

YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: A CASE  
STUDY OF CHIMANIMANI WEST CONSTITUENCY, ZIMBABWE

BY

LYFORD MASANGO

A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE  
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER IN PEACE AND  
GOVERNANCE IN THE INSTITUTE OF PEACE, LEADERSHIP AND  
GOVERNANCE OF AFRICA UNIVERSITY

2015

## **Abstract**

*The protracted and deep rooted economic crises that has affected many countries in Africa has had a profoundly negative impact on the wellbeing of the young people growing up in the midst of the crisis. This study explores the role of youth participation in development processes. This is achieved through an examination of the old and latest developments in literature concerning young people's identity, agency and experiences in community development. In particular, the study discuss the social, economic and political challenges faced by young people in terms of taking greater control over their own lives and contributing to the development of their communities and the country at large. The research was structured in five chapters the first chapter served to introduce the topic of the study. The objectives addressed by the research included to investigate the extent of youth participation in community development, to identify key challenges and to recommend mechanisms, processes and structures through which young people can participate in community development. Chapter two looked into the literature review and theory used. The participatory development theory was adopted, which emphasis bottom up approach ,the theory encourages participation of the community in development process Chapter three constituted the methodology used in the research, the research design adopted was purposive and snowballing sampling procedures. The research instruments were in-depth interviews, this gave the platform to participants to provide relevant information needed by the researcher. Chapter four included the findings, which included that the leaders view them as pawn and passive. They are not listened when developmental is being implemented. Chapter 5 include conclusion to the research and summary of findings. Recommendations are also made by the researcher, one the recommendations were that the Ministry of Youth should engage in educational programmes to increase youth participation.*

**Key words:** *Youth, Social, Economic, Political, Livelihood, Participation, Development.*

## **Declaration**

I, Lyford Masango, do hereby declare that the work herein, is a result of my own work. The ideas presented here are original and my own except where reference has been made and acknowledged appropriately. This dissertation has not been in anyUniversity for the purpose of an award or a degree.

Student..... Date.....

Supervisor..... Date.....

## **Copyright**

The material in this dissertation is copyrighted. Reproducing, copying and transmitting parts of this work without permission of the author or Africa University is a violation of the Law.

© Lyford Masango

Institute of Peace, Leadership and Governance

Africa University, Zimbabwe

## **Acknowledgements**

I would like to direct my sincere gratitude to Professor P. Machakanja, Mrs Bere, and the IPLG team at large and all those respondents who had to spare their precious time to give out valuable information in this study to make it a success. I would like to further direct my gratitude to my family for supporting me financially from the beginning to the end. My friend Sacky Ndinga has always been there to support me spiritually and morally especially in times I was feeling low and exhausted. IPLG fellow students especially Pastor Julius Mutume and Nyasha Zvomuya you have been there for me and thank you for your motivation.

**Dedication**

I dedicate this research to my late father Phenias for I have fore filled one of your major desires in life and respect for education you had, my mum Eveline, my brothers Phenias Jnr, Enerst, Taurai and Ronald.

## **List of Abbreviation and Acronyms**

AYC- African Youth Charter

CNRM- Community-based Natural Resources Management

CSO- Civil Society Organizations

ESAP- Economic Structural Adjustment Programme

HRA- Human rights approach

ILO- International Labour Organisation

IMF- International Monetary Fund

NGO- Non- Governmental Organization

NYC- National Youth Council

SADAC- Southern African Development Community

SAPs- Structural Adjustment Programmes

SSA- Sub-Sahara Africa

UDHR- Universal Declaration of Human Rights

UN- United Nations

VTC- Vocational Training Centre

YEF- Youth Empowerment Fund

ZIMASSET-Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation

ZNYP- Zimbabwe National Youth Policy

ZRP- Zimbabwe Republic Police

ZYC- Zimbabwe Youth Council



## Table of Content

Abstract .....	i
Declaration .....	ii
Copyright .....	iii
Acknowledgements .....	iv
Dedication .....	v
List of Abbreviation and Acronyms.....	vi
Table of Content.....	viii
List of Figures .....	xi
List of Appendices .....	xii
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION .....	1
1.0 Introduction .....	1
1.1 Background .....	2
1.1.1 Legal and Policy Context for Community Participation in Zimbabwe since 1980.....	4
1.1.2 Community Participation .....	6
1.2 Statement of the Problem. ....	6
1.3 Purpose of the Study .....	7
1.4 Research Objectives .....	8
1.5 Research Questions .....	9
1.6 Assumptions.....	9
1.7 Delimitations of the Study .....	10
1.8 Limitations .....	10
1.9 Structure of the Study.....	11
10 Definitions of Key Terms.....	11
10.1 Summary .....	12
CHAPTER 2-LITURATURE REVIEW .....	13
2.0 Introduction .....	13
2.1 Theoretical Framework to the Study.....	14

2.2 The regional situation of youth .....	16
2.3 Youth Participation in Community Development.....	19
2.4 Conclusion .....	33
CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY .....	34
3.0 Introduction .....	34
3.1 Research design.....	34
3.2 Population .....	35
3.3 Sample Size and Sampling Techniques .....	35
3.3.1 Sample Size.....	35
3.3.2 Sampling Techniques .....	36
3.3 Entry into the Research Environment .....	37
3.4 Data collection methods.....	37
3.4.1 In-depth Interviews .....	37
3.5 Data Analysis Methods .....	38
3.6 Ethical Considerations .....	39
3.7 Conclusion .....	39
CHAPTER 4: DATA PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION .....	40
4.0 Introduction .....	40
4.1 Presentation of Findings.....	40
4.1.1 General Understandings of the Youth.....	40
4.1.2 Social Issues affecting youth participation community development.....	41
4.1.3 Economic issues affecting youth participation in community development ....	46
4.1.4 Political Issues affecting youth participation in community development .....	50
4.1.5 Challenges for Youth Participation in community development and Democratization Processes.....	55
4.1.6 Institutional barriers and Poor Economy .....	56
4.1.7 Mistrust between the Youth and Adults in community development.....	56
4.1.8 Limited Participation in Policy Formulation .....	57
4.2 Interpretation of Findings on factors affecting youth participation in community development .....	58
4.2.1 Social Issues .....	58
4.2.2 Economic Issues.....	58

4.2.3 Political Issues.....	59
Figure 1 Youth employment .....	60
Figure 2 Youth Participation in community development.....	61
4.2.3 Conclusion .....	62
CHAPTER 5: SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....	63
5.0 Introduction.....	63
5.1 Summary of Findings.....	63
5.2 Conclusion .....	65
5.3 Recommendations .....	67
5.3.1 Recommendations Ministry of Youth, Indigenization and Empowerment .....	67
5.3.2 Recommendations to the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee.....	68
5.3.3 Recommendations to Political Parties.....	69
5.3.4 Recommendations to Civil Society Organization .....	70
5.3.5 Recommendations to Youths and Adults.....	70
5.3.6 Recommendations to Traditional Chiefs.....	71
5.3.7 Recommendations to Rural District Councils.....	71
5.3.8 Recommendations to the Ministry of Education.....	71
REFERENCES.....	73

**List of Figures**

Figure 1 Youth employment .....60

Figure 2 Youth Participation in community development.....61

## **List of Appendices**

APPENDIX 1: Institutional Letter to undertake research.....	79
APPENDIX 2: Research Ethics Committee Letter .....	80
APPENDIX 3: District clearance Letter .....	81
APPENDIX 4: Police Clearance Application letter.....	82
APPENDIX 5: Youth Interview Guide English.....	83
APPENDIX 6: Informed Consent Letter English .....	85
APPENDIX 7: Informed consent letter in Shona .....	88
APPENDIX 8: Interview guide in Shona.....	90

## **CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION**

### **1.0 Introduction**

The engagement of youth in community building and development has been at the core of community development process. It has been identified that youth must be fully engaged and involved in change efforts at the community level if they are to learn to function as effective members of society (Nitzberg, 2005). Community building, for individuals, focuses on building the capacity and empowerment to identify opportunities for change within or outside of the community. Youth can actively contribute to a variety of beneficial activities that enhance welfare. In Zimbabwe according to the Canadian International development Agency (CIDA) newsletter (August 2001), Chimanimani Arts festival and AMAKHOSI are using talent and tradition, the song and dance, to share some life-saving advice with their communities. They are utilising Zimbabwe`s long and supported tradition of theatre and audience participation instilling in youth a sense of social responsibility, love for their fellow men and a determination to do something constructive. In Chimanimani youth have been involved in development projects suchas chicken and small livestock rearing, establishment of appropriate irrigation schemes and fisheries (Japanese Ambassador Commission press release 2012). Lastly through active participation youth can become empowered to be problem-solvers, decision makers, and committed leaders who will lead community development efforts.

## **1.1Background**

Rural development in Zimbabwe involves recognition of grassroots institutions which define power and control over the utilization and management of natural resources, in general, the state did not make it a priority to empower traditional authority (Manzungu and Kujinga, 2002). Local communities still appeal for help from administrators, Nongovernmental Organisations (NGOs) and the state to manage local resources because grassroots institutions especially traditional authority lack material and financial resources to make autonomous decisions (Manzungu and Kujinga, 2002;Matondi, 2000).

In Zimbabwe youth have been exposed to different forms of participation at different times. During the colonial era the black youth were not allowed to vote, had no voice in the decision making processes and were rather half human. Young man and women were kept in reserves where they were only useful when replacing the old and used as human resources in the farms as labourers (Grier, 2006: 111).

Upon attaining independence in 1980, the youth were categorically ignored and their participation in national issues was minimal as the community development process of the strongmen dominated the political landscape. Youth embedded in the third Chimurenga policies which led to the visibility of young people hanging around with nothing to do leading to youth recruitments in national youth services. Some of the youth became members of militias implicated in political violence and youth artists

who performed in enhanced commemorative events in the creation of a new brand of ‘cultural nationalism (Taylor and Francis 2012). Far from political dominance youth responded to third chimurenga policies such as land reform, indigenisation and ZIMASSET in anticipation of improving their living standards and communities.

The implementation of Economic Structural Adjustment Programmes, (ESAP) also worsened the situation of people through closure of companies, civil service reforms and retrenchment of workers. At present participation by the youth in issues that affect their own development is minimal or non-existent. The ministry of community and cooperative development and women’s affairs in Zimbabwe, now the ministry of community and cooperative development was established after independence to spearhead the mobilisation of rural communities for development purposes. Rural youth have been neglected in the past from participating in development, education, employment and experienced problems associated with poverty such as high illiteracy levels, malnutrition, and unemployment. (Hanke and Kwok, 2009).

School (2006) argues that there exist five key constraints and barriers to youth participation in development, these include social and cultural attitude towards youth participation, education, access to finance, administrative and regulatory framework, and business assistance and support. Llisterri et al (2006: 5) also note that lack of experience and resources causes early failure of youth participation in development



programmes. Zimbabwean youth participation have largely the same cocktail of difficulties, in the main access to capital for starting or scaling up projects, lack of business and technical skills, unavailability of operational space, non-existence of mentors and limited access to markets. Some challenges are unique to particular provinces, based on proximity to the provincial capitals, hence limited access to information. Finscope (2012) data on Zimbabwe indicates that the nearer the location to the major centres, the greater the financial inclusion.

Zimbabwean youth have fallen victim to a traditional leadership model found in most, if not in all political parties in Zimbabwe which follows the principles of traditional African culture that dictates youth obedience. As a result, young people have little input in decision making processes as they are expected to comply without question. This leaves them disempowered and prone to exploitation. With a culture that provides very little communicative space for the development of young people, it is unfortunate that violence becomes a way of life.

#### **1.1.1 Legal and Policy Context for Community Participation in Zimbabwe since 1980**

With the attainment of independence saw the government of Zimbabwe adopting a socialist path to development since socialism influenced the struggle for independence. Given that the new government took over from a racist and capitalist government that had not been respecting the concerns of the black rural people, the newly formed government was faced with the biggest task of integrating people into

the development process, particularly the local people in their respective localities. Therefore, preceding policies by government were coined in such a manner that was thought to be accommodative of the local people in the development process.

According to Zimbabwe National Youth Policy Act (2000) sect 5.2 states that youth have the freedom to participate in education, community programmes, decision making and making contributions which are aimed at marshalling the resources necessary for undertaking programmes to fully develop the youths' mental, moral, social, economic, political, cultural and physical potential in order to improve their quality of life. The National Youth Policy represents a declaration of the priority areas for addressing youth issues and outlines strategic interventions that the government intends to provide for the development of young women and men. Furthermore, the policy provides a framework for the involvement of different organizations and sectors in supporting the development of young people in Zimbabwe.

The Ministry of Youth, Indigenization and Empowerment is a platform that can push for youth participation in conjunction with the Zimbabwe Youth Council but failure to devise a unifying multiplier, the initiative remains politicized and cannot answer the youth question of full engagement in community participation. Hence, those who are not aligned to the ruling incumbent remained marginalized. The New Zimbabwe Constitution chapter 20:1 (b) together with ZNYP (2000) clearly stipulates that the youth are supposed to participate in development processes of the country but only a few youths have the opportunity to participate fully or meaningfully. Lack of

political will from the ruling government to support inclusion of youth in development has remained evident. Lack of proper participation in policy process and lack of youth voice in the national budget show the grey areas that inhibit democratic participation of the youth in community development (Curtain, 2003:67)

### **1.1.2 Community Participation**

In Zimbabwe there seems to be a lot of literature on community participation. However, of the information is scattered in different works whose thrust is not precisely community participation documentation. Important to note here is that much of the literature is project documentation by NGOs that are working with particular communities. Makumbe (1996) examines the concept of participation in development as applied to Zimbabwe since independence. He notes that participatory development can be presented as a continuum of participation levels from passive participation, where donor or government-initiated ideas are promoted, to active participation where the recipients are involved in all stages of a development project. However, in as much as Makumbe has tried to explain the concept of participatory development in Zimbabwe he has not done justice to the subject matter. He is pre-occupied with the role NGOs play in project life and little attention is given to the role of the beneficiaries in project implementation.

### **1.2 Statement of the Problem.**

The majority of the youth in Chimanimani West District are marginalised and vulnerable to manipulation for political purposes, diseases and hunger. They have no

sustainable access to resources and services which they could use to improve their communities and this has been caused by socio-economic and political challenges that hinder them from being agents of development. Diamond mining and timber plantations provide profitable economic revenue as long as they are based on the rational exploitation of human and natural resources. This is not the case in Chimanimani West constituency in Zimbabwe, where diamond mining interests and timber plantation companies lag behind in formulating and implementing effective policies that integrate the communities from within which the resources they exploit. Same rural communities lie in the hands of the youth who are presently being marginalised from participation in their communities' development.

### **1.3 Purpose of the Study**

The study seeks accurate information and bringslight about full participation of the youth in community development in Chimanimani West Constituency in community development. The research findings and recommendations may be used by policy makers in future as guidance in crafting policies that enhance the active and productive participation of the youth in community development in the context of organically occurring opportunities. In addition, the findings may validly inform policy makers in considering other rural communities besides Chimanimani West Constituency.

There is increased pressure from the youth on their governments to be transparent, accountable, and democratic and account for sustainable development in their communities. The youth are the future leaders of tomorrow thus research will further suggest probable way or means of transforming and managing the need for them to participate in community development. Furthermore, this study aspired to illustrate how the development theories can be used to influence engagement of the youths in community development and help the society to treat the youth as an agency in themselves that can push for development.

The research study had to avail local and national government and policy makers of the felt-needs and challenges of the youth, from the perspective of the youth themselves. This study contributed towards the realisation of the need to urgently improve occurrence of the social, economic and political factors necessary to facilitate positive community development on the back of youth participation. The recommendations will help in the development of sound policies that recognise centrality of the active participation of the youth in developing rural communities. Furthermore, the study also provides insights that can enhance the current youth empowerment programs in the country by highlighting opportunities and challenges proper to them.

#### **1.4 Research Objectives**

1. To investigate the extent of youth participation in community development in Chimanimani District.

2. To identify key challenges and strategies that can be used to enhance youth participation in community development in Chimanimani District.
3. To establish the mechanisms, processes and structures through which young people can participate in community development in Chimanimani District.

### **1.5 Research Questions**

The study sought to answer the following questions:

1. To what extent do the youth participate in community development Chimanimani District?
2. What are the key challenges for youth and what strategies can be used by the government to encourage youth participate in community development.
3. What are the mechanisms, processes and structures through which young people can participate in community development in Chimanimani District?

### **1.6 Assumptions**

1. A limited number of youth have actually participated in community development issues in Chimanimani District
2. There is lack of willingness amongst the youth to participate in community development.
3. There is lack of understanding the importance of youth participation in development by the elders.

### **1.7 Delimitations of the Study**

The research project is delimited to the youth in Chimanimani West District between the age of 18 and 35 years of age both males and females. The age group is delimited to those between 18 and 35 as it is stipulated in the new constitution of Zimbabwe. Chimanimani district has two constituencies namely Chimanimani East and Chimanimani West and special attention is given to Chimanimani West ward 2, 4, 9 and 17 because of the diversity of the youth in these selected constituencies. On the four wards, 2 and 4 are under Chief Mutambara while 9 and 17 under Chief Muusha. Wards 2 and 4 are peri urban while 9 and 17 are in the rural areas respectively thus creating diversity in these youths. The study is delimited to investigating the extent of youth participation in community development.

### **1.8 Limitations**

The researcher faced a number of challenges and among them included time frame, financial problems, some youth demanding money in exchange of information and some youth refusing to participate. In order to overcome such limitations, the researcher took advantage of his personal background to link and interacts with the youth because it is his home area. The distance between the selected wards was a limiting factor in getting enough time with informants. Accessibility was also a challenge as the researcher had to wait for a long time as the process of getting permission from the local and traditional authorities was bureaucratic. Some NGOs which could have been key informants had closed down, but the researcher also used secondary data and mitigated such shortcomings. The researcher also used secondary

data and mitigated such shortcomings and ensured validity and reliability of the data collected.

### **1.9 Structure of the Study**

This study comprises of five chapters. The first chapter includes introduction, statement problem, and significance of the study, research objectives, assumptions and questions. Chapter two consists of the review of literature. Chapter three is about the research methodology where research design, sample, methods and data analysis methods are explained. In chapter four, the research analyzes the findings. Subsequently, chapter five discusses the findings and draw some conclusions and recommendations based on the research hypothesis and provide some recommendations.

### **10 Definitions of Key Terms**

**Youth** – Youth is best understood as a period of transition from the dependence of childhood to adulthood's independence and awareness of our interdependence as members of a community (Chirisa and Muchini 2011)

**Participation-** Is a political process in which previously excluded classes or groups seeks to become involved, have a choice in, and generally gained access of social and economic development (Freire 1972).

**Development-** Development is a process of structural societal change that is a process of historical change'. (Thomas 2000, 2004).



**Public Policy-** Is what the government chooses to or not to do (Dye 2002).

### **10.1 Summary**

The chapter discussed about the phenomenon of youth participation in community development. The chapter provided a background to the study, statement of the problem and significance of the phenomenon of youth participation in community development. This chapter has discussed that youth are visible but not meaningfully engaged in community development processes where they can also influence decision making. Lack of confidence between the adults and the youth, lack of political will and poor culture of empowerment has accounted for limited youth participation in community development in Chimanimani west District.

## **CHAPTER 2-LITURATURE REVIEW**

### **2.0 Introduction**

This chapter reviewed some related literature on the subject of social, economic and political issues affecting youth participation in community development. (Lather, 1973) notes that a review should not be exhaustive but more precisely, situated, partial and in a desirable manner. It is a gatekeeper, policing and productive rather than merely reflective. Literature review uses reports of primary or original scholarship as its database and does not report new primary scholarship itself. The primary reports used in the literature may be verbal, but in the vast majority of cases they are written documents. The types of scholarship may be empirical, theoretical, critical, analytic, or methodological in nature. Furthermore literature review seeks to describe, summarise, evaluate, clarify or integrate the content of primary reports (Cooper H.M., 1988).The Literature considered youth participation in community development on a global, regional, national and local level. The literature review was grounded within one theoretical perspective namely participatory development approach. The participatory development approach was adopted to locate the rights of the youth involvement in participating community development and justify why they need to be engaged in decision making and leadership structures.

## **2.1 Theoretical Framework to the Study.**

The people of developing nations have begun to display a frustration with the foreign nature of development leadership, shown in incidences such as “a focus-group discussion on members’ perception of poverty, where a group of men in Komaka, a village in the Upper-East Region of Ghana, stated that “the one who rides the donkey does not know the ground is hot.” In other words, the rich man cannot know or feel the poor man’s problems unless he gets off the donkey and walks on the ground or unless he asks the poor man” (Dogbe, 1998: 97). This indigenous discontent with the nature of development poses a deficiency, in so much as this rejection implies a resistance to traditional approaches, and an explanation for overall lack of success in previous projects. The participatory development theory looks or focus on the community grassroots, thus for development to succeed the lower people must be involved. There are two main problems that are ever-present in the normal professionalism of development specialization and scholarly isolationism.

The main consequence of the intellectual narrowness that results from specialization and scholarly isolationism is a failure to allow the meaningful inclusion of indigenous experience and knowledge (Chambers, 1993:9). The proposed result of this lack of inclusion is that “Development has been seen as a process of growth stimulated by transfer of technology, a transfer in one direction, from rich and powerful to poor and weak, from first to last. The implication of this is that the emphasis in development policy has been on the instruction and direction of third world people by western or developed nations. Because of the limiting nature of

these flaws, Chambers implies that a theoretical shift is required in developmental theory.

According to Robert Chambers development involves the participation of the people in the process. This originated as a covale reaction to the dominance of the western ideological economic hegemony of the implementation of development in the globe south. The west has effectively defined the meaning of development and controlled its implementation on behalf of the developing world. Furthermore mainstreaming development tends to overlook the values of the local people. Specifically, the argument is that “people come before things; and poorer people come before the less poor. It is right to put the last first, to give priority to those who are more deprived the poor, physically weak, vulnerable, isolated and powerless, and help them change these conditions. It is also right to enable them to identify and demand what they want and need” (Chambers, 1993:10). To summarize, the belief is that at the conceptual, or normative, level of development planning emphasis should be placed upon primarily helping the poorest members of society achieve goals that they themselves help define.

Participatory development framework emerged in the mid 1980`s partly in response to the critiques of identified in post development advocating for incorporating of the poor in the development which Robert chambers calls for reversal of learning of the outsider must learn from the insider the marginalised people that is in order to properly inform sustainable environment initiatives.

Economic top to down development has kept the west in control by exploiting the developing countries as such post development suggest that the west has continued to hold power over the developing countries both through discourse and practical implementation. Main development has been therefore been neo-colonial nature by exploiting and oppressing developing countries. The good change brought by participatory development include economic growth, infrastructure, community involvement, basic needs, improved living standards, high GDP, gender equality and social justice. The aim of participatory development is to increase involvement of the socially, economically marginalised people in decision making over their own lives. Since its emergency participatory development has become a viable grassroots based framework widely adopted into mainstream development discourse and practice. Participatory development approach is meant to empower the poor; the focus on poverty alleviation efforts is fundamentally shifted from a charity or needs-based approach, towards a concentration on right sand entitlements, which in turn give rise to obligations on the part of the State.

## **2.2 The regional situation of youth**

During the first decade of independence in the 1960s and 1970s, young people in Africa did not have serious social problems. As a consequence, unemployed and disadvantaged youth were not a major target for governments and funding agencies as a priority in their planning and budgeting, (Bennell, 2000, Mulenga, 2000). Since then, however concern has been rising over the involvement of youth in development

process in much of Sub-Sahara Africa and prospects of creating additional livelihood opportunities for them (Mayor and Binde, 2001, Bennel, 2000, Curtain, 2000, Grierson, 1997, Schnurr, 1998). The implementation of Economic Structural Adjustment Programmes, (ESAP) also worsened the situation of people through closure of companies, civil service reforms and retrenchment of workers. At present participation by the youth in issues that affect their own development is minimal or non-existent. In the context of a high and growing incidence of poverty and the documented adverse social impact of economic restructuring, there is increasing concern that large sections of young people have become marginalised or are excluded from education, healthcare, salaried jobs and even access to the status of adulthood (Bennell, 2000).

Young people, and especially young women and youth from marginalized backgrounds, are historically a socially, economically, politically and environmentally disadvantaged and vulnerable group. Many young people face a myriad number of challenges with finding decent and sustainable employment, receiving information and access to issues related to health, education, poverty and inequality (World Youth Report, 2007:233).

The WYR (2010) concurs with the UNDESA (2010) that young people's right to participation in formal decision-making processes and in social, economic, environmental and political institutions remains limited. Their potential as a valuable resource to sustainable development and potential leaders is often not recognized or is rather under-estimated. In a survey conducted by the United Nations Inter-Agency

Network on Youth Development (UNIANYD) in July to August 2012 (UNIAYD, 2012), a majority of the 13,000 respondents representing 186 countries from all regions in the world, noted that the main challenges for young people's citizenship are limited opportunities for effective participation in decision-making processes; the lack of participatory structures for young people at the community and national level; lack of trust between youth and government institutions and political parties and the lack of capacity development for youth and youth organizations.

There is a general consensus between the World Youth Report (2007: 254) and the UNDESA (2007) that to realize young people's meaningful participation and leadership, young people, and especially marginalized young people such as young women, need to be empowered through capacity development, skill development, and greater access to their basic human rights, such as quality education, youth friendly and gender sensitive healthcare, poverty alleviation and productive and decent employment. Efforts to create a supportive environment for participation, engagement and volunteering for young people, including through youth-led organizations, need to be multiplied in order to allow them to contribute to their own livelihoods, and should aim to build their capacities and increase their employability. Efforts will also require the development of sustainable programmes that focus on long-term institutionalization of meaningful youth participation (UNDP, 2012). In essence, there is a need to streamline the existing social, political, environmental and economic institutions need to increase their efforts of preparing to work together with youth and youth-led organizations through sustainable partnerships.

### **2.3 Youth Participation in Community Development**

The state is one of the fundamental stakeholders whose presence is necessary in the participation of youth in community development, particularly at project level. The role of the state in this case is informed by an attitude or a commitment to achieve sustainable development in communities. The commitment is designed to be a long-term one, which means that development should be given a climate in which to grow and prosper. No wonder why Swanepoel (2000:86) is of the opinion that successful development needs a firm government commitment. Many states or governments in developing nations have claimed to exhibit maximum commitment in rural development policy to ensure an enabling environment for youth participation in community development efforts. Swanepoel (2000:87) has emphasized the role of the state in community participation through policy formulation, and argued that, without a national commitment reflected in a national policy there would be no basis or binding factor for development, and that development would therefore, at best be haphazard and adhoc. It is important to note here that national policy commitment and administrative support are intertwined to such an extent that a lack in one of them would render the whole process of community participation impossible in real terms.

Ideally the state is the supporter of development. This implies a lesser role for the state, both in effort and in importance. Swanepoel notes, if the state is the supporter of development, someone else has to be the initiator and the manager of that development. Thus advocating for the localization of development with the locals playing a greater role, the state would be just a partner whose role is to provide a



conducive environment through an enabling policy, the provision of expertise, infrastructure and development funding for the locals to initiate developmental projects in their different localities. The local people therefore, should take responsibility for development, they should make the decisions and they should do the planning.

States in developing societies agree with the notion that popular participation is necessary if sustainable development is to be achieved. Referring to the Rwandan community the then president of Rwanda, Habyarimana, is quoted by Goran Hyden *et al.* (1992:40) as having said that: “We must have confidence in the youth; they must be consulted on everything that has to do with their development. The communes that have carried out these instructions are clearly developing more quickly than the others.”

Such admittance by the person of the president is indicative of the importance of youth participation in community development for project sustainability. States often use local governments and government departments to harmonize the community with development. This is witnessed in most, if not all, developing states. Zimbabwe is one such state that uses government departments to spearhead youth participation in community development.

Transparency and governance is vital in the sense that all those involved in a development project should feel a sense of "ownership" towards the project, and empowered through their involvement. Many projects fail because the participants are not fully aware of the project's aims and objectives or they are able to contribute little in any part in the day-to-day management process. Since the end of the civil war in Sierra Leone much has been written about its likely after-effects, it seems that a majority of combatants were disaffected youths coming from impoverished rural backgrounds. These youths were victims of the leadership structures who felt alienated and marginalised by the tradition-bound chiefdom management and decision-making structures.

Richards (2005:588) comments, "When enfeebled regimes lost their grip over remote countryside, a long deferred revolt of the rural under-classes rise up, led by intransigent youth. He quotes a youth focus group from Kamajei Chiefdom in Moyamba District saying: "Chiefs victimise youths by imposing heavy and unjust fines; criminal summonses make youths run from the village (Richards, 2005:577). Given the massive dislocation of people's livelihoods and widespread destruction of infrastructure, the reconstruction process in Sierra Leone will take some considerable time. However a key element in reconstruction must involve a sensitive re- shaping of local power structures and decision-making processes so that all elements of the population, and particularly the youth, are fully incorporated and their voices clearly heard (Maconachie et al, 2006).

Media plays pivotal role to enhance development in the modern society today. Broadcasting information to rural areas is powerful and effective for widespread education. Rural broadcasting can be used to bring about positive attitudinal change among the rural areas. It contributes toward the development of rural women by educating them about banking, child health and government policies among other issues. Lyer (2011) mentions that rural communication imparts knowledge of new technologies to rural youth, helps them improve their earnings and increase development. Access to accurate and timely information by rural youth can result in enhanced economic and social development (Information Daily Staff Writer, 2007). The importance of rural broadcasting as an engine for moving national development has been widely held among communication experts. This concern was given expression by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and World Bank report of 2004 recognising the importance of community media as tools for promotion of democratization and development (Buckley, 2005, Ekeli and Enobakhare, 2012). Inspired by this realization, several countries began experimenting the effect of rural radio in mobilizing their people to embrace government policies and programmes geared towards development for example countries like Mali, Senegal, South Africa, India, Ghana, Kenya etc have reaped tremendous benefits from establishing chains of community media in their respective countries.

Communication is very vital to the development of any society. Development experiences in other part of the world have continued to point to the fact that

communication is central to rural and national development and that it is a catalyst to the development of the other sectors of a nation's economy and its effects should not be neglected or underplayed (Nwosu, 1990). This explores the strategic role communication plays in rural development. Nwosu's submission is true considering the fact that majority of Nigerian population reside in the rural areas where access to basic amenities is grossly in short supply. Hence majority of people are living in abject poverty and deprivation, and as a result they are completely cut off from government interventions programmes.

Development of communication through the establishment of rural radio or television will ensure that the rural people are accorded recognition and thus participate in development programme that concerns their welfare and wellbeing. But is it unfortunate that rural broadcasting which supposed to be a vehicle to actualise this noble objective has not been accorded the much needed attention by the government. One major reason that is attributed to this issue is the lack of an articulate policy spells out by the government in regards to community broadcasting in the country. (Konkwo 2012) puts more emphasis on this when he notes that the relegation to the background of rural broadcasting in Nigeria is attributed to bad government policies. Although the government has expanded the signals of its networks across the country, most of these signals are only received in the urban states and some surrounding communities.

However it is disheartening to note that rural or community broadcasting is yet to be firmly reinforced in Zimbabwe. This has resulted in the marginalisation and alienation of the rural youth in regards to government programmes in the early 1980`s and 1990`s and recently implemented ones. This is evidently seen in the failure of governments programmes like Economic Structural Adjustment programmes (ESAP), Indigenous and development bill blue print, and a number of other laudable programmes meant to uplift the lives of the rural dwellers. These programmes or policies are just merely written documents without full implementation and educating the rural people about what they really mean and their benefits. Majority of rural dwellers don't know their existence. The aim of these programmes was to press harder for the transformation of the economy. Unfortunately no information and attention given to the rural areas as a result rural areas remained in poverty and underdevelopment (Andreasson, 2010).

In Zimbabwean civic society organisations have indeed been involved in social and economic advocacy over the years. A number of civil society initiatives in the 1980s and 90s were largely responsible for spearheading development at the local level through community mobilisation processes. Community Based Organisations in Mhakwe ward of Chimanimani West Constituency have successfully mobilized rural youth in the ward for sustainable community development. Civil society development initiatives in this district were based on the Zooming Model, developed by the W K Kellogg Foundation following a realization that after many years of supporting rural communities in Africa they still remained largely poor and in need

of more development assistance. The programme was aimed at mobilizing youth involvement and participation around self-driven sustainable development for social and economic transformation within impoverished rural communities. The model was based on a knowledge-management system, which involved drawing on the already existent community knowledge and networks as well as “selecting, distilling and deploying explicit and tacit knowledge to create unique value that could be used to achieve a competitive advantage or solve community problems” (Dhewa 2008). It involved letting community members identify the key areas of development needed within their respective communities and the critical intervention strategies they thought would help their area. The project proved highly successful as it managed to help villagers deal with many of their identified challenges. The challenges included support in accessing clean water, support to orphans and vulnerable children, income generating projects for the unemployed and the need for irrigation schemes for farmers (Dhewa 2008).

In reality the working poor make up a significant portion of the population. According to the ILO, in 2006 80% of working African youth did not earn enough to lift themselves and their families above the US\$2 per day poverty line and one-half lived in extreme poverty (less than \$US1 a day) (ILO, 2007: 3). In other words, youth remain poor because they do not have sufficient productive and profitable work to do especially in rural areas. A number of factors contribute to limited livelihood opportunities for youth in rural areas, including distance from markets, poor agro-ecology and sub-marginal land, low levels of public investment in service

delivery and infrastructure, and conflict. These factors suppress market development and hinder savings and private sector investment, which limit the potential for productivity gains, increases in real wages and expanded job opportunities.

This has significant poverty implications for example in Nigeria a strong association has been noted between living in a rural area and being poor (Hillhorst and Ogwumike, 2003:15). There are limited, or at least inadequately productive, livelihood opportunities in the agriculture sector, resulting in rural youth migrating to urban centres as part of their livelihood strategies (DFID, 2004, Bird, 2005: 5). Compiling together the following issues, risk and vulnerability, low capacities, inequality, exclusion, adverse incorporation and limited livelihood opportunities keep many African youth poor. A committed, visionary, consistent and determined effort and will to reverse these and other contributors of poverty is therefore needed. Going beyond that, development initiatives and pro-poor economic growth is necessary to raise income levels, provide all youth with the capacity to aspire and improve their lives, and to reduce inequalities and vulnerability to risk.

Most debates about youth conditions are centred on pessimistic and extreme situations. Kaplan (1996:16) paints a dire picture of Africa's youth, noting that they are 'out of school, unemployed, loose molecules who are sitting on a time bomb which will eventually explode. Fuller (1995:151–54) The consequences of not fully developing and harnessing youth's potential could be dire, including significant

economic losses, armed conflict, and political and social upheaval and instability, particularly men increases the likelihood of social unrest. Goldstone (2001, 2010) likewise argues that with fewer responsibilities and susceptible to radical ideas, young males are more likely to engage in violent activities while Collier (2007) claims they may potentially be mobilized as soldiers in civil conflict.

In most African countries, the traditional norms and values that emphasise age hierarchy in decision making and contribution of ideas in society has meant that there are limited opportunities for youth to express themselves and to meaningfully participate in community development discourse. Inclusivity and participation of the citizenry, involving youth, would enhance good governance in addition to improving democracy in any society. There is evidence that a lack of good governance results in poor economic performance of African countries. At the same time, the governance dimension of “voice and accountability,” which is strongly related to community participation, tends to be high for well-performing economies (World Bank 2009).

Non-developmental politics in community development process in Africa tends to hinder transformational and poverty reduction efforts on the youth. The way some of these African states govern their states hinders development for example, deep social forces create power relations, often referred to as a ‘neopatrimonial’ or ‘hybrid’ state characterised by a weak separation of the public and private spheres, the private appropriation of public resources (corruption), a regular use of clientelism, nepotism to maintain power, weak cross-cutting horizontal interests and relationships, the zero-sum (winner-take-all) nature of community development process, a



concentration of power in an individual who stands above the law, an absence of issue-based community development process and political parties and patron client relations that are replicated at and link all levels of society. These types of states are characterised by high levels of informality where rulers operate under the guidelines of informal norms and practices to distribute patronage and state resources for development through manipulation and exploiting relationships (ethnicity, regional origin) and personal charisma to secure control and hold onto their power. This has created a political culture where political contests and parties are centred on personalities not issues, and shifting party coalitions are the norm (Cammack, et al., 2006).

Decisions that influence development are sometimes made by people in informal and formal positions appointed by influential people creating a patron and client relationship based on favours, loyalty rather than appointed on merit. Decision making and implementation of policies is directly linked to elite interests so as to maintain control and power. In this type of environment it is difficult for the voices of the poor to be heard, or their interests to be considered fairly. Segregation practices based on political affiliation, religion, regionalism or tribalism may help the elite retain support (and win votes in preferred areas) but hurt whole groups of people (children, youth, men and women) in society and blocks their way out of poverty. Such behaviour is most common during election times when those in power use these 'informal' practices to gain support even when they haven't created a state capable of delivering goods and services in their previous terms in office or of producing an environment where economic 'winners' can emerge. This creates a

situation where states suffers from a 'resource curse' instead of a benefit to the nation, where management of valuable public goods, such as hardwood forests and minerals, is for personal gains and non-developmental.

The poor especially the youth are able to achieve short-term gains from this system by supporting a patron who shares some of his wealth for support in return. This strategy common in most African states towards election time when leaders are hoping to win support by delivering goods and promises of development to voters, for example, the incumbent in Malawi's 1994 presidential campaign distributed relief maize, while the President in 1999 handed out seed and fertilizer none of which alleviated poverty over the long run. President Museveni created new districts partly to appease local 'notables' during the run-up to elections in Uganda, though this process did little or nothing to improve service delivery or reduce poverty levels in rural areas (Cammack, et al, 2007).

Makumbe (1996) examines the concept of participation in development as applied to Zimbabwe since independence. He notes that participatory development can be presented as a continuum of participation levels from passive participation, where donor or government-initiated ideas are promoted, to active participation where the recipients are involved in all stages of a development project. However, in as much as Makumbe has tried to explain the concept of participatory development in Zimbabwe he has not done justice to the subject matter. He is pre-occupied with the

role NGOs play in project life and little attention is given to the role of the beneficiaries in project implementation.

It is evident from the literature that in Zimbabwe the idea of community participation has gained prominence. Even the government through its departments has realized the importance of youth participation community development. AREX (1999), a government department had agreed to the assertion that development initiatives undertaken in the past lacked a clear cut strategy to ensure sustainability of projects. However, the contribution by AREX is emphasizing more on the role of its extension workers in facilitating developmental initiatives. As such the department lacks in its presentation a complete analysis of the concept of participation, since it left out other stakeholders in its analysis.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has also shared its views on participatory development in Zimbabwe. According to the UNDP (1998), participation has become the hallmark of sustainable development with a general shift from prescriptive “top-down” to participatory “bottom-up” approaches to development. The UNDP envisages participatory development as constituting a “non-directive” approach that enables people to regain control over their own development. However, the document by the UNDP lacks a lot of essential issues that are necessary for community participation to take shape. The authors of the document concentrated more on the importance of the concept in sustainable development. They never enlighten the readers on the various stages that are necessary for the implementation of participatory development at community level.

Positive development is often linked to human rights as multiple rights denials can cause and shape poverty. Multidimensional poverty may be expressed as a denial of specific human rights, e.g., the right to education, health, livelihoods, and freedom of expression. Social, economic and cultural rights are particularly relevant in this context (United Nations, 1966a; United Nations General Assembly, 1986). Hence too are civil and political rights, for as we have noted above, the denial of rights of expression, organisation, and participation can undermine local attempts to change systems that contribute to, and perpetuate, poverty (United Nations, 1966). Discrimination has been tackled by various UN conventions and agreements (for refugees in 1951, on racial discrimination in 1966, for religious intolerance in 1967, for women in 1979). Also, special protection for children was adopted in 1989. The international human rights framework also sets out all states' legal obligations in guaranteeing the human rights of their citizens.

Many of these rights have been enumerated in regional agreements; of most relevance here is the African Charter on Human and People's Rights (1981), which reflects African communal values as well as international rights standards. A human rights approach to poverty reduction expresses the needs and interests of the poor in terms of their rights. Central to poverty-reduction policies and processes are the values of empowerment, participation and accountability. A human rights approach places the voices and experiences of the poor at the centre of policy and programming. It makes the poor active participants in the political development

process, rather than passive recipients, and as such accords them dignity and status that is otherwise denied them.

Chakanyuka (2000) wrote about the Zivembava Island forest, which he described as having diversity in medical herbs and tree species. However, Chakanyuka does not give a comprehensive explanation of how the locals with their local knowledge, technologies and institutions have contributed in the management of the Island forest. Focusing on the Chibememe community, Muparange (2002) highlighted how the community has managed to devise methods and ways of sustainably and prudently utilizing their local resources. Muparange (2002) highlighted the *Kigelia Africana* (mubveve) juice and honey as among the indigenous sustainable livelihood non-timber forest products the communities are currently benefiting from. As previously observed, there is mentioning of the role of indigenous knowledge systems and indigenous communities in the identification, nurturing and development of both the biological resource and the biodiversity product.

The Sangwe Communal lands boasts of a multiplicity of projects on biodiversity conservation and livelihoods improvement. The area is home to projects on sustainable agriculture spearheaded by 'Africa2000 Plus Network', a local NGO. In this initiative the locals are valued as important for the realization and the sustainability of the programme. Osmond Mugweni, the National Coordinator of the organization, has noted that the locals are a very important aspect of rural development, and that any initiative that does not include them is bound to fail. In his proposal to the Global Environment Facility Small Grant Programme (GEFSGP) on

the Save River Sub-catchments Management and Climate Change Mitigation Project, Chibememe of the Chibememe Earth Healing Association (CHIEHA), has recorded various activities undertaken by the Sangwe communities. These communities include, among others, Zvirodzo, Mazivandagara, Kushinga, and Chibememe among others. They are very instrumental in various conservation and sustainable livelihoods activities in the area.

## **2.4 Conclusion**

The literature review in this chapter explores youth participation in community development in their lives from a global level, regional down to sub-regional and local level. In initiating understanding the differing viewpoints presented in this chapter, the study employed participation development theory that emphasize participation of people in development process in their respective communities. The concept aided the study in locating the challenges that face the youth in their communities as they struggle to survive.

## **CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **3.0 Introduction**

This chapter consists of the research design used by the researcher and its links related to methodological frameworks which guided the data collection methods. In this chapter, the study presents the population where samples were taken from sampling methods, the sample size, instruments used for data collection. Data analysis methods are also considered again as pertinent in this chapter and married to that are some ethical considerations. In today's World society, concerns regarding ethical practices will negatively influence attitudes about science, and the abuses committed by a few are often the ones that receive widespread publicity than the good done by many (Mother, Birch, Jessop, & Miller, 2003).

### **3.1 Research design**

The research design adopted for this study was qualitative research design because it resonates with the study that sought to examine youth participation in community development. Burns and Grove (2003:195) define a research design as a blueprint for conducting a study with maximum control over factors that may interfere with the validity of the findings. A qualitative approach is a systematic subjective approach used to describe life experiences and situations to give them meaning. Parahoo (1997:59) states that qualitative research focuses on the experiences of people as well as stressing uniqueness of the individual.

In this study the researcher used the qualitative approach to explore the behaviour, perspectives, experiences and feelings of the youth and emphasise the understanding of these elements. The essence of qualitative research design was employed to explore and examine youth participation in community development.

### **3.2 Population**

The total population of the research originated from Chimanimani west constituency. The target population in chimanimani west constituency is 134 940 (ZIMSTAT 2012). This study was confined to a sample of size of 40 participants which includes men, women, youth officers, members of NGO`s and school children in Chimanimani West constituency from four wards which are ward 2, 4, 9 and 17. The justification for these wards is that Chimanimani West constituency is representative of Chimanimani East on the basis that they have a rural setting and in Zimbabwe most rural areas have similar characteristics.

### **3.3 Sample Size and Sampling Techniques**

#### **3.3.1 Sample Size**

The size of the sample was be made up of 40 participants. The sample was comprised of youth in general both male and female, the ordinary youth, and the minority youth (with disabilities). The total number of 40 respondents was drawn from four wards namely 2, 4, 9 and 17.



### **3.3.2 Sampling Techniques**

**Purposive Sampling** – This study adopted purposive sampling to locate ordinary youth and in leadership positions. This technique was suitable for the research as it allowed the researcher to identify the potential respondents without much struggling. Purposive sampling is an informant selection tool widely used in qualitative research. However, the use of the method is not adequately explained in most studies. The purposive sampling technique, also called judgment sampling, is the deliberate choice of an informant due to the qualities the informant possesses (Bernard 2002, Lewis & Sheppard 2006). Privy to this study, the researcher sought to look for ordinary youth, in leadership positions and NGO representatives who were willing to provide the information by virtue of knowledge or experience.

**Snowballing Technique:** Having identified the respondents by purposive sampling, the researcher used these respondents to bring on board the youth with similar experiences for the interviews. Effectively, this assisted the researcher to interview people with relevant information. Snowballing also known as chain referral sampling which is considered a type of purpose sampling is the second method used in this study because it works hand in hand with purposive sampling. Under this method in this study participants or informants with who contact has already been made use their social networks and links to other people with the same characteristics who could potentially participate or contribute to the study. The researcher used this technique because it is good method to recruit hidden populations whose characteristics are not physically easily accessible or through other techniques.

### **3.3 Entry into the Research Environment**

The researcher sought for a permission letter to undertake research for Dissertation at Africa University which was used to get a clearance letter from the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) in line with Public Order Security Act (POSA) for the purpose of personal security as well as public order. The District Administrator for Chimanimani District was sought and permission was granted to conduct research in 4 wards. In addition, permission to gather data from the youths was sought from the village heads in Biriiri, Bumba, Wengezi and Nhedziwa. The researcher also visited organisations such as TSURO Dzechimanimani and world vision who engages in development programmes in the area with the youth.

### **3.4 Data collection methods**

The study used in-depth interviews which is a qualitative research method. The advantage of using in-depth interviews is that it allows participants to share their opinions on how they participate in community development without bias from other participants. It also allowed the researcher to discover greater insights on youth participation in community development.

#### **3.4.1 In-depth Interviews**

In-depth interviews were engaged to ensure that the participants express their view, life experiences. The in-depth interviews are hoped to enable researcher to compile

the views, perceptions, attitudes and experiences of the rural youth livelihood being affected by social, economic and political issues a phenomenological perspective. In-depth interviews also gave deeper insights into finding out why some youth participate and the level at which they can make decisions. The researcher did both individual and group interviews with participants, each interview took 30 to 40 minutes. The group interviews were made of 3 to 5 participants depending on their willingness to be interviewed as a group. The researcher interviews were guided by interview guides made by the researcher. The in-depth interviews sought also to answer the question that has to provide answers for the challenges that constrain youth participation in governance and democratization processes.

### **3.5 Data Analysis Methods**

Creswell (1998) stated that phenomenological data analysis proceeds through the methodology of reduction, the analysis of specific statements and themes, and a search for all possible meanings. The researcher needs to set aside all prejudgments, bracketing his experiences. The study employed text, thematic and content analysis methods to describe and interpret meaning from the lived and personal experiences of the youth participation in community development. Manual ways of presenting data such as transcribing, data cleaning and data coding, thematic analysis and describing phenomena was adopted in the presentation of findings and analysis.

### **3.6 Ethical Considerations**

Effective and meaningful research on any chosen phenomena requires a significant protection of the research subjects through a plethora of research ethics. Research ethics is a critical component that every researcher needs to respect in any given research study that involves human beings. As a starting point in this study, the researcher was provided a letter of legitimating from the Institute of Peace, Leadership and Governance to conduct research and that shows that the researcher is a student carrying out a research. In addition, the researcher was granted permission to carry out research in the district through the relevant authorities such as traditional leadership, the District Administrator and police clearance before entering communities in compliance with the Public Order Security Act (POSA). As part of the requirement of scientific best practices in research, the researcher begun by fully explaining what the subject matter is and seek full consent of participants before proceeding to interviews. As a precautionary measure, the researcher also provided participant consent form in which they will sign in.

### **3.7 Conclusion**

In conclusion, this chapter presented the methods adopted by the study to collect data, present and analyse it. The study adopted the phenomenological research design with the aid of theoretical data in order to bring out the taken-for-granted issues that may not come out when a single method or framework is used. Furthermore, the study discussed the population, the sample and techniques employed to come up with the sample. Data analysis methods in phenomenological understanding are also discussed in the chapter as well as some ethical considerations.

## **CHAPTER 4: DATA PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION**

### **4.0 Introduction**

This chapter considers the presentation of research findings obtained from data collection on youth participation in community development in Chimanimani West Constituency. The study sought to interpret and describe the experiences of the youth participation in social, economic and political development processes. The researcher employed transcription of the interviews, in order to get an understanding of the whole transcripts. Thematic and content analysis was employed to induce different meanings as they emanated from the transcripts.

### **4.1 Presentation of Findings**

#### **4.1.1 General Understandings of the Youth**

The respondents from questionnaires and face to face interviews amongst the youths have shown a great consensus on whom and what constitutes the youth. The entire group concurred that the youth are those young person between the age of 18 and 35 years of age, but others attributed those who are married but are within that age rank are not youth. The definition of youth is determined by different variables such as environment, individuals and the community. In Chimanimani west areas the status of adulthood is largely determined by being married, those who are not married will be regarded as children, while those young married couples regarded as adults despite their age.

There is a political jacket or a blinker on who is a youth amongst the young generation in Zimbabwe, thus the term is politically associated. The youth in the Zimbabwe situation are those who take part in political activities specifically aligned to the ruling party, those who are outside or idle are not recognized. Those people who are viewed as opinion leaders minded and have different views are kept out of the agenda. At the end of the day, youth issues and concerns are driven by a few privileged who are in positions not by merit but by favours and loyalty to the ruling party and the majority are side lined and don't even know the council processes, national and local structures through which they can air out their views. One responded from ward 2 indicated that:

*If you go to the Youth Empowerment Fund for example, the beneficiaries are chosen on partial lines. The Ministry of Youth is a mirror image of one political party interest and serves best in the interests of those who control it. (Interview from ward 2, 15 March 2015)*

#### **4.1.2 Social Issues affecting youth participation community development**

The respondents on social issues hindering positive livelihood development in the lives of the youth stretches from family background, Church local structures to health issues. Religious beliefs play a pivotal role in the day to day basis in the lives of the youth both negative and positive. The different churches which the youth attend almost have similar indoctrinations concerning how the youth should live, interact, socialise and behave. The church teaches and encourages the youth to be very obedient and to work hard so that they can improve their lives through attending

school and engaging in any income generating activities. However respondents from ward 2 and 4 who shares boarder with the Bocha area which the Johane Marange Apostolic sect dominates, they do not participate in community development activities. For instance most meetings are held on Saturday and the church will be on Sabbath. Youth in this area are greatly affected by their religious backgrounds thus the church does not value education most of the young boys and girls attend school up to grade 7 they do not continue to higher level because the time they are supposed to write their exams is the same time they have their biggest church congregation taking their kids with them. The church also does not encourage its members to go to clinics and hospitals for proper treatment making their children vulnerable to malaria, measles and other killer diseases affecting their health. This has derailed health and education development on these youth, the researcher during interviews noted that the apostolic sect members are not willing to attend to issues which are not within their religious line.

The girl child from this church is the most vulnerable; they are forced into marriages as young as 10 years, they are not even able to make decisions on their own. Marriage is valued more than anything else in this church it is regarded as a status achievement. Through this it puts these youth at a great disadvantage and pushing them into poverty, vulnerability to diseases, hunger and manipulation thereby hinders them from positive development in their lives.

*“However not only in this church there is gender discrimination, but overall in Chimanimani west area little investment is put on girls because they are regarded as passive which makes them vulnerable. Education is not*

*considered a priority and of importance for a girl, I have finished my ordinary level but I cannot continue to further my studies because my parents are basing my future on marriage now which is different with my brother's situation he is now at University doing his studies", said one girl from ward 4 who is now working as a vendor at Nhedziwa growth point. (Interview respondent from ward 4, 16 March 2014).*

From the varying and similar narratives provided by the respondents on the Traditional leaders way they run the communities in their respective areas it is clear that many of the youth views are negative. They see the traditional leaders as corrupt who are highly motivated by money in all their doings. Serving as leaders in their areas is no longer a duty they should do as a service they should provide but they now take it as a source of money. If the youths are caught off track they are brought to disciplinary where they are charged high penalties which they do not even afford.

In many situations, the youth are portrayed in a pawn where they are depicted as clueless, confused, and violent and all sorts of negative things. In rare cases, the youth are recognised as important citizens, only when there is something they can give to the adults and the government at large. One youth in ward 2 when asked how the elders view youth he pointed out that:

*"We are g little chances to speak as youth in meetings and after the meeting they do not take action or consider our views because they regard us as talkative, they do not accept what we say because they regard youth as people who talk useless things. We contribute less because they assume that we have no focus so everything we might think of to improve our lives has to pass through parents, local councillors looks down upon youth when they are in office after being voted into these offices. As youth they are times we are seen as use full especially when they want to use us in communities (manual jobs, political issues) and times they see us as useless which is the most all times."For example as youth we suggested a route which water pipes*



*should be laid, the elders rejected the view and the water project failed. (Interview respondent from ward 2, 15 March 2014).*

For any development and progress to take place in any society the health of the people in those specific communities is of great importance. HIV/AIDS has destroyed many households in the area leaving one parent or both parents dead. This has put the young on a disadvantage as many orphans are left behind without anyone to take care of them forcing them to drop out of school, to work as child labour, begging and some end up into child prostitution as a means to earn a living and support the family. Basing on the answers from the respondents they stated that despite having knowledge about the disease the youth are still prone and vulnerable to HIV/AIDS the most affected are between 15 and 29 years. The government hospitals do not have adequate drugs and equipment, such that people are prescribed to go and buy drugs on their expenses and some of the drugs are not affordable. Some youths who are diagnosed with the disease are affected mentally, physically and emotionally to an extent that it affects their normal way of living, some concludes it is the end of life.

The spirit of Ubuntu which was a common phenomenon amongst many Africans is vanishing away slowly, thus the spirit of togetherness, living and working together is no longer in existence. For the youth the situation is even worse because they do not value these practices. One responded from ward 4 when asked about how they live and work together as youth stated that:

*“These days we are living a person should stand on his/her own, no time to think of other people’s problems I have to concentrate on my issues alone.’ There is no unity and solidarity among the youth and they can’t help each other or try to improve one another’s life.” (Interview respondent from ward 4, 16 March 2014).*

On the issue of donations in the form of money or hand-outs in the communities they are not benefiting the exact people who should be given assistance. Those with power and money in the society are the same people who are taking these hand-outs through power and money at the end the youth are at great disadvantage because they are poor. One young woman aged 27 in ward 9 when asked about the way these donations are handled she said that:

*“Yes Donors come and give us aid here but the problem is that it is not going to help the right people for example BEAM it is an NGO that donates fees for the less privileged but those who affords are the ones whose children get the funding because of corruption and power influencing decisions. Furthermore these funded projects are personalised by the most influential and powerful in society personalise or politicise the projects. Even family background are considered important, those with good backgrounds and a stable life gets more favours to an extent that some of the development projects we hear of them when they are already done and passed the phase.”(Interview respondent from ward 9, 18 March 2014).*

There is a lot of segregation and side lining of the youth in cooperatives, those who come from poor backgrounds are at a great disadvantage compared to those from rich families. The rich continues to acquire more things because of their position in communities. Another issue is about looking at what a person does for survival, those youth who do some income generating activities like vending, part time jobs in communities and any other small jobs which gives them something for survival are

not incorporated in these cooperatives which includes goat projects, gardening, piggery and poultry.

The biggest blow in all these projects is politicising them. Those in community positions politicise these projects and adding to that the elders interfere in youth projects especially gardening, poultry and piggery projects meant for the youth they come and fit themselves in with control and power on decision making on the day to day running of the projects leaving the youth with no say at all and making the youth passive.

#### **4.1.3 Economic issues affecting youth participation in community development**

Economic issues involve problems such as financial, inflation, unemployment, balance of payment and interest rates. Unemployment amongst the youth was seen as a big drawback in the lives of the youth hindering participation in development. Unemployment in this constituency is very high and the diamond companies both in Marange, Wengezi and Charles wood have not managed to absorb significant numbers of people as employees from these communities. In an interview to ascertain the economic impact of diamond mining on the adjacent communities, most youth interviewed claimed that artisanal mining during the diamond rush was far much better because most youth were fending for themselves by digging the diamonds and there was circulation of money and everyone benefited down to an ordinary person in the communities.

According to these youth's sources, mining officials are corrupt and in most cases recruitment is done 400 kilometres away in Harare where all these companies are operating from, they recruit their relatives most and needs bribes. Only manual job opportunities are sometimes availed for people from these communities but again only a small number of locals have been absorbed by the mining companies because of corrupt recruitment practices.

*“Furthermore the jobs are not advertised publicly” said one youth from ward 17 who is an informal diesel seller along the highway, he added that “we only hear of these jobs when recruitment is over and when we go there looking for employment we are chased away by security guards with guns and dogs.” (Interview respondent from ward 17, 22 March 2014).*

In an interview with another youth from ward 2 concerning how they are affected by these mining activities in Wengezi and Marange the 28 year old single mother of three who is a vendor along the Mutare-Masvingo highway noted that:

*The beginning of formal mining operations in 2009 brought an end to thriving informal diamond mining and trade activities when the government drove out thousands of panners from Marange in 2008 through Operation Hakudzokwi. Today these youth linger around in business centres and growth points (Chakohwa, Hot Springs, Chasiyama and Nyanyadzi) during the day whilst waiting for opportunities during the night to get into mining fields to pan for diamonds. These activities continue to influence raids from the security services.*

*In most cases the raids disrupt business and sometimes innocent villagers are mistakenly identified as potential buyers or panners and taken to the diamond base where they are also interrogated or tortured for several hours before they are released. The relationship between the security operatives, the youth and the community at large here remains strained and tense. Members of the community and business operators regard the youth panners as their source of income and support their panning activities largely because they are not directly benefitting from the diamond proceeds. As youth in the community we also believe that the role of these security operatives is to protect the*

*interests of a minority group of foreign investors and powerful individuals in government who have captured our diamond resource for their benefits side lining us the people who stays in the area where the resource is found. Here in Wengezi these companies are forcing people not cultivate in their fields, we are given false promises and hope about food and compensation but up to now nothing has been compensated which is making life difficult for us to survive. (Interview respondent from ward 2, 15 March 2015).*

The issue of community benefits from the Diamond mining, from the onset and responses the majority of the youth did not have any idea about these community ownership trusts. However some youths from ward 2, 4 and 9 familiarised these trust with one which was commissioned by president Mugabe in July 2012 where 10 million dollars generated from each diamond mining company would be deposited in the Trust account for community development projects. The schemes are in line with the indigenization programme championed by President Mugabe through the Ministry of Youth Indigenization and Economic Empowerment. According to youth sources on the ground they confirmed that there are no known representative's structures for these funds. Several youths interviewed in ward 2, 4, 9 and 17 questioned the criteria that were used in selecting beneficiaries for this scheme where people living more than 200 kilometres away from the mines are set to benefit whilst villagers living closer to the mines are not beneficiaries because of corruption and lack of transparency. According to these youth interviewed the issues of youth empowerment is just talked on radio and television, also printed t-shirts and journals they are just merely written documents slogans and propaganda, they dismissed these programmes as political grandstanding and were against the idea of using traditional Chiefs to spearhead these developmental projects instead of rural district councils who have a constitutional mandate to develop rural districts.

One respondent from the upper part of the constituency who lives close to the forestry and timber plantations in ward 17 stated that:

*The major problem we have in the timber industry is corruption, as youth we are employed in these timber industries but we are working without wages and salaries it is more than 7 months now without pay. There is also the issue of Nepotism in these timber companies, those with top post employing their relatives and putting them in influential positions some of which are not qualified to do those specific jobs, it is by favour not merit. There is denial of community share trust to the local people by the companies. There is theft of company properties by those with influential positions in companies and burning of utilisable timber is putting the youth on great disadvantage. There is the issue of false accusations against development oriented youth and parents to bar them from practising professional forestry, mining and farming activities. The good land for farming is being shared on political basis by those in power and majority of the youth do not have land for farming.*

*Furthermore failure to implement ZIMASSET and result base management (RBM) by the government and its functionaries thus it is not effective. Lack of local councils to handle financial issues and making decisions without consulting the local people at the end wasting resources all these affect youth livelihood development. There is also false information about government loans saying those who are close to banks should have access side lining those in rural areas. Those on top posts grab the loans money for projects before the money reach its final destination and on the ground we only see private micro-finance companies. Companies are closing and many youth are resorting to stealing and gambling as survival means. They abuse funds, very corrupt and greedy. Sometimes we are put into groups, made us write proposals we submit to them but in the long run we see some of our proposed projects and ideas being used or done by these people in power with money so in short they are stealing our intellectual property which is a crime but as youth we can't report it anywhere because we are not heard or listened to. . (Interview respondent from ward 17, 22 March 2015).*

One major issue hindering the youth from getting loans from banks is the issue of collateral, Most youth are poor they do not have asserts, land ,money, animals which they can declare so that they get these loans. Poverty is the major drawback for youth

to access these loans because when some approaches the banks or micro-finance companies they are asked for payslips and most are turned away because they don't have formal jobs.

#### **4.1.4 Political Issues affecting youth participation in community development**

The findings show different interpretations of youth participation in development processes in Chimanimani West constituency. The interpretations range from those who attend any political gathering from community meetings with local chiefs to political rallies who have the knowledge and those who have a limited understanding on political issues, they only associate these issues with political violence, intimidation and propaganda. One of the findings from a Youth in Ward 9 ward revealed a limited understanding of youth participation due to political influences. A female Youth from Ward 9 who is a shopkeeper even stated that:

*“My brother which political issues are you asking which are affecting youth participation development, before I start giving you answers I want to know which youths from which party exactly you are asking because I don't want to be in trouble after you have left this area. (Interview respondent from ward 9, 18 March 2015).”*

The above notion stated by the lady clearly show the political jacket which most youth are embraced in. Most youth and other ordinary people, when they hear of youth participation in development projects they think of being politically active and belonging to a certain political party and this on its own can actually hinder positive development in their communities.

On the other hand some respondents agreed they do take part in development activities but were not free in contributing to developmental projects arguing that the political ground is not free and fair, and a lot of fear has been planted in the communities stretching from way back before some of the youth were even born. These disparities on leadership and decision making starts on local levels going up till it gets to the national levels. These respondents stated that despite the high literature levels in Zimbabwe our leadership styles are still dominated by traditional style of leadership which affects a lot of decision making because there is less consulting and recognition of the people's views on the ground. One female youth from ward 17 who is 33 years old stated that:

*"I am very active in community development; I am included in the leadership structures and also very participative in decision making and contribute idea and advice on development issues. During meetings and discussions yes my ideas are accepted but however it will be pretending from these elders in positions at community level, they are very abusive with power and they do not want people who know. If our contributions are noted and taken seriously it is very important and it will benefit us as youth, the communities we are from and our country at large bringing positive development but the issue is that they under estimate us as youth and want to detect our pace of doing things. (Interview respondent from ward 17, 18 March 2015).*

Another group of respondents from ward 9 agreed that they attend all meetings which have anything to do with community development and decisions to be made on how things have to be done in the communities. The problem is that there are few positions for the youth sector thus the youth are not fully represented in the structures. The source from these youth interviewed states that the youth are given little chances to speak on issues concerning the youth, Most of the things youth say are not accepted because youth are regarded as people who talks meaningless and



non-constructive things. These respondents from this interview show high levels of distrust among young people in governmental and political institutions and low levels of engagement in developmental affairs.

As youth this group felt used as tools especially by politicians who are only seen in the communities towards elections and when it's over they disappear then meet them again five years down the line. The times of voting is the only time even the elders tend to listen to us after being bribed by corrupt politicians to get the youth attention. However when it comes to issues to deal with finances which might be loans, grants or project funding the youths are not heard or wanted to them they do not exist during this times. "Youth are not involved in decision making on how resources are managed and governed. Companies come in the communities they meet the traditional chiefs which they bribe and seal deals on our behalf without consulting the youth. If we go and voice out or ask how these companies are operating in our communities we are chased by security guards and police with dogs. Empowerment programmes are merely written on paper, t-shirts, books and slogans with a political motive by those in power but in reality there is no action taken to empower us as youth" this was said by almost every youth interviewed in the constituency. Another boy aged 22 years from ward 4 states that:

*"I am not willing to participate in any developmental activities of any sort even sometimes when forced i refuse because we participate and take action in groups as youth but only those on top benefits at the end of the day. We do not have anything tangible in life or a small chicken or goat I can point as mine so why should I waste my energy for someone to own four wheel drive and live in a mansion so I do not even participate in any community development activities. When we try to approach the responsible people's*

*offices we are turned away but they are the same guys which we have voted for into office. As youth we do not want money which I will use today and it gets finished but we want real asserts like commercial stands and land for farming where we can do our projects without paying rent.” (Interview respondent from ward 4, 16 March 2015).*

The above notion clearly shows how the youth feel used and how they do not trust the responsible authority. Even when genuine programmes are put in place there will be low turnover from these youths because they have lost hope and trust with the government.

There is lack of political will and poor coordination within the hierarchy starting from the local community Chiefs and headman up to the political Parties and the government at large. Youth participation in development affairs is being disturbed by lack of political will to support youth initiatives and lack of commitment to the dictates of the Zimbabwe constitution and youth policy on youth development. Most youth who are in leadership positions are just reflections of the powerful and senior members in leadership structures. Political parties have no common goal to achieve and are the planting seeds of hate rage amongst the youth causing youth divisions along political affiliations. There is no tolerance in political grounds and majority of the youth prefers to keep themselves away from developmental projects de associate themselves from some projects being offered by any political party especially those regarded as opposition parties for their safety. Political parties are claiming taking a lead in empowering the youth and yet there is nothing much they are doing which can bring positive changes in youth lives because nothing tangible they bring on

table except buying cigarettes, drugs, beer and handing out t-shirts so that the youth will sing, jog and applause them during rallies.

Though there is significant progress towards formulating national youth policies has been made, there is a lot of challenges with the implementation in the national policy agendas or inadequate funding for their implementation exists. The youth respondents revealed with disappointment that in policy formulation they are not engaged and some of the youth who are chosen to represent them are not effective and are chosen by favour not merit. As things are standing today, there is no proper consultation with the youth; rather those consulted are those who are known historically to be the long-time supporters of a certain political party precisely the ruling one which does not work for the benefit of all the youth.

The youth have big challenges in accessing the structures through which they can influence decision making and contribute. The few who have access are part of the privileged ruling class and their relatives, close friends who control the means of production and command both the political infrastructure and the superstructure that are not challenged or questioned by any means. Economic mechanisms such as the Youth Empowerment Fund (YEF) are not accessed by all members in society. There is no transparency and accountability on accessing the funds and those with a different political thinking from the ruling party will not get anything from these funds.

There is overwhelming concurrence amongst the entire respondents that poor performing economy impacts youth participation in political and leadership affairs. Unemployment is very high and most youth do not have time to participate in development projects. Two youths from ward 2 and ward 4 stated that:

*As youth we do not participate in community meetings, voting exercises and other critical issues because they are always away searching and hustling for a better life, it is better to occupy myself in the illegal diamond panning and gold mining so that i can put bread and butter on my table rather than wasting my time in issues that benefits a few people at our expense. Some of us have just lost faith in elections and political issues because we have been hearing these things as we grow and nothing has changed things are just worsening and there is no sign of a better life coming. .” (Interview respondent from ward 2, 15 and 16 March 2015).*

#### **4.1.5 Challenges for Youth Participation in community development and Democratization Processes**

A plethora of agreements, commitments and national blueprints have been reached and ratified to ensure young people’s participation, uneven progress and limited success can be seen with regard to their implementation in Zimbabwe. In addition, channels that could provide youth and youth-led organizations with valuable capacity development, especially with regard to leadership development, and youth-adult partnership opportunities remain limited, especially for marginalized groups of young people such as young women and the disabled.

#### **4.1.6 Institutional barriers and Poor Economy**

Although young people's commitment to civic engagement is flourishing, realizing the meaningful participation of youth remains a challenge, and their activities in adult-organizations and political processes are often times only tokenistic or symbolic. In Chimanimani District, youth officers, chairpersons and different portfolios are available but they cannot be transformed into the advantage of the youth. Two youths from Chimanimani District concurred that the institutions that should foster youth participation are just ceremonial. In addition, one of the youth said even the adults do not want to relinquish power to the youth. There is overwhelming concurrence amongst the entire respondents that poor performing economy impacts youth participation in development. Unemployment is very high and some youth do not have time to participate in development processes such as decision making and voluntary work.

#### **4.1.7 Mistrust between the Youth and Adults in community development**

Young people's participation in formal organizations attracts less engagement among young people today (United Nations Volunteers, 2010 p. 10). The respondents from interviews show high levels of distrust among young people in governmental and political institutions and low levels of engagement in community development affairs on neutral basis. The youth are viewed as part of the problem and not the solution and they are always engaged in "soft issues" such as HIV/AIDS where they are labelled adventurous so All of the aforementioned challenges for young people's meaningful participation in this section could be contributing factors; however, more

research is needed to establish deeper knowledge and understanding to why young people distrust traditional institutions. Rebuilding young people's trust in traditional institutions will be an important issue for policy makers to ensure young people's meaningful participation at all levels of society and to support young people's successful transition into adulthood since the majority of the youth reside in rural areas.

#### **4.1.8 Limited Participation in Policy Formulation**

While significant progress towards formulating national youth policies has been made, challenges with mainstreaming them in the national policy agendas or inadequate funding for their implementation persist. The youth officers and two youth from ward 17 and revealed with disappointment that in policy formulation they are not engaged. One respondent from ward 9 indicated that:

*The National Youth Service is for the youth but nobody knows its functions, how people are recruited and where you work after graduation. In addition, there is no real follow on whether the policy is effective in transforming the entire constituency of the youth; otherwise it is a political arrangement (interview respondent from ward 9, 18 March 2015).*

As it is, there is no proper consultation with the youth; rather those consulted are those who are known historically to be the traditional supporters of certain outcomes which do not work for the benefit of all the youth. The consultations are done in a clandestine manner to ensure that certain pronouncements are achieved. Thus, this will result in pseudo or no participation at all.

## **4.2 Interpretation of Findings on factors affecting youth participation in community development**

This section describes and interprets the phenomenon of social, economic and political factors hindering participation in community development. The interpretation of data also stems from linking crosscutting theme which emanated from the findings, thematic issues arising from the lived experiences of the youth in social, economic and political lives and issues which are an obstacle to community development.

### **4.2.1 Social Issues**

The definitions and narratives of social issues from the entire transcript have shown that it is a well know and familiarised concept among the respondents. It had the same meaning to different youth even the less literate youth have a clear understanding of the phenomenon. From the major findings majority of the youth have taken it as the problems which affect the living and working together of people, how people interact and associate, and their backgrounds where they are coming from. It meant their life styles in general and how they survive and the challenges they face.

### **4.2.2 Economic Issues**

The word was self-explanatory to many of the youth as they just linked the word to the economy of the country although they did not have a clear understanding of the examples of economic issues. However the majority understood the concept as

problems to do with finance, unemployment, inflation and balance of payment. They mentioned the aspect of unemployment caused by melting down of the Zimbabwe economy, the closure of industries and companies, retrenchment of workers in companies. Other issues of concern mentioned were the scarcity of the U.S dollar, companies going for months without paying workers. Those who are in the informal sector were so concerned about how their business were falling down because of low sales and little circulation of money in the system.

#### **4.2.3 Political Issues**

The definitions and narratives of political issues and participation from the entire respondents have shown that it is a multidimensional concept. It means different things to different youth, even those youth who are politically active have a limited understanding of the phenomenon. From the major findings some youth have taken it as being in the political field attending rallies and voting while some have understood it as being in political positions like chairman, MP's or Councillors and some did not want to say a thing concerning this topic because they were scared regarding this area as an area for the brave. However some had a better understanding on political issues which they regard as stretching from voting, participation in community level decision making, being included in the leadership structures starting at community to national level and involved in policy formulation and implementation.

On economic participation the entire transcript of the respondents revealed that participation is very low and it's very hurting because of high unemployment



amongst many youth making the youth passive and segregated. It is very common in African societies that when someone is poor little or no attention is given to them which is the scenario with these youth.. Diagram 1 below shows youth employment in the constituency.

**Figure Youth employment**

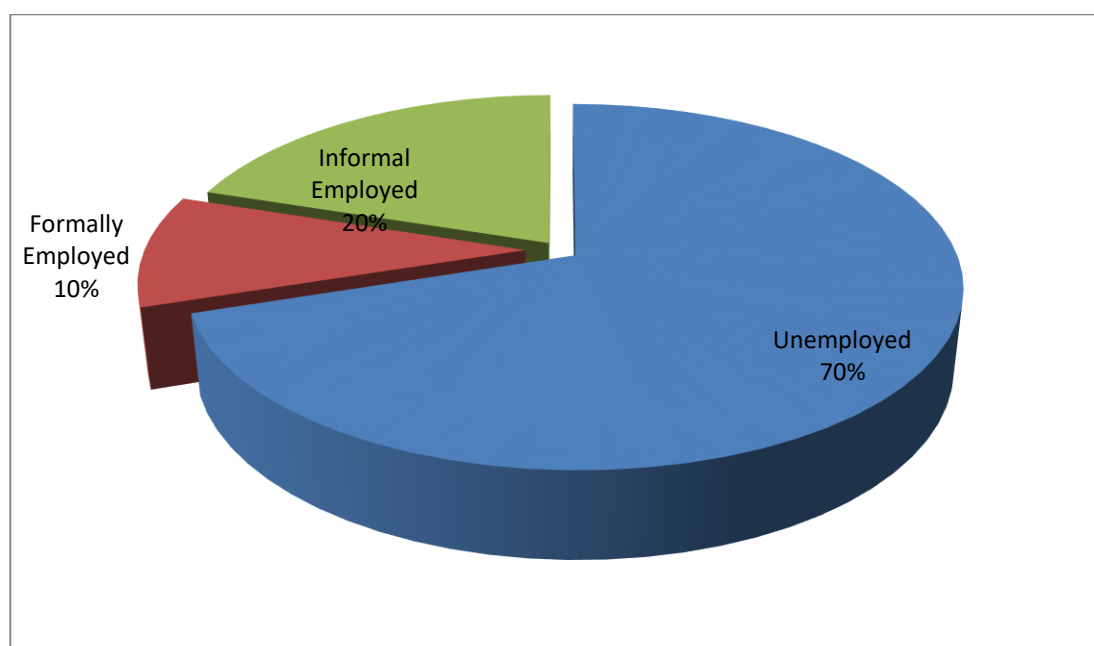


Fig.1 shows the employment rate, there is high level of unemployment amongst the youth most of them loiter in the village and growth points while a small population is in the informal sector then a fraction is employed as shopkeepers. Every youth need to participate in economic affairs but they do not have jobs, land, livestock and machines to start producing which is a big obstacle to youth participation in economic activities.

Finally participation of youth in development projects is rather a contested phenomenon. The youth are a useful and important resource which any society

would want to make use of. Participation of some youth in development projects is in three ways, either on voluntary basis, fear of being victimised or not loyal and lastly by force. Some youth participate through individual choices and personal choices. The entire transcript of the respondents revealed that participation is very low and those in position do not want to release positions and pave way for new generation to take over, they determine the pace and extent youth should participate. Thus, youth participation needs to be revisited and implemented effectively. The diagram below shows variations of conditions under which youth participate in development processes.

**Figure Youth Participation in community development**

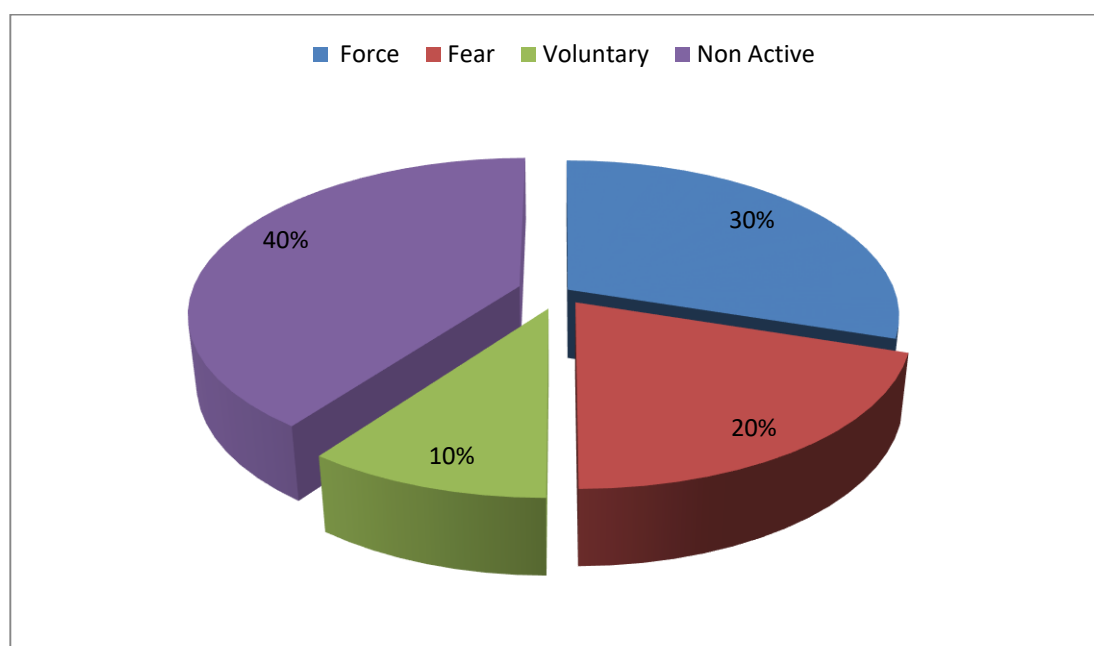


Fig.2 shows variations in conditions under which youth participate in development processes. The majority of the youth do not engage in community

development activities while the rest do participate either by fear, force and voluntary basis as shown on the diagram.

#### **4.2.3 Conclusion**

This chapter has presented the main findings of the study with the goal of investigating youth participation in community development youth in Chimanimani West District. The varying response from the entire transcript show that the issues are similar and they are interlinked socio-economic and socio-political issues affecting the youth. Youth are participating in community development activities to improve their lives and communities but the level of participation is limited despite the presence of police agencies, ministries. The limited opportunity of youth engagement in issues that affects their lives has been attributed to lack of resources to finance youth programmes, politicization of development programmes in communities, the Ministry of Youth, lack of clear separation of the government and ruling party hence overstepping of party community development process into state issues. Above all the issues hindering youth participation in development are all based on the lack of inclusivity, side lining and lack of being granted full status of the youth as full citizens of the country in all the issues that has to do with the youth.

## **CHAPTER 5: SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **5.0 Introduction**

This is the final section which summarizes the research and gives attention to the important findings from the research and which led to the recommendations that emerged from the findings. There is great expectation by the researcher that the findings, conclusions and the recommendations which came out in this research will be utilised by the District Administrator's office, Ministry of Youth, Traditional leaders, civil society organizations, Zimbabwe Youth Council, Youth in Leadership, Parliamentary Portfolio Committee, Political parties, academics, policymakers and other lobby groups that seeks to tackle community participation and challenges faced by the youth in Zimbabwe that hinders positive development.

### **5.1 Summary of Findings**

This study sought to investigate the extent to which the youth are affected negatively by social, economic and political factors when they engage in community development in Chimanimani West Constituency. Much emphasis has been direct towards establishing the mechanisms, processes and structures through which the youth can use to influence decision making in community development, more effort being put on making the youth being players in the development process not spectators from a distance. The study also aspired to identify key challenges in youth social, culture, economic and community development process from community

level up to national level, and find some ways that can be used to enhance meaningful involvement of youth participation towards development.

The study therefore, revealed that the youth are participating at a limited level because of limited resources available which makes those in power and position not willing to give the youth the right as masters who are in full control of their destiny. The entire study has established that the youth in leadership positions socially, economically and politically are just portraits or statues representing the interest of the most powerful in society and the country at large, they are not able to make independent decisions or judgements but portrays the preferences and interest of the superiors in the community. Participation of the youth in development process is not real enough to provide a genuine representation of youth needs and wants.

The research outcomes also showed that, there is also the issue of politicization of donations from NGO`s, the state, Ministry of Youth loans, Indigenization and Empowerment development programmes in form of youth gardens, goat, cattle, poultry and piggery projects are politicised side lining those who are seen as non-patriotic and non-active in activities that supports the ruling party. Thus these bodies are not serving their right full purpose to meet the needs and wants of these youth and enhance their lives in a positive manner. Furthermore projects which are meant for the youth are hijacked and controlled by people who are not even youths who detect the pace and how these projects should be run.

The findings also showed that, apart from youth being side lined in participation in community development processes, there is also the issue of failure to implement the ZIMASSET which has become a merely written blue print but not even one of the things has been put into practice. Most of the promises are in veil and commonly in form of slogans over and over again with no sign of becoming a reality. Local councils have failed to handle financial issues and these councils are being led by people from afar who do not come from the respective constituency at the end there is no good governance in the councils. Lastly local councils are making decisions without consulting local people leading to resource wastage.

## **5.2 Conclusion**

The political jacket covering the word youth which is very common in Zimbabwe has to be removed through educating them the right meaning of being a youth because every time the word youth is mentioned it is associated with those who are politically active only. By so doing the youth side line themselves personally in most if not all activities which has something to do with development because the youth think they are political activities. The major task which needs to be done, for the youth to participate meaningfully in community development processes is the need for redefinition the youth and improve the understanding of the notion of the youths. Youth are supposed to be treated as agents of their lives not clients. From the findings, the youth shared similar challenges and experiences in their lives and the

conclusion drawn from their livelihood experience is that their efforts are never recognised is rather ignored or never treated as important.

The youths are only seen as important whenever they want to be used it might be a community task which needs to be done and mostly during election times of campaigns. During this period some youth are used in violent activities and terrorising their communities to induce fear to the people. Thus this study suggests that there is need for leaders to educate the youth for them to participate in future community development programmes. Thus, there is need to develop a rethinking model of viewing youth as militias but should develop a coordinative approach which leads to new ideas being developed and this will lead to economic growth..

Youth participation has been regarded as seeing some youth wearing political party t-shirts, doing volunteering community service work, some youth in leadership assigned roles, attending political rallies and voting in the context of the many youths. There is need to spark light in this study that participation involves inclusivity, equality of all members of society, transparency, sense of belonging to the structures positions through which every stakeholder can fully command and interpret. Participation as it is, only exist to the level of seeing some youth in political activities and positions which are given to a few favoured ones seen as loyal to those above them thus it is granted by favours not merit. The youth are an agency in themselves who are creative in nature and should take initiatives. The aspect of

participation should be enforced practically not being preached of over and over without it becoming a reality to the youths.

Finally the youth do not speak in one voice which is a very common weakness amongst the youth. They are scared to take legal action as one family to air out their views from local level up to national level taking their queries to the right offices and government departments to show their commitments to be heard. There is lack of coordination amongst the youth to an extent that some have lost hope in themselves and in the future to an extent that this is giving those in power and in structures to continue dominating because they are unquestioned or unchallenged on their actions making them have full control of the system.

### **5.3 Recommendations**

#### **5.3.1 Recommendations Ministry of Youth, Indigenization and Empowerment**

- There is need to empower the youth socially, economically and politically through promoting youth enterprises and self-employment by doing the following:
- Improving the policy environment
- Improving access to youth credit
- Providing business development services and promoting institutional and enterprise networking



- The Ministry of Youth, Indigenization and Empowerment is a state organ whose work is purely nonpartisan thus the ministry should not be politicized and represent the youth by acting upon their initiatives. The ministry should not be centralised in the capital only, such that some decisions can be made at local levels without prior need to wait for confirmation and advice from the headquarters. The ministry of youth should also resuscitate the Vocational Training Centres for skills training and technical development. Capacity building initiatives, business trainings, leadership workshops and seminars from local to national level should be carried out to sensitize the youth about their rights and opportunities. There is clearly need for research and information on the specific needs of young men and women growing in the rural areas so that they could be incorporated in the planning and provision of services such as education and training including provision of resources such as credit.

### **5.3.2 Recommendations to the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee**

- There is need for increased policy integration and effective implementation because at the moment there is a tendency to treat youth in isolation from major development plans and macroeconomic and sectoral policies which marginalise youth in terms of resource allocation. There is lack of proper policy and programme integration thus there is need to integrate youth policies into broader economic and social policies.

- There is also need for strong and effective policy implementation mechanisms. The Parliamentary Portfolio Committee should take meaningfully the Junior Parliament and junior council. Participation of Youth in Parliament should be of significance and provide platforms for the Junior Parliament to take initiatives. Above all there is need for gender sensitivity in policy and programming whilst poor conditions affect all young people but the most significantly affected are the female than the male youth and special priority need to be applied to the social, economic and political recognition they deserve.

### **5.3.3 Recommendations to Political Parties**

- There is need to promote strong political will to address the problems facing the youth. Nothing much can be achieved in the development of the youth without the commitment of political and government leaders. Without genuine political commitment there will be no improvement in resource allocation, to youth policy, programmes and services and the ability to implement programmes will be constrained. There is the need for a greater degree of political commitment to youth throughout political parties and government agencies which could lead to the abandonment of a tendency of viewing youths as stepping stones to higher and greater positions politically. Political parties are planters of the seed of division and hate in the country and the solidarity that used to exist amongst the youth has been eroded due to party community development process. Thus there is need to ensure

tolerance, free interaction with the youth of other political parties and proffer some peace building campaigns in the country and within their party structures.

#### **5.3.4 Recommendations to Civil Society Organization**

- Civil society organizations should foster some advocacy initiatives centred and captured at grassroots level. There is need to promote youth citizenship in a manner that is not exclusionary and limiting to young people. There is need to promote social and economic rights but these rights should be matched with responsibilities. Citizenship and rights based organizations should work to sensitize the youth on how they can be active socially, economically and politically. Civil society organizations should also decentralize their operations into rural areas because they are not known and increase ownership of their processes by the youth, promote youth participation in social economic and political processes.

#### **5.3.5 Recommendations to Youths and Adults**

- There should be a two way communication in a reciprocal manner and both the adults and the youth should learn to listen and learn from one another. There should also develop some tolerance and compromising especially the adults.

### **5.3.6 Recommendations to Traditional Chiefs**

- Traditional chiefs should not continue maintain the old ways of not being attached close to the youth, being feared and seen as superhuman this will make them lose touch of what is happening in today's world. They should also come up with a youth traditional committees from the cell, branch, through the district and the provinces. They should involve the youth in all activities of development in the communities and learn to delegate the youth to lead while they guide and advice.

### **5.3.7 Recommendations to Rural District Councils**

- There is need to involve the youth in policy issues such as budgeting and decision making. The local councils should consult the youth first before they make any decision which has something to do with the youth which will also help the councils to have real issues that affect the youth in decision making, participation in social, economic and political lives which will improve youth livelihoods.

### **5.3.8 Recommendations to the Ministry of Education**

- The Ministry of education has played a pivotal role in enhancing high literacy levels in Zimbabwe putting the country on the map and one of the highest in the continent. But however the education system has followed the former colonial master's way of teaching students to get employed instead of also teaching them skills to employ and create employment.

- There is need to enhance human capital development, the educational systems must be transformed so that young people can acquire relevant and quality skills that can help them master their lives and contribute to social, economic and political development in the country. The change has to occur at all levels of learning, from primary school up to university. This will require increasing investment in training institutions, introducing flexible training programmes, introduce entrepreneurship training, decentralising training to local authorities including local artisans at the village level and linking the training institution to the labour market.

## REFERENCES

Africa's youthful population: *Risk or opportunity?* (Population Reference Bureau, 2007).

Allen, T Thomas A (1992). *Poverty and development in the 21st century*. Oxford: The Open University.

Allen, Chris. 1995. "Understanding African Community development process." *Review of African Political Economy* 62: 301-20. Amundsen, Inge. 2001.

"The Limits of Clientelism: *Multi-Party Community development process in Sub-Saharan Africa*." *Forum for Development Studies* 1: 43-57.

Andreasson, Stefan. 2005. "Orientalism and African Development Studies: The 'Reductive Repetition' Motif in Theories of African Underdevelopment." *Third World Quarterly* 26 (6): 971-86.

Arthiabah, Peter B., and Harry ThamMbiah. 1995. *Half a Century of Toil, Trouble and Progress: The History of the Trades Union Congress of Ghana, 1939-1995*. Accra: Gold-Type Publications. Asiamah, Alfred E. A. 2000.

Ayotunde, J (2008). *Education and Society-Requiem for Western Education in African Societies to Transcend Plantocracy, Coloniality and Neo-Coloniality*. Kingston Town, University of West Indies.

*African Journal of History and Culture* V 3 (5), pp 65-72, June 2011

Amankwah, R. K., & Anim-Sackey, C. (2003). *Strategies for sustainable development of the small-scale gold and diamond mining industry of Ghana*. Resources Policy.

Addison, Tonny. 1997. *Zimbabwe: The Impact of Economic Reforms on Livelihoods and poverty* (University of Warwick, May 1997)

Barry S, 1993 No Condition is Permanent: *The social dynamics of Agrarian Change in Sub-Saharan Africa*. University of Wisconsin press, Madison, Wisconsin

Blaxter L Hughes C and Tight M (2001) 2nd Edition, *How to research*, Buckingham: Open University press

Barnett, Tony, and R. Grellier (2003) '*Mitigation of the Impact of HIV/AIDS on Rural Livelihoods through Low-labour Input Agriculture and Related Activities*', report, Norwich: Overseas Development Group, University of East Anglia.

Binns, T. and Nel, E. (2002a) '*Devolving development: integrated development planning and developmental local government in post-apartheid South Africa*', Regional Studies

Berkvens, R. J. A. 1997. Backing Two Horses: *interaction of agricultural and non-agricultural household activities in a Zimbabwean communal area*. Leiden: African Studies Centre Working Paper, vol. 24.

Burnell, B. A. (2003). The "real world" aspirations of work-bound rural students. *Journal of Research in Rural Education*, 18(2).

Capizzano, J., & Fiorillo, A. (2004). *Young children and the rural information gap: The weaknesses of major data sources for examining the well-being of rural children*. Starkville, MS: The National Center for Rural Early Childhood Learning Initiatives.

Child Development Supplement. (1997). *The Child Development Supplement to the Panel Study of Income Dynamics: 1997 user guide*. Retrieved January 21, 2005, from <http://psidonline.isr.umich.edu/CDS>

Chukwuezi, B. 1999. *Deagrarianisation and Rural Employment in Rural Igboland, South-Eastern Nigeria*. Kano: Centre for Documentation and Research, and Leiden: African Studies Centre Working Paper, vol. 37.

Chuta, E. & C. Liedholm. 1979. *'Rural non-farm employment: a review of the state of the art'*, East Lansing, MI: Michigan State University, Department of Agricultural Economics. Cousins, B., D. Weiner & N. Amin. 1992. 'Social differentiation in the communal lands of Zimbabwe', *Review of African Political Economy*.

Chambers, R. (1983) *Rural Development: Putting the last first*. London: Longman

Davidson, J. (1993). *The transformation and successful development of small-scale mining enterprises in developing countries*. *Natural Resources Forum*, 77(4), 315-326.

Global employment trends for youth: *Special issue on the impact of the global economic crisis on youth* (ILO, 2010)

Garner, Mark, Wagner, Claire, Kawulich Barbara (2009) *Teaching Research Methods in the Social Sciences*-Ashgate publishing group.

Hargittai, Eszter (2009) *Research Confidential, and Solutions to problems Most Social Scientist Pretent they never had*.

Isambi, M.J. (2004). *The African Leadership and Progress Network Capital Researching*. Pretoria: SAUVCA

*Investing in youth for rural transformation: Rural Policy Briefs* (ILO, 2012).

*Investing in the future: Creating opportunities for young rural people* (IFAD, 2010).

*Implications of Diamond Mining in Chiadzwa CRD* (2012) Mutare Zimbabwe.

Geoff Hardley, Kate Higgings, Barvna Sharma, Kate Bird and Diana Cammack,(2009) *Poverty and Poverty Reduction in Sub-Sahara Africa: An overview of Key Issues*.



Jamal, V. (1995). Adjustment programmes and adjustment: *Confronting the new parameters of African economies*. In V. Jamal (Ed.), *Structural adjustment and rural labour markets in Africa* (pp. 1-37). UK: Macmillan Press Ltd.

Kitula, A. G. N. (2006). *The environmental and socio-economic impacts of mining on local livelihoods in Tanzania: A case study of Geita district*. Journal of Cleaner Production

Listening to youth: *Market research to design financial and non-financial services for youth in sub-Saharan Africa* (UNCDF, 2011).

Loevinsohn, Michael, and Stuart Gillespie (2004) 'HIV/AIDS, Food Security, and Rural Livelihoods: Understanding and Responding', Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute.

*Promoting decent and productive employment of young people in rural areas: A review of strategies and programmes*. Workshop report (IFAD and ILO, 2012).

Rural Poverty Report 2011: *New realities, new challenges: new opportunities for tomorrow's generation* (IFAD, 2011).

Save the Children, Help Age International, and the Institute of Development Studies (2005) *Making Cash Count: Lessons from Cash Transfer Schemes in Southern Africa for Supporting the Most Vulnerable Children and Households*, London: Save the Children, HelpAge International, and the Institute of Development Studies.

Youth and skills: *Putting education to work*, EFA Global Monitoring Report 2012, chapter 7, Skills for rural youth – an escape route from poverty (UNESCO, 2012).

United Nations General Assembly (2009) "*Policies and Programmes Involving Youth*", A/RES/64/130, 2009

### Internet Based Sources

African Union, (2006) “*African Youth Charter*”. Available at: [http://www.au.int/en/sites/default/files/AFRICAN\\_YOUTH\\_CHARTER.pdf](http://www.au.int/en/sites/default/files/AFRICAN_YOUTH_CHARTER.pdf)

Commission of the European Communities (2009) “*An EU Strategy for Youth – Investing and Empowering. A renewed open method of coordination to address youth challenges and opportunities*”, Available at: <http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2009:0200:FIN:EN:pdf>

Dhillon, N. (2008). Middle East Youth Bulge: *Challenge or opportunity*. Retrieved 2011, 20-July, from Brookings: [http://www.brookings.edu/speeches/2008/0522\\_middle\\_east\\_youth\\_dhillon.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/speeches/2008/0522_middle_east_youth_dhillon.aspx)

European Commission (2012) “*Participation*”, *Youth Policy*, European Commission website. Available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/youth/policy/participation\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/policy/participation_en.htm) (Accessed 2/27/2014)

Mead, M (Undated) Quotation, *Part of the Free Child Project*. Accessed on 22 April 2014 from: <http://www.yp3.org/definitions.html>.

Restless Development (2013) Youth Participation in Local Council Decision-Making in Sierra Leone: *The successes and challenges of decentralised participatory governance from a youth perspective* from: <http://restlessdevelopment.org/file/youth-participation-in-council-decision-makingfinal-june-2013-pdf>

Sithole, G. (2009, 13-July). *The Biography of Dumiso Dabengwa*. Retrieved 2011, 19-July from <http://forum.newzimbabwe.com/index.php?/topic/4545-dabengwa-andtogogara-trained-underzipra/>

“The Beijing Declaration of the Ministers Responsible for Youth of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the People’s Republic of China on ASEAN China Cooperation on Youth (2004). Available at: <http://www.aseansec.org/ASEANChinaYouth.pdf>

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs & United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, ”Fact sheet: Regional overview: The State of Youth in Asia and the Pacific”. Available at: <http://social.un.org/youthyear/docs/ESCAPFinal5.pdf>

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2011) ”Youth Flash”, April 2011. Available at: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/newsletters/2011/youthflashapril2011>

UNICEF and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, ”Fact Sheet: Youth Participation”, International Year of Youth 2010-2011. Available at: <http://social.un.org/youthyear/docs/Fact%20Sheet%20%20Youth%20Participation.pdf>

United Nations (2011) Expert Group Meeting on quantitative indicators for the World Programme of Action for Youth, 12-13 December 2011. Full report available at: <http://social.un.org/index/Youth/OurWork/Meetingsandworkshops.aspx>

([www.africayouthskills.org](http://www.africayouthskills.org), 13-05-15).

## APPENDIX : Institutional Letter to undertake research



### INSTITUTE OF PEACE LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

*Investing in Africa's Future*

P.O. BOX 1320, MUTARE, ZIMBABWE - OFF NYANGA ROAD, OLD MUTARE - TEL: (263-20) 66788/60075/60026/61611 - FAX: (263-20) 66788/61785 - EMAIL: [ipgdirector@africa.ac.zw](mailto:ipgdirector@africa.ac.zw) - Website [www.africa.ac.zw](http://www.africa.ac.zw)

11 March 2015

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN


Re: Permission to Undertake Research for Dissertation at Africa University

**Lyford Masango** student registration number **054533** is a student at Africa University. He is enrolled in a degree program in Peace, Leadership and Governance and is currently conducting research for his project, which is required for completion of the program in June 2015. The research topic is **"Social, Economic and political issues hindering youth livelihood development, Chimanimani West constituency"**. Lyford is expected to undertake this research during the period March-May 2015 before the dissertation can be submitted to the Faculty in June 2015.

The student will share with you the results of this research after its approval by the Institute.

We thank you for your support and cooperation regarding this research.

Yours sincerely

  
Prof. P. Machakanja  
Director



## APPENDIX : Research Ethics Committee Letter



**AFRICA  
UNIVERSITY**  
(A United Methodist-Related Institution)

INVESTING IN AFRICA'S FUTURE

# AFRICA UNIVERSITY RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE (AUREC)

P.O. BOX 1320, MUTARE, ZIMBABWE • OFF NYANGA ROAD, OLD MUTARE • TEL: (+263-20) 60075/60026/61611 • E-MAIL: aurec@africau.edu • WEBSITE: www.africau.edu

Ref: AU224/15

March 31, 2015

Lyford Masango  
Institute of Peace Leadership and Governance  
Africa University  
Mutare

**Re: Economic, social and political issues hindering positive development in the lives of the youth in Chimanimani West Constituency.**

Thank you for the above titled proposal that you submitted to the Africa University Research Ethics Committee for review. Please be advised that AUREC has reviewed and **approved** your application to conduct the above research.

The approval is based on the following.

- a) Research proposal
- b) Questionnaires
- c) Informed consent form

- **APPROVAL NUMBER** AUREC224/15  
This number should be used on all correspondences, consent forms, and appropriate documents.
- **AUREC MEETING DATE** NA
- **APPROVAL DATE** March 31, 2015
- **EXPIRATION DATE** March 30, 2016
- **TYPE OF MEETING** Expedited

After the expiration date this research may only continue upon renewal. For purposes of renewal, a progress report on a standard AUREC form should be submitted a month before expiration date.

- **SERIOUS ADVERSE EVENTS** All serious problems having to do with subject safety must be reported to AUREC within 3 working days on standard AUREC form.
- **MODIFICATIONS** Prior AUREC approval is required before implementing any changes in the proposal (including changes in the consent documents)
- **TERMINATION OF STUDY** Upon termination of the study a report has to be submitted to AUREC using standard form obtained from.

Yours Faithfully

AUREC SECRETARIAT  
FOR CHAIRPERSON, AFRICA UNIVERSITY RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

AFRICA UNIVERSITY  
RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE (AUREC)  
  
**31 MAR 2014**  
  
**APPROVED**  
P.O. BOX 1320, MUTARE, ZIMBABWE

## APPENDIX : District clearance Letter

<b>Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing</b>		
Telephone 263 26 2251/2		<b>OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR Box 20 CHIMANIMANI ZIMBABWE</b>
Fax 263 26 2569		

Ref:Edc/1

18 March 2015

To whom it may concern

This letter to inform that Mr Lyford Masango ID 44-015757 N44 student at Africa University under the Institute of Peace. Leadership and Governance visited our office with the intention carry out his Research project survey, targeting the middle age (18-35) population at Chimanimani West Constituency.

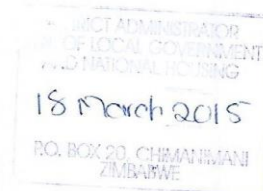
His research area is Social, Economic and Political Issues hindering Development in the lives of the Youth of Chimanimani West Constituency.

Please assist him.

*PP. T. Manongwe*  
**L. KASIMA**

**FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR – CHIMANIMANI**

Cc: Ministry of Youth  
President's Office  
Z.R.P



**APPENDIX : Police Clearance Application letter**

1 March 2015

To Whom It May Concern

**Ref: Application for police clearance to undertake research in Cimanimani  
West Constituency for Dissertation at Africa University.**

My name is Lyford Masango, a final year student at Africa University. I am doing my Master`s programme in Peace Leadership and Governance under the faculty of Institute of Peace and Governance. I am currently conducting research for my project which is required for completion in June 2015. The research topic is Social, Economic and Political issues hindering youth livelihood Development, Chimanimani West Constituency. So i am applying for Police Clearance to do my research from this date until 31<sup>st</sup> of March. Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Masango Lyford

## **APPENDIX : Youth Interview Guide English**

### **Research Title: Youth Participation in Community development.**

- To what extent do the youth contribute in decision making in issues that affect their lives in Chimanamani District
- What is your understanding of youth participation in development?
- In what ways do youth contribute social issues in their communities?
- How can you explain youth contribution in social structures in your community?
- In your view, what motivates the youth to participate and what discourages them to be active in social issues in the communities?

#### Economic issues

- What are the main economic activities in your area?
- What role do you play in any income generating projects in your communities?
- What sources of finance you access to start up money generating projects?
- Is there any reason why you do not apply for loans in banks?
- What stops you from accessing government grants for youth development projects?

#### Political issues



- What are the mechanisms, processes and structures through which young people can participate in developmental issues in Chimanimani District?
- What are the protocols used to engage the youth in local development activities in their areas?
- What are the channels used by youth to engage in community development process?
- Is there a good environment to promote youth participation in development activities?
- Do you think the youth contribution in political issues in society brings positive community development?
- How do you think adult perceptions about the young affect their contribution in political issues?
- What are the developmental expectations of the youth from those who are in political positions?

## **APPENDIX : Informed Consent Letter English**

### **INFORMED CONSENT LETTER**

My name is **Lyford Masango**, Registration No: **054533**. I am in my final year in the Institute of Peace, Leadership and Governance; Master in Peace and Governance, student at Africa University. I am required to conduct a research and submit a dissertation as part of the requirement for the completion of this course. I am therefore conducting a research on the topic: **Youth Participation in Community Development**. I am kindly requesting your permission participate in this study by answering and filling in the questionnaire.

#### **Purpose of this study:**

The purpose of this research is to examine Economic, Political and Social issues which are hindering positive development on youth lives in rural areas. You have been selected for participation in this research. The research will cover the period “between” 15<sup>th</sup> Feb to 28<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2015. .

#### **Risks and Discomfort:**

This research has no association with any political affiliations or agenda and, as such, there are no risks associated with this research with regard to politically-based personal risk.

#### **Benefits or Compensation:**

The study is purely for academic purposes and does not offer or commit any benefits by way of remuneration to you.

**Confidentiality:**

Your answers to the questionnaire will be private and confidential. No individual views or any information damaging to the overall goal of IPLG will be entertained or included in the final results. .

**Voluntary Participation:**

Your participation in this study is on voluntary basis, pursuant to your consent, that is you may choose not participate or withdraw your consent to participate at any given time and not to respond to any question you may be uncomfortable with.

If you choose to participate in this study, you may sign this form in the space provided below as an indication that you have read, understood and are ready to participate.

**Consent**

I have read and understood this consent form and given my accord for my child, whose is under the age of 18 to participate in this study:

Participant's ..... Name

Participants Signature .....

Date  
.....

Name of the researcher: Masango Lyford

Reg No: MPG 054533

E-mail:masangolyford@yahoo.com

Tel: +263774397900

Researcher's Signature .....

Date .....

AUREC Contact Address

P.O.Box 1320, Africa University, Off Nyanga Road, Old Mutare, Zimbabwe.Tel:

(+263-20) 60025/61611, e-mail: [aurec@africau.edu](mailto:aurec@africau.edu). Website: [www.africau.edu](http://www.africau.edu)

## **APPENDIX :Informed consent letter in Shona**

GwaroRokukumbiraMvumo

Zitarangurinonzi Masango Lyford, mudzidziwepa Africa University.

NdirikuitawotsvakurudzoyemusorounotiMagariroevanhu,

zveupfuminezvematongerweenyikazvinokanganisavechidikikutivasabudiriramuupen

yuhwavondezvipimudunhureChimanimani, Manicaland:

Kushanduramafungiromaereranonehutungamirihwevechidikimunyika. (Youth

Participation in community development in Chimanimani west Constituency).Naizvozvondokumbirawokunzwapfungwadzenyu.

Makasunungukakupapfungwadzenyu pane mubvunzomumwenomumweuye kana musinachokutaura pane

mimwemibvunzomunekodzerozvakareyoukutihamunamhinduro.Kanamusingachadik uendereramberinekupapfungwadzenyu,

munekodzerozvakareyekuzivisamutsvakurudziuyemuobvumidzwakusiyazvenyu.Kun yangwezvazvopasinamuripowemari,

tsvakurudzoiiinotarisirwakuzobatsirakuunzamushandirapamwehwevechidikiuyenev akuru,

kusanganisiranehurumendekuedzakubatsirakuunzamazanoanobatsirakugadzirisamata mbudzikoarikuitakutinyikaisabudirirakuendamberi.Mukuperakwetsakurudzo,

munyorianounzawozvaanengeakawanakunharaundayenyu.Pfungwadzamuchapadzich achengetedzwaueyehadzizoshandiswekukonzeresamhirizhongakuvanhuvapapfungwai

dzi kana mudunhuravanogara.Zvakarekupapfungwadzenyuhakumanikidzwi, mumwenamumweakasunungukakupapfungwadzake.

Pamusoropezvosendokumbirawokutimuzadzisezvikumbirozviripazasiapa:

Interview Number\_\_\_\_\_Ward Name\_\_\_\_\_

Signature\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_

Researcher's Signature\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_

## **APPENDIX : Interview guide in Shona**

### **Musorowetsvakurudzo:**

**Kushandakwevechidikimubudiro yemudunhure Chimanimani,**

### **Manicaland:**

- Komajahanemhandaravabvazeravanosvikapipakuisawodamaravom  
unezvehutungamiri wenharaunda ?
- Sokunzwisisakwako,  
chiichinonzikuwanisamukanakunevechidikimunezvehutungamirihwe  
matunhu?
- Inziradzipidzinoshandiswanevechidikikutivapindewozvirongwazvebu  
diriromumatunhuavanogara?
- Nziradzosedzawatauiraidzi, vechidiki ava vane ruzivorwadzo here?
- Ungatsanangura here  
kutimagariro evechidikimudunhuanokanganisakubudirirakwavoseiko?

### **Zveupfumi**

- Komajahanemhandaravabvazeravanogumirapapimunyayadzekupamaz  
anoavomune ,zvicherwa,zviwanikwamudunduravo?
- Kana  
mhandaranemajahavasinamikana iyichiichirikuitakutimikana iyishiik  
we?

- Ndeapimatanho,  
nzirauyenehwarohungaitakutivechidiki vakwanisewokungevachitorazv  
ikweretikumabhangazve kutangisamabasaemaoko?
- Majahanemhandaravabvazeravemu Zimbabwe vanowanikwazvakadiiv  
arimunyayadze zveupfumimudunhumavopamwenemafambisirwoekuis  
amasimbaeupfumikunevechidiki ?

### **Zvematongerweenyika**

- Ndedzipinziradzinokurudziravechidiki kupindamunezvehutungamiriri  
wenharaunda, nematunhu?
- Ndeapimatanho aripo anopamasimbakunevechidiki kuti vapindewomum  
akomiti mazano ekutongakwedunhunenyika uyene kuunzamazano anab  
atsiranyika?
- Unofungakuti kupamukanavechidiki mukupamazano mukutongakunoba  
tsirabudiriroyevechidiki here?