vendors but due to circumstances beyond their control, they were engaged on street vending to make ends meet.

Another respondent (17 years) lamented that, ‘street vending is not a profitable activity, If I get a better paying job I would go’. The child was hoping for acquiring a better paying job because street vending was not good enough for him.

However, other respondents viewed street vending as good to them because they are making more money. ‘Kutengesa kutori bhoo nekuti ndikutoita mari yandiri kutotumira kumusha kune vabereki vangu, nekushandisa kuno kwandinogara na ambuya vangu’, said the respondent (15 years). The study found that children were viewing street vending differently. Dasugpta and Bateman (2007) view street vending as having positive contributions on children’s lives.

4.8.2 Perceptions of Key Informants on child street vending

All key informants perceived that involving children in street vending was a form of child labour. Key informant A highlighted that, “Parents are violating the children’s rights even though the children are working to supplement the family income. They are exposing children to various risks, and accidents associated on the streets”. Another key informant C lamented
that, “children are prone to diseases due to bad weather and working conditions”. Therefore, all key informants perceived street vending as having negative impact on children’s development. Due to socio-economic status of the family, children’s lives are at risks.

4.9 Chapter Summary

The chapter has presented and discussed the study findings. The presentations and discussions were done in line with the aim and four objectives of the study. The study found that many children were involved in street vending in order to supplement the family income. It also revealed that children were prone to various diseases, risks and dangers of the streets which affects their development. The next chapter draws conclusions from the findings and recommendations for the study.
CHAPTER 5. SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter draws conclusions from the findings presented and discussed in chapter four. The summary indicated the main idea of the study and conclusions were made from the study findings. Recommendations were presented to conclude the research.

5.1 Summary

The study looked on the challenges faced by street vending children in Harare CBD. The study targeted children involved in street vending activities in Harare CBD ranging from 9 to 17 years. A sample size of 21 was employed, 16 were children and 5 were key informants from DCWPS, Municipality Police Department and NAVU-Z. The study found that children encountered various socio-economic challenges which have detrimental effects to their well-being.

5.2 Conclusions

The study concludes that child street vending is extensive in Harare CBD and exact findings are discussed below.

5.2.1 Characteristics of Child Street Vendors

The study concludes that so many boys were vending on the streets of Harare compared to their female counterparts with a total of 9 boys and 7 girls. It was found that children are working on the streets to support their families while others are working to take care of their needs. The study revealed that children are from different family types including the nuclear, single parenting, child headed and extend families. Ashimolow et al (2010) note that children from disadvantaged families are involved in street vending to boost the family income. Due to the nature of their families, children are forced to engage on vending activities to supplement the family income.

5.2.2 Causes of Child Street Vending

The research concludes that poverty is the major causal factor of child vending. Children vend on the streets to supplement the family income and also to buy school stationery and uniforms. Girma (2009) states that unemployment or underemployment of the parents also contributes to the exploitation of children. The study concludes that majority of children’s guardians are employed in the informal sector as street vendors, unprofessional hairdressers and commuter
omnibus drivers. Due to stiff competition in the informal sector, parents tend to use their children in strategic corners in order to earn more money. Rapid urban migration also contributes to the involvement of children in street vending activities as the children migrated from rural areas in search of employment. Due to economic instabilities in the country, children engage on street vending in order to sustain themselves and their families. Therefore, the socio-economic factors drove children into street vending activities.

5.2.3 Challenges faced by children in street vending

The study concludes that street vending has negative impacts on children’s well-being. The street working conditions exposed children to various diseases such as cholera, typhoid and headaches (Roever, 2014). The environment was not conducive for the well-being of the children. It also exposed children to various risks such as accidents and robberies. Chirwa (2015) noted that children vending on the streets are prone to robberies and thieving. Street vending deprives children their right to education and robbed them their leisure time. Stress at an early age and abuse were some of the challenges identified. Street vending has detrimental effects on children’s physical and psychosocial development.

5.2.4 Strategies adopted by Children

The research concludes that children adopted various strategies to cope with the problems they faced. It was found that children adopted bribery as an effective strategy rather than losing their goods to Municipality Police Officers. The study concludes that seeking social support and educational attendances were some of the strategies adopted by children as supported by Okoli (2009). Due to stiff competition in street vending, children were diversifying their goods as highlighted by Zienchuk (2014) which helps them to lure a large number of customers and realize maximum profits. Therefore, these strategies were employed by the children.

5.3 Recommendations

This section is going to discuss recommendations that may help to address the challenges faced by children vending on the streets as well as protecting them from all economic exploitations.

5.3.1 Effective Implementation and Enforcement of Laws

Although, the government of Zimbabwe made great efforts to come up with various laws which protect children from economic exploitation and some of the laws include Zimbabwe constitution amendment 20(2013), Children’s Act (5.06), Labour Act (28.01). However, there
is need of effective enforcement of these laws in order to protect children from economic exploitations. This study recommends the government to provide a clause for punishment to those who violet the children’s rights and the laws. The government should align its laws especially on the minimum age of employment to International Standards of ILO which states that employment of a person below 15years is prohibited because the Labour Act (28.01) states that a person above 13years can be employed. Hence, this can cause confusion on people and the children will be economically exploited.

5.3.2 Poverty Eradication

Poverty was found as one of the major causes of street vending amongst children in Harare. There is need of having income generating projects such as poultry, gardening, weaving for poor households so that they can sustain themselves. By virtue of engaging them in self-sustaining projects, the families can get surplus income which will cater for their basic needs other than using their children in street vending. The government and other organisation should engage disadvantaged parents on skills training so that they can acquire skills on how to start their own business in order to alleviate poverty in the household. The government should also distribute adequate resources to government departments such as DCWPC which caters for the welfare of the children.

5.3.3 Awareness raising

The government and civil society organisations should raise awareness campaigns to notify the parents about the dangers associated in street vending activities. Social workers should take a lead by informing the parents that it is their responsibility to meet the needs of their families rather than exposing their children to various risks through street vending. Information can be disseminated through materials like t-shirts, flyers, pamphlets and also through dramas. This helps to disseminate information about the negative effects of street vending on children’s education, social, physical and psychological development.

5.3.4 Knowledge on children’s rights

There is need of educating the community about children’s rights. People must be knowledgeable that engaging children below the age of 18years in working activities like street vending is illegal. Most parents or guardians perceived that they are grooming their children to be responsible adults and not engaging them in child labour activities. Therefore, social
workers as child welfare officers should be in a position of bringing clarity on children’s rights and their responsibilities as well as differentiating child work and child labour.

5.3.5 Free Education

During the study, it was found that children vending on the streets were deprived their education was interrupted. It is the government’s responsibilities to ensure that all children including child street vendors attain basic education. There is need of collaboration between government, NGOs and other stakeholders to ensure that the disadvantaged children attain their education. Taking for instances, City council can offer free education to disadvantaged children in its schools and ECD centres. It was found that there are insufficient resources in the government to promote education through BEAM programme therefore, other NGOs and donors should intervene with funding.

5.3.6 Further Studies

The study encourages further researches on child street vending to determine the impact of street vending on children. The Department of Child Welfare and Protection Services together with Child Protection Specialists should engage on more researches to ensure that all children in labour activities are protected.
REFERENCES


ILO. (2013). World Report on Child Labour Economic Vulnerability, social protection and


APPENDICIES

Appendix I. Consent Form for Street Vending Children

My name is Cynthia Kanyati a fourth-year Social Work student at Bindura University of Science Education. I am carrying out a research on the challenges faced by street vending children on the street of Harare CBD. Please note that your responses shall be treated with confidentiality and the research is for academic purposes only and it shall not be disclosed to anyone else even those who participate in this research.

I am kindly requesting for your permission to participate in this research and participation is voluntary. I am kindly informing you that there are no payments granted for participating in this study. If you are interested to participate in this study, please may you kindly sign in the space provided below. The interview might take 30-45 minutes of your precious time.

………………………. …………………. …..../……/…………. …………………

Name of Respondent Sex Date Signature
………………………. …………………. …..../……/…………. …………………

Name of Researcher Date Signature
Appendix II. Consent Form for Key Informants

My name is Cynthia Kanyati a fourth-year Social Work student at Bindura University of Science Education. I am carrying out a research on the **challenges faced by child street vendors on the street of Harare CBD**. The purpose of this interview is to analyse the challenges faced by street vending children on the streets of Harare CBD, as part of the requirements for Honours Degree in Social Work at Bindura University of Science Education.

The information that you give will be treated with confidentiality and respect. It shall be used for academic purpose only and shall not be disclosed to anyone else even those who participate in this research. Participation in this study is voluntary and your valuable contribution will be utilized efficiently.

You are allowed not to answer some of the questions or to dismiss the interview, if you feel not comfortable with it. The interview will take 30 to 45 minutes of your time.

I hereby give consent to participate in this study

………………………….. ....../....../........ ........................................

Name of the Respondent Date Signature of the Respondent

………………………….. ........./......./....... ........................................

Name of the Researcher Date Signature of the Respondent
Appendix III. INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR CHILDREN

My name is Cynthia Kanyati a fourth-year Social Work student at Bindura University of Science Education. I am carrying out a research on challenges faced by child street vendors on the street of Harare CBD. The purpose of this interview is to analyze the challenges faced by street vending children on the streets of Harare CBD, as part of the requirements for Honours Degree in Social Work at Bindura University of Science Education.

The information that you give will be treated with confidentiality and respect. It shall be used for academic purpose only and shall not be disclosed to anyone else even those who participate in this research. Participation in this study is voluntary and your valuable contribution will be utilized efficiently.

Research objectives

- To understand the causes of street vending among children.
- To analyze the characteristics of child street vendors.
- To critically examine the challenges faced by street vending children in Harare CBD and its effects on physical, psychological, emotional, moral and spiritual aspects on children’s well-being.
- To investigate coping mechanisms implemented to curb the challenges.

QUESTIONS

SECTION A: Demographic Data

1. How old are you?
2. How many children in your family?
3. What is your position in your family?
4. Who do you stay with? If it’s your parents-which of them? Father, mother or both? OR extended family?
5. What is the occupation of your parents/guardian?
6. Where do you live in Harare?
7. Do you go to school?
8. If yes, what grade or form are you?
9. If you are not, what is the highest level of education you attained?
SECTION B: Street Vending Activities

10. What type of goods do you sell here?
11. When did you start selling on the streets?
12. Where do you store your goods?
13. Who are you selling them for? Self or for someone else?
14. Who finances your vending activities?
15. How did you come to do vending?
16. What reasons made you to decide to be involved in street vending activities?
17. How much do you realise per day?
18. How do you spend the proceeds or realised capital?

SECTION C: Operations of Child Vendors

19. How often do you do vending - daily, weekends or school holidays?
20. What time do you start and finish?
21. Who do you give your money after selling your goods?

SECTION D: Challenges Faced by Street Vending Children

22. What circumstances or challenges do you encounter on street vending?
23. How many meals do you take per day?
24. Do you have any problems that you face at home in relation to your work on the streets?
25. How do consumers or passers-by treat you when selling your goods?
26. In situation where children work for other people, what is the relationship between the employers and the children?
27. If you are being paid on daily basis, what is your reaction when the employer fails to pay you as per your agreement?
28. What is your relationship with council officials?
29. How does street vending influence your attainment in education?

SECTION E: Coping Strategies

30. What are the coping strategies you adopt to address the challenges?
31. Are there any other organisations or associations which assist you to deal with the challenges that you face?

SECTION F: Children’s perception of Child Labour and Street Vending
32. What are your views and feelings in relation to street vending?

33. Generally, how do you view life as a street vendor?

34. I have seen many children continue with street vending into adulthood, how do you view such situation?

35. What do you think has to be done to curb the challenges that you face?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT
Appendix IV. INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR KEY INFORMANTS

My name is Cynthia Kanyati a fourth-year Social Work student at Bindura University of Science Education. I am carrying out a research on challenges faced by child street vendors on the street of Harare CBD. The purpose of this interview is to analyze the challenges faced by street vending children on the streets of Harare CBD, as part of the requirements for Honours Degree in Social Work at Bindura University of Science Education.

The information that you give will be treated with confidentiality and respect. It shall be used for academic purpose only and shall not be disclosed to anyone else even those who participate in this research. Participation in this study is voluntary and your valuable contribution will be utilized efficiently.

Research objectives

- To understand the causes of street vending among children.
- To analyze the characteristics of child street vendors.
- To critically examine the challenges faced by street vending children in Harare CBD and its effects on physical, psychological, emotional, moral and spiritual aspects on children’s well-being.
- To investigate coping mechanisms implemented to curb the challenges.

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Name of Institution……………………………………………………………………………………………………

Profession……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Position…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Years of Experience……………………………………………………………………………………………………

Sex…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………...

Age…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
QUESTIONS

1. What is your understanding of the involvement of children in street vending activities?
2. Do you have any help that you offer to child street vendors?
3. If yes, what kind of help do you offer?
4. What is causing children to engage in street vending activities?
5. Which age groups of children are mostly involved in street vending activities?
6. What kind of challenges are children involved in street vending activities likely to face?
7. What is your organization doing to protect children from harmful street vending activities?
8. What challenges does your organization encounter when addressing challenges faced by child street vendors?
9. Are there any organizations or institutions which assist children to handle problems they face in the course of vending?
10. What are your comments on the working conditions of the children?
11. Suggest any possible measures that can be done to assist disadvantaged children to earn a living rather than surviving on street vending activities

THANK YOU
Appendix V. Direct Observation Questions

1. What are the working conditions of the children?
2. Are children provided with protection from parents or guardians?
3. How adult street vendors treat child vendors when working together, if the person is not close to the child?
4. How child street vendors relate to each other?
5. How is the reaction of children to City Council Police Officers?
Appendix VI. Permission to conduct a research project (Department of Social Services).

Official communications should Not be addressed to individuals

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE
Compensation House
Cnr 4thStreet/Central Avenue
P.O. Box CY 429
Causeway
Harare

SW 12/5
04 January 2017

Dr. C. Nyoni
Bindura University of Science Education
Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities
P. Bag 1020
Bindura

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: PERMISSION FOR CYNTHIA KANYATI TO CONDUCT AN ACADEMIC RESEARCH ON CHALLENGES FACED BY STREET VENDING CHILDREN IN THE HARARE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

Receipt of your letter with the above mentioned subject matter is acknowledged.

The Department of Social Welfare is pleased to inform you that permission has been granted for Cynthia Kanyati to conduct a research on the topic entitled 'An analysis of challenges faced by street vending children: A case of Harare Central Business District'.

Kindly be advised that this permission is granted on condition that the research is for academic purposes only as the student pursuit for her HBSc Social Work degree at Bindura University of Science Education. In that regard, the research shall not be for publicity and in case of child participation, children's identities have to be protected at all costs.

You are kindly requested to submit a copy of the final research document to this Department upon completion.

S. Soko
ACTING DIRECTOR SOCIAL WELFARE
Appendix VII. Authorization to undertake a research (City of Harare)

25 January 2017
Bindura University of Science Education
P.Bag 1026 Chimurenga Road
Bindura

REF: AUTHORITY TO UNDERTAKE A RESEARCH: KANYATI CYNTHIA

This letter serves as authority for Kanyati Cynthia to undertake a research survey on: “AN ANALYSIS OF CHALLENGES FACED BY STREET VENDING CHILDREN. A CASE OF HARARE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT”

The City of Harare has no financial obligation and neither shall it render any further assistance in the context of the research. The researcher is however, requested to avail a soft and hard copy of the research to the undersigned so that, the residents of Harare can benefit out of it. The research should not be used for any other purpose other than the study purpose specified.

Yours Faithfully

[Signature]

HUMAN CAPITAL DIRECTOR
DR. C. CHINGOMBE

DATE

VISION: HARARE TO ACHIEVE A WORLD CLASS CITY STATUS BY 2025