THE EFFECTS OF UNEMPLOYMENT ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF YOUTH: ITS IMPACT ON THE COPING MECHANISM IN CHIPINGE URBAN, ZIMBABWE

BY

CHARLES MUZITE

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ABSTRACT

The study was carried out with the objective of trying to explore the effects of unemployment on the socio-economic status of youth as well as highlighting the impact of unemployment on the coping mechanisms of youth in Chipinge urban district. The study covered selected 2 wards from Chipinge urban. There was the use of the survey research design and this enabled data collection using a questionnaires and interviews with key informants. Desk review of important documents from the Ministry of Youth, Development and Empowerment was also employed. A Pilot study was done before the main study in wards 5 and 7 of Chipinge urban. The findings of this study showed that the effects of unemployment on socio-economic status of youth impacts negatively on youth coping mechanisms in Chipinge urban. Due to the prevailing situation in the area of study and the country as a whole, most youth are left with little or no option except resorting to negative coping mechanisms which contributes to the low status and low regard of youth in the communities where they live. This exposure to negative coping mechanisms has some ripple effects on the youth as well as the community at large. Related to the findings was the realisation of the lack of inclusion and involvement of youth in policy design and implementation that affect the status and well- being of the youth hence the finding that youth are excluded in the economic activities of their countries. The study has also come up with some recommendations on how the Government and other key players can address these challenges being faced by the youth. Key recommendations hinge on the need to embrace youth and involve them in the planning and design of key policies and economic activities so that they do not feel marginalized and secluded from issues that affect them.

DECLARATION

I, Charles Muzite declare that this dissertation is my original work except where sources have been acknowledged. The work has never been submitted nor will it ever be, to another university in the awarding of a degree.

Signed:

Student ……………………………………………. Date………………

Supervisor …………………………………………… Date………………

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DEDICATION

This research work is dedicated to my beloved wife (Memory), my daughters Cynthia, Charlotte and Charmaine and my only son Clifford Albert Muzite

ACRONYMS

CABS	Central African Building Society
CBZ	Commercial Bank of Zimbabwe
CBOS	Community Based Organisations
EU	European Union
FACT	Family AIDS Caring Trust
FTLRP	Fast Track Land Reform Programme
GoRZ	Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe
HIV/AIDS	Human Immuno Virus- Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
IDBZ	Infrastructure Development Bank of Zimbabwe
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
ISOP	Integrated Skills Outreach Programme
MARPS	More at Risk Populations
MDGS	Millennium Development Goals
MoYIEE	Ministry of Youth Indigenization and Economic Empowerment
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
UCCZ	United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe
UN	United Nations
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children
STANBIC	Standard Bank International Corporation
ZYC	Zimbabwe Youth Council
ZIYEN	Zimbabwe Youth Employment Network

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

The challenge of unemployment is regarded as a global phenomenon as it affects all countries around the world although it is so acute in less developed countries. This chapter focuses on the background information to unemployment, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, purpose, assumptions and significance of the study. The scope of the study is also discussed thus delimitation and limitations. This is deliberately done to locate the study within a particular geographical place for its manageability.

1.2 Background to study

Youth unemployment began to gain world-wide attention at the turn of the 21st century. This was when it was realized that, 88 million young people worldwide (half of the world's unemployed) were without work. At the Millennium Summit in 2000, world leaders agreed to set up the Youth Employment Network (a high-level policy network on youth employment) and this was followed by developing strategies to give young people some opportunities through the Millennium Development framework.

As a developing continent, Africa also faces similar if not worse challenges due to youth unemployment. Africa has a very young population (two thirds of the population is people under the age of 30 years (Leahy. 2007) and this youthful population is actively seeking employment.

Closer home, Zimbabwe as a landlocked developing country also faces similar youth unemployment challenges. With Zimbabwe's population estimated at 12.4 million (2012 Zimstart report), it is estimated that youth unemployment is around 68%. The researcher has observed/ discovered that the urban streets of Chipinge are populated and roamed by unemployed youths. These youth engage in activities that put their lives at risk and many at times are often exploited and taken advantage of. Unemployment has wreaked havoc among them such that the rate of socio-economic ills is rife in Chipinge urban wards.

With ten administrative provinces in Zimbabwe, Manicaland was purposively selected for this study. In the same province of Manicaland, Chipinge urban district was conveniently selected for the study. The study focused on two specific urban wards namely wards 5 and 7 for purposes of comparison and to cater for variations. The area is representative enough for effective observation and thorough study of unemployment and the effects on the youth. The majority of the unemployed youth or "Discouraged Youth" are victims of the collapse of the Education system experienced during the 2002 to 2008 economic and social depression (Mambo 2010). Most of these are in the rural areas and small towns, where they fail to secure formal qualifications and hence they are stuck between the formal and informal economic systems.

Chipinge district is situated about 190km south of the provincial capital Mutare. It borders Mozambique to the east, Chiredzi District to the south west, Buhera District to the north-west and Mutare District to the north. The district is divided into 38

wards, 30 of which are rural while 8 are` urban. According to the 2012 National Census, the total population of Chipinge District is 300 792. The average household size in the district is about 4 and the population is predominantly Ndau, a Shona speaking grouping. The district represents all 5 agro-ecological zones found in Zimbabwe. The high and rugged terrain in the Eastern side at 6000m above sea level experiences high rainfall while the low lying flat lands in the western part at 1600m above sea level is characterized by a very erratic rainfall pattern. The main economic activity in the district is agriculture. The area is inhabited by people who are peasants or small scale subsistence farmers who depend on agriculture as their main source of livelihood. As a result the degree of vulnerability increases in the event of drought. There are no industries, except Dairibord, (a bulk milk processing company) in Chipinge town which is currently not operating at full capacity. This has its operations reduced due to the effects of the Fast Track Land Reform Programme (FTLRP), since many of the Dairy farmers who used to supply milk lost their farms and the new farmers have not yet reached their full capacity production levels. In the Lowveld, is the Macdom Ethanol plant which has a potential to offer employment to several thousand people. However the plant's operations have been curtailed by bickering over policy issues with regard to blending of the ethanol with petrol. The District has a long tradition of sending illegal migrant labour to neighbouring countries notably South Africa and Mozambique. Thousands of mostly youth are deported back to Zimbabwe from South (IOM report 2009).

In Chipinge urban, wards 1-6 are predominantly high densities whereas ward 7 and 8 are medium and low density respectively. High density wards have a high

concentration of households with the sizes of stands of around hundred square metres. Medium density stands measure on average 1 200 square metres and low density measures up to 2000 square metres in sizes. Most of the high density areas are densely populated mainly by people who are ranked lowly economically. Most residents of these low density wards were displaced from the former commercial farming communities previously owned by white farmers. The displacement was due to the Fast Track Land Reform Programme (FTLRP) which started in Zimbabwe in 2000. The high density wards also receive high volumes of people from the rural areas into the urban (rural to urban migration) in search of opportunities especially employment opportunities.

The major problems in the urban wards include shortage of housing associated with poor living standards, shortage of schools and hospitals leading to inadequate access to education and medical facilities as well as poor living conditions. The wards also lack safe drinking water thereby making people vulnerable to water borne diseases. Additionally, there are very few employment opportunities especially for the youth. The only available options are the local business shop owners dotted around Chipinge town and the Public Service Commission (Ministry departments mainly for those with professional qualifications). There is also limited income generating opportunities that could enable the people to enjoy a decent and healthy life. Most Youth resort to temporary menial jobs in the nearby farms, which they claim, pays them a little, after a hard day's work. The conditions of work do not meet minimum International Labour Organisation (ILO) Decent Work Agenda which is premised on

promoting opportunities for youth to get decent and productive work, in conditions of freedom, equality and human dignity (ILO 2010).

The target population for this study was youth aged between 15 and 35 years (as defined by the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe (GoRZ) and as derived from the African Union charter). The youth were identified randomly in the two selected wards. The area of study is the researcher's home area and this enabled him to gain access to the community and be easily accepted as a researcher. These are all urban wards where the degree of suffering by youth is great because of poverty, exclusion, underdevelopment as well as the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Moreover there has been an influx of people mostly the youth from the rural areas to the urban areas. The rural-urban migration has increased the magnitude of vulnerability amongst the youths in the area of study.

Amongst the service providers in these wards are Government departments (with all key Ministries present in the district), various Non-Governmental Organizations as well as churches. Amongst the NGOs operating in the area of study dealing with youth are Plan International, Simukai Youth Programme, United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe (UCCZ) as well as Family AIDS Caring Trust (FACT). These NGOs work with local institutions and Government Agencies such as Ministry of Youth Development Indigenization and Empowerment, Ministry of Labour and Social Services as well as Ministry of Local Government, Rural and Urban Development.

Many youth in Chipinge urban fail to progress with education and thereafter find it difficult to have a decent living as a result of very limited opportunities for employment in the area. Most of them resort to negative coping mechanisms like engaging in illegal migration, drug abuse, violence and crime, promiscuity leading to prostitution whereby they put themselves at the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted infections that are detrimental to their health. The number of the desperate youth is increasing in this community and the same individuals suffer from marginalization and stigmatization in the communities where they live. From period 2007 to the end of 2012, FACT tested a total of 31 354 people for HIV and AIDS in the age category 15-29 years in Chipinge urban. Of the people tested in this category, 984, (5, 5%) young women tested positive and 603, (4, 4%) young men tested positive. (*Source-FACT New Start Chipinge Report 2012*). FACT also targets the more at risk populations (MARPS) and these are mainly the idle population who are not engaged in any economic activities. The bulk of this group are the youth, who are not gainfully employed and they wander around shopping centres, market places or even the town. For FACT this group is at a very high risk of contracting HIV and is of great interest to this study.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

The magnitude of youth unemployment continue to rise as thousands of youth join the job market yearly looking for jobs in economies that can absorb less than they retrench. Youth unemployment is therefore regarded as a cause for concern in the contemporary discourse as most governments tend to offer lip service to the issue.

The net effect of youth unemployment to the socio economic status of youth is yet to be felt in most developed countries as the Arab world has already felt the progressive social rupture due to the unemployed youth feeling alienated and disenfranchised from participating in the economic development of their communities and countries. This continues to delay the full development and maturing of the youth, who remain marginalized and dependent on gerontocracy. The majority of the youth remains socially stuck, stagnant and locked in the category of youth without possibilities of attaining social mobility. Youth remain frustrated and hence resorting to social migration, seeking immediate survival in the shifting social terrain which puts most of the youth at risk of HIV/AIDS, crime and substance abuse. Therefore this study aims to examine the effects of unemployment to the socio-economic status of youth and its impact on the various coping mechanisms that the youth resort to in the area of study.

1.4 Purpose of the study

The purpose of this study is to examine the impact of unemployment on the youth in Zimbabwe, through a detailed study of youth in Chipinge urban, in Manicaland province of Zimbabwe. The study interrogated the situation youth find themselves in, with the intention to understand how the youth themselves and the community feel about this situation of unemployment. At the same time the study seeks to gain insight from key players who work with this target group on how youth unemployment can be tackled.

1.5 Significance of the study

The study seeks to provide a scholarly insight on the issue of youth unemployment in Zimbabwe based on study of youth in Chipinge urban district, in Manicaland Province. This study will be of value to Policy makers as they will be able to understand how they can make youth contribute positively to the development of their own countries. This is against the background that the problem of unemployment among the youth is overwhelming and if left unattended may threaten the social and political fabric of society. The need to address youth employment and empowerment needs can only be ignored presently at the national Governments' own peril. Youth work has become very topical especially in most developing countries and it has become an area of interest for many policy makers due to the potential instability and conflict which can be caused by the unemployed youth who are predominantly in the majority. Youth intervention work, is a uniquely pertinent and urgent area of focus whose impact may cut across all sectors of the country. High crime rates in countries like South Africa and political upheavals in North Africa are a source of the signs and symptoms of delayed interventions.

The problem of youth unemployment has a negative impact on national and international development as the effects of youth problems easily spread across national boundaries and even continents. Caring for youth to reduce vulnerability helps to empower them to look after themselves in future as well as guide them to become useful citizens of their respective countries. Providing young people with opportunities and basic needs such as food, clothes, shelter, education and medical facilities makes their future lives better and sustainable.

The study will contribute to improvement and knowledge in the low socio-economic status of youth as a result of marginalisation, stigmatization, poverty and exclusion of unemployed youths. This will result in an increase in the efforts to integrate and involve unemployed youth into the society as meaningful members of the community. The study will contribute to an in-built local system which is ready for use by the service providers working with disadvantaged and unemployed youth to support the same vulnerable target group in the same households in a more sustainable way and over a long period of time.

The research findings will be of value to policy makers, planners, researchers, aid donors, international agencies as well as local institutions involved in looking at understanding and easing the plight of unemployed youth. It could therefore result in the improvement of service delivery by Non- Governmental Organisations and the government departments. The research seeks to come up with innovative and sustainable models that target unemployed youths and disadvantaged youth as well as families and households coping with an increased burden of supporting unemployed youths. This study will therefore fill in the gap created by uncoordinated and delayed policy interventions on youth.

1.6 Research Objectives

The objectives of the study are to:

1.   investigate the effects of unemployment on youth in Chipinge urban district;

2.	examine the socio-economic status of unemployed youth in Chipinge urban; and

3.	establish the possible effects of unemployment and the escape routes available to the youth in Chipinge urban

1.7 Research Questions

The research problem has raised several investigative questions within this study. The questions need to be answered if this study is to contribute to the solutions of the problem. The research questions are as follows:

1.	What is the extent of unemployment among youth in the area of study?

2.	How are youth affected by unemployment in Chipinge urban district?

3.	How are unemployed youth viewed or perceived in the area?

	4. What options or escape routes do these unemployed youth have at their disposal in the District?

5.	What are the main challenges faced by the youth in this area?

1.8 Assumptions or Hypothesis

This study will be premised on the following hypothesis;

Low socio-economic status and the resort to negative coping mechanisms especially amongst the youth are associated with unemployment in developing countries

1.9 Study Delimitation

The scope of this research will be confined to the locality of wards 5 and 7 of Chipinge urban district. These have been purposively sampled since they are representative of the two main types of wards which are high and low density in Chipinge urban. While ward 5 will be representative of all the other high density wards, namely wards 1 to 6, ward 7 will be representative of the low/medium density wards 7 and 8. Proximity to the researcher's work place was considered in the selection of the area of study. On the other hand, the study has been confined to youth unemployment and not general unemployment due to the attention youth has been getting of late. This is coupled with the fact that youth are predominantly in the majority in terms of population size in most developing countries but they appear to be neglected (excluded) in accessing such opportunities as employment, other economic activities as well as political participation.

1.10 Limitations of study

Some of the limitations in carrying out this study are linked mainly to the fact that the researcher was in full time employment, occupying a very key and strategic position at his work place which entailed travelling out of the country on several occasions during the same time he was carrying out the research and the financial constraints of travelling to and from to the project site. This however, was mitigated by working over week ends and taking off days/leave to prioritise the research work. Also the distance with the project supervisor militated against the study, although this was solved as the researcher had to arrange trips to Harare. The Researcher made

sure that he met and discussed with the supervisor while in Harare and the study progressed smoothly with the efficacy it deserved.

Measures were put in place to mitigate these limitations. On finances, the researcher has ensured that the area of study is confined to the locality of the researcher's work place. This means that travelling was for a shorter time to the field. In terms of time for carrying out the study the researcher made use of Research Assistants and made use of weekends. For meetings with my supervisor, the use of phone calls and internet was also relied upon.

1.11 Definition of key terms:

Unemployment

In its broad sense unemployment refers to the population aged fifteen years and above who during the 7 day reference period did not work and had no job or business to go back to, but who are available for work (ZIMSTAT, 2006).

There are different types of unemployment; short, medium and long term unemployment, depending on the time one has been out of employment. Long term unemployment refers to people who have been out of work for more than 12 months. This type of unemployment is difficult to reduce as the longer people are out of work, the harder they find it to re-enter the job market. This is mostly common with unemployment in developing countries like in Zimbabwe, where generally economies are in decline or stagnant and increasing the numbers of people leaving

the labour market. According to David A Mayer (2001: 353) there are three distinct types of unemployment and these are frictional, structural and cyclical unemployment. Frictional unemployment occurs when people voluntarily join the labour force, or when they are between jobs for which they are qualified. It is frictional because the labour market does not automatically match up all available jobs with all available workers. Frictional unemployment is a result of when a qualified person is in the job market for a job than what he/she is qualified to do.

Structural Unemployment; occurs when job seekers' skill sets are not in demand because of geography or obsolescence. As industries die out in certain regions of the country or relocate to other regions, the workers may not be able to move with the job. This leaves workers with a skill set that is no longer in demand. These workers must either retrain or accept a lower-paying job in an industry that requires less skill. Cyclical Unemployment occurs due to contractions in the business cycle. It is not voluntary, nor is it the result of a skill-set mismatch. Usually it is a result of periods of recession or economic decline.

The last two types of unemployment (structural ad cyclical) are very relevant to this study in Chipinge district, Zimbabwe and the African region in general due to their levels of development.

Unemployment is also defined as the people who do not have a job, have actively looked for work in the past four weeks, and are currently available for the work. People who were temporarily laid off and are waiting to be called back to the same

job are included in the unemployment statistics (US Bureau of Labour Statistics). According to the US Census Bureau, officially a person is said to be unemployed if he or she is in the Labour force but does not have a job.

For purposes of this study, unemployment will refer to population actively looking for work and are not gainfully engaged in any economic activity on a full time basis. This does not include those engaged in the informal sector and the youth in the education sector (students) as they cannot be said to be unemployed until only after dropping out of or completing education and seeking jobs.

Unemployment rate

Unemployment rate refers to a percentage of the labour force. The participation rate refers to the percentage of people who are in the labour force. The participation rate excludes those who are unable to work or choose not to work such as children, students, house wives/husbands, the elderly and the incapacitated (The EU Unemployment; http:// epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/).

The Labour Force

In this research the labour force will consist of those people who are actively looking for work. And it is important to note that Labour force is not equal to the population of any country. This is so because there are usually people in a society who either do not want to work or are unable to work. These groups include full-time students, stay-at-home parents, and the disabled, who cannot be actively employed. A distinction should be made of what constitutes work. In its economic sense work

strictly refers to work outside of the home or school, since, in a general sense, students and stay-at-home parents do plenty of other work. For specific statistical purposes, only individuals aged 16 years (depending on countries) and older are counted in the potential Labour force, and they are only counted in the Labour force if they are actively working or have looked for work in the past four weeks. Labour force consists of the number of employed persons plus the number of unemployed persons (US Bureau of labour Statistics).

Youth

According to Erikson (1965:254), Youth is a time of life in which one defines and plays with the opportunities and possibilities of social roles in constructing one's adult identity. Youth is defined as the time of life between a dependant childhood and an independent adulthood (maturity). According to the Collins English Dictionary (Harper Collins Publishers; 2000), the word "youth" means; "the quality or condition of being young, immature, or inexperienced".

The Sociological definition views youth as a life stage comprising a series of "transitions from adolescence to adulthood, from dependence to independence, and from being recipients of society's services to becoming contributors to national, economic, political and cultural life" (Curtain, 2003: 74).

Youth has also been defined as a transitional stage between childhood and adulthood. Four significant happenings that mark the transition from Childhood to adulthood have been identified and these are;

'Leaving home, Finding employment, Setting up home and Marriage' (Mitteraeur 1992). The Commonwealth Youth Programme defines youth as between the ages of 16-30 years. The Zimbabwean definition of youth is based on the African Union Charter which defines youth as between 16-35 years.

And for purposes of this study Youth unemployment therefore denotes unemployment specifically for youth as defined above (between the age of 16 and 35 years) as per the Zimbabwe Ministry of Youth Development, Indigenization and Economic Development definition.

1.12 Organization of the Study

This study is organized into five Chapters where chapter one focuses on the problem and its setting. Chapter two focuses on the review of relevant literature. Chapter three focuses on the research methodology. Chapter four presents the findings of the study and finally, Chapter five, summarises, the study process and gives conclusions and recommendations of the study.

1.13 Conclusion

This chapter highlighted the background to the study by laying the foundation of the research study and describing aspects and background concerning youth unemployment. The chapter also looked at the importance of the study. The important terms used in the study were defined with reference to some authorities and their contextual meaning in this particular study. The next chapter looks at the review of related literature.

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This Chapter outlines the literature review of the relevant material read by the researcher for this study. The chapter also dwells on the theoretical framework underpinning this study. It also reviews conventions related to youth unemployment and to the challenges faced by unemployed youth at Global, Regional and Local level. Commitments by the Government of Zimbabwe on youth unemployment is explored, case studies and other reports mainly from the Ministry of Youth, Indigenization and Economic Empowerment are examined in this study.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

The study is premised on the social exclusion theory propounded by Todman (2000), further supported by Tsakloglou, Muffels and D. Mayes (2001) and further defined by Lupton (2002). The concept of social exclusion refers to situations in which individuals and or entire communities of populations are systematically blocked from rights, opportunities and resources like housing, employment, health care, civic engagement, democratic participation and due processes. Lupton (2002) further defines this sociological term as a Multi-dimensional process of progressive social rupture, detaching groups and individuals from social and economic relations and institutions preventing them from full participation in the normally prescribed activities of the society in which they live. Social exclusion relates to the alienation or disenfranchisement of certain groups of people within a society, that is alienating social interaction, integration with family, friends and community, (Burchardt etal

2002b: 31). This theory therefore helped in this study to understand and appreciate the exclusion of young people in participating in the economic development of their communities and country. Social exclusion on the youth in employment provision is regarded as highly contentious as in most developing countries employment is a source of income which shapes an individual's identity, destiny as well as feeling of self-worth and independence. Being excluded from work also implies exclusion from social networks and from the full development into a fully- fledged individual who is independent. Failure to access employment is therefore viewed as a serious impediment to achieving self-worth especially in the Africa set up where a person's worthy and adulthood is marked and measured by the type of economic activity he/she is involved in. According to (Hansen and Stepputat 2005:17), the exclusion theory denotes to the exclusion of large numbers of young Africans from socio-political scenes, citizens' rights, and in some sense even human dignity.

In this study the concept of social exclusion can be further supported by other theories like the Relative Deprivation theory of Gurr (1970) and Maslow's Human Needs theory. Due to the general feeling of deprivation by the youth and the unmet needs of these youth, the energy within this disgruntled group can be exploited or manipulated and used negatively (destructively) to cause both overt (direct) and structural violence, injuries, death and destruction to society or the environment. The effects of this can be felt at various levels which are linked to the cycle of violence. At individual (self) level this can lead to alcohol or drug abuse, suicide and or depression. At community level this can lead to crime, rape and domestic violence. Finally at national or regional levels, youth unemployment can lead to destruction

through rebel movements, wars, terrorism, revolutions or coups which may affect the whole country or region/s.

2.3 Global Perspective of causes of Unemployment

There are several types of unemployment, each one defined in terms of cause and severity. According to David A. Mayes, Frictional unemployment occurs when people voluntarily join the Labour force, or when they are between jobs for which they are qualified to do. It is frictional because the Labour market does not automatically match up all available jobs with all workers available on the job market. Frictional unemployment is a result of when a qualified person is in the job market for a job that he/she is qualified to do. In this particular case the job seeker can be doing something on temporary basis whilst he/she is waiting for the right job, which he is qualified to do.

Government incentives create variations in frictional unemployment rates between countries. In countries where generous unemployment benefits are given to unemployed people, this acts as an incentive to spend more time searching for a job and thus increase the rate of frictional unemployment for the country. Frictional unemployment is higher in developed countries, mostly European countries due to the incentives offered to persons who are not in employment, who can afford to wait for the right job opportunities.

The other type of unemployment is Structural Unemployment; which occurs mainly as a result of globalization, when job seekers' skill sets are not in demand because of geography or obsolescence. As industries die out in certain regions of the country or relocate to other regions, the workers may not be able to move with the job. This leaves workers with a skill set that is no longer in demand. These workers must either retrain or accept a lower-paying job in an industry that requires less skill. This was the case in the case of Zimbabwe, where after the land reform programme, most workers who were trained to operate machinery, were redundant when the white farmers relocated with their machinery and the new farmers resorted to manual farming.

David A. Mayes further postulates that Structural unemployment is often the result of creative destruction. As innovation occurs, old technologies and industries are destroyed, which frees up the resources for the new technology and its industry. Another good example is the invention of the personal computers which led to the elimination of pool secretarial jobs and type writers as well as the cell phones versus the fixed line network telephone. While the technological inventions are welcome development, there are some negative effects of such developments especially on the employment side. According to Joseph Schumpeter, to reduce structural unemployment, there is need for Education and retraining of workers so that they are continuously in touch with the development trends and are not overtaken by such events and hence are kept on the job.

The third type of unemployment is Cyclical Unemployment which occurs due to contractions in the business cycle or as a result of down turn in aggregate demand (AD). If the decline in aggregate demand is persistent and the unemployment long term, it is called general keyenesian (John Maynard Keynes (1930s) or demand deficient-unemployment (DDU) and this is caused by lack of sufficient demand to generate full employment. The Keynesian General theory of employment refutes the notion that low wages can restore full employment as this is not voluntary, nor is it the result of a skill-set mismatch. Usually it is a result of periods of recession or economic decline. The problem with cyclical unemployment is that it creates a feedback loop. As one group becomes cyclically unemployed, they cut back on spending, which leads to more cyclical unemployment thus affecting more people especially the most vulnerable group in the population.

In addition, there is also regional unemployment which is when structural unemployment affects a given region. Classical unemployment is when wages are too high and workers are not ready to receive low wages and hence will opt out of employment. This can best be explained by the Economic theory of 1932 which affected most European countries.

Lastly, there is also seasonal unemployment, which is a temporary form of unemployment, when workers are laid off for some time but they are reengaged afterwards when the demand for their labour arises again.

According to Muffels, Tsakloglou and Mayes (2001) the following factors have been put forward as the key contributors to unemployment:

a) Unemployment is caused when the economy slows down and businesses are forced to cut costs by reducing payroll expenses. The causes of this slowdown of the economy vary from country to country.

b) Unemployment can also be caused by competition in specific industries or companies.

c) Advanced technology, such as computers or robots, cause unemployment by replacing worker tasks with technological gadgets (machinery), (US Bureau of labour Statistics).

Regionally, in the Southern African Community (SADC), the situation and vulnerability status of unemployed youth is also more or less the same with the global trends. Literature on Youth unemployment has been informed by the generalised perceptions (views) of youth. This emanates from the two divergent viewpoints of youth, namely the positive and the negative concepts. According to Ortega and Casset (1931) as described in Murdoch and McCron (1975: 195), youth are perceived as the future and hope of any community. On the contrary the negative perception of youth, as postulated by Rogers, (1997) and by Pearson (1993), accuse youth of a myriad of ills, immorality, lack of control, degeneration into criminality and as lazy and not willing to work. According to McRobbie (1994:205), he adds that such deviant behaviour by youth can pose a threat to national identity and to labour discipline. When states are faced with deep structural challenges like unemployment, youth are taken as scapegoats (Stan Cohen, 1980, Pearson, 1983,

Hall et al 1978). The youth as the marginalized group are taken as the prime candidates for blame and "this may lead to moral panic, which may also lead to heightened levels of fear and anxiety in a country" (McRobbie 1994:199). According to Gramsci's concept of hegemony which describes the process through which members of the ruling group in a society gain and maintain control over a society, if the situation of anxiety is left like that, there will be a vacuum (space) which can be exploited mostly by the powerful business people, politicians and crime gangs (Gramsci and Althusser 1971). Youth then becomes 'cannon fodder as they are easy to be manipulated by powerful forces' (Gramsci 1971). This is what Rattansi refers to as the underlying fear of chaos, generated by the fear of the anxiety and possibility of transformation, which can be equated to the need to maintain the status quo and inversely the fear for change. In most cases youth are viewed as potential victims manipulated by powerful seniors as they are viewed as being potential perpetrators (Seekings 1993; Kaplan in Richards 1996). Youth can thus be seen as at risk themselves or as a risk to the established order (Bucholtz 2002: 532-534; Honwana 2000). Durham (2000: 117 et al) adds that youth can also be described as mechanically mastered or unrestricted agents which need close monitoring by the adult population and adult population.

Youth in general are faced by lives characterised by an acute lack of social options (Ferguson 1999; Utas 2003). The 'discouraged youth' in Zimbabwe or the 'lost generation' in Guinea Bissau is made up of, 'a group of people (who) finished their schooling, but are without employment in the formal sector' (O'Brien 1996:57). Thus the problem of youth unemployment should be looked at from a global

perspective as it affects all countries across the globe although the effects are dependent on the level of development for each country. Thus the effects can be more pronounced in some regions than others.

Table 1: Unemployment rates for Africa (left) and Europe (right)

Country	Unemployment rate	Country	Unemployment rate
Zimbabwe	90%	Spain	22,6%
Mozambique	60%	Greece	17,6%
Djibouti	59%	Latvia	16,1%
Namibia	51,2%	Lithuania	15,5%
Senegal	48%	Ireland	14,2%
Kenya	42%	Slovakia	13,5%
Swaziland	40,6%	Estonia	12,8%
Equatorial Guinea	30%	Portugal	12,5%
Mauritania	30%	Bulgaria	11,9%
Ghana	3,6%	Austria	3,9%

(Source CIA World Fact book 2010)

Though the CIA World Fact book is highly contested as a source, it offers a general picture of the unemployment rates for both sets of countries for comparison, with most developing countries with badly performing economies like Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Djibouti having the highest unemployment rates. According to the above table, countries like Ghana, Mauritania and Equatorial Guinea have relatively low rates of unemployment. In Europe, Spain has the highest rate of unemployment

at 22% but still comparing with Africa, Europe's highest country is still below Africa's second highest country in terms of unemployment.

According to Barbara Vitoria ICC report 2012), Zimbabwe is experiencing some of the worst effects of unemployment in the world. The low- performance of the country's economy has increased the levels of unemployment to an all-time high of 80% and created levels of a pandemic nature. Youth unemployment is pegged at 68% and Youth in Zimbabwe are therefore exposed to a variety of direct and indirect risks which are as follows;

Unemployment and under employment, drop out from formal school, crime and violence, illegal migration, substance abuse, early marriages and exposure to risky sexual behaviour leading to HIV/AIDS. (Barbara Vitoria 2012). The above leads to heightened vulnerability which according to the Rwandan policy definition of vulnerability; 'comes about when children or youths are exposed to conditions that do not permit fulfilment of fundamental rights for their full and harmonious development. These are as follows:

-Children and youth in conflict with the law

-Children/youth affected by armed conflict

-Young girls being sexually exploited and/or abused by the system.

-Working children/youths being vulnerable to accidents and poor working conditions

-Children/youth being affected or infected by HIV/AIDS

-Young girls being married before the age of majority'

Source: Rwandan Policy on Youth and Children

2.4 The Impact of unemployment on youth (globally and regionally)

The effects or consequences of unemployment can be on a short, medium and long term basis. It can also be felt at individual, household/community or country levels. When many people are unemployed, the economy loses one of its key drivers of growth-consumer spending. Consumer spending is affected when workers have less money to spend until they find another job. If high national unemployment continues, it can deepen recession, which is defined as a period of temporary economic decline during which trade and industrial activity are reduced, generally identified by a fall in GDP, (Joseph Schumpeter 1950) or this can even cause depression. This is due to the fact that less consumer spending from unemployed workers reduces business revenue and this forces companies to cut more on their payroll in a bid to reduce costs through down-sizing or retrenchments. This may inevitably lead to a downward spiral. For those few in employment (both formal and informal), they also find themselves in very difficult situations where the number of people they look after in terms of support increases and hence affecting their disposable income and consumer spending. In most instances, one employed person will look after extremely large numbers of dependants. This is common in the area of study where the average household has 5.1 people, with all being looked after by one or few employed people.

Structural unemployment may also occur if many people become unemployed for a long time, say more than six months. Their job skills may no longer match the requirements of the new jobs being offered. Such people may resultantly face permanent unemployment at the end as they may fail to secure any meaningful

employment for the rest of their lives. This is mostly so in the modern situation when technological advancement is now the norm. At individual level, unemployment leads to financially and often emotionally destructive consequences especially for the youth and other vulnerable groups.

Another key effect of unemployment is related to the Youth Bulge, which are countries with more youth populations than adults, as coined by a Germany Social Scientist Gunnar Heinsohn (1990s). There is strong correlation between countries prone to civil conflicts and those with youth bulge. Societies with youth bulge often end up with rampant youth unemployment that render youth to recruitment into terrorism and armed conflicts. Between 1970 and 1999, 80% of civil conflicts globally occurred in countries where 60% of population where under 30 years. Notable examples of the link between youth bulge and conflicts include Al- Shabaab in Somalia (63,5% population below 25 years), Boko Haram in Nigeria, Piracy in Somalia, Child Soldiers in Uganda and Liberia, Arab Spring in Tunisia (42,1% below 25 years), Algeria (47,5% below 25 years), Egypt (52, 3% below 25 years), Sudan (59,0% below 25 years) and Libya (47,4%), (UN Population Report 2008). Based on the above statistics youth unemployment has a high potential of creating a *youth-quake* which is, instability caused by youth unemployment (Diana Vreeland 1965: 112). This is a new challenge which is facing most Governments especially in developing countries, where the unemployed youth find themselves with no options but to join any opening irrespective of the likely consequences.

As in other countries in the region, women are disproportionately bearing the brunt of unemployment. In most cases, the gender divide is not too pronounced, but young females (18-24 years) are finding it much harder to get work than older men. Some women have been subjected to abuse and inhuman treatment in their bids to secure employment. It should also be noted that the impact of unemployment mainly on the youth has resultantly led to stigmatisation and marginalization. Consequently multiple stressful events which occur in affected youth will spill over to families, communities and the nations at large in a vicious conflict cycle. Due to high unemployment level in most African countries, the effects of high unemployment is already being felt at national and regional levels and hence the need to address them without delay.

2.5 Current Responses to youth unemployment in Zimbabwe

The National Youth Policies adopted by many developing countries means that there is urgent need for concerted effort to prioritise and address these urgent issues faced due to youth unemployment.

2.6 National Commitments

Zimbabwe is a member of the United Nations, the African Union, as well as regional bodies like SADC. For example Zimbabwe is a signatory to the African Youth Charter as well as the most comprehensive international document pertaining to the rights of children, the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, (UNCRC), which

Zimbabwe ratified in 1992. This spells out a wide range of political, civil, cultural, economic and social rights for children/youth.

The CRC stresses the responsibilities of the family to provide guidance and direction to the child, and views the responsibility of the state as supporting the family in this role rather than usurping this role. Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe (GoRZ) has a full Ministry of Youth, Indigenization and Economic Empowerment (MoYIEE) which is mandated to deal with issues to do with youth as well as urgently look at issues affecting them.

Youth development therefore is aimed at moulding youth into the type of person that is capable of contributing meaningfully towards nation building and ready to take over and pursue further the aspirations of the country. Youth development can be described as the process of assisting youth to make a smooth transition from the stage of childhood into that of adulthood. Professors Judy Walker and Trudy Dunham (2000) attempted to provide a simple meaning to youth development. They define youth development as the *process of growing up and developing one's capacities in positive* ways. This means any young person's potential is fully developed so that he/she can reach his maximum capacity so that society at large will benefit from the fully developed citizen. This also contributes towards the prevention of potential challenges which inevitably erupt, if youth issues are not attended in time. The Government of Zimbabwe through National Programme for youth employment initiatives, which are under the auspices of the Ministry of Youth Indigenization and Economic Empowerment is mandated to economically empower

the youth as well as facilitate their participation in the mainstream economy of the country. According to www.mydec.gov.zw, a Government of Zimbabwe website, Empowerment of youth must be an integral part of the sustainable human development paradigm.

In pursuit of the above, the Ministry of Youth Indigenization and Economic Empowerment has put in place conducive pieces of legislation/policies and these include National Youth Policy. The Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe also established the Zimbabwe Youth Council (ZYC) through an ACT of Parliament in 1997, with a view to have it as a forum through which unemployment will be addressed. In 2006, the GoRZ adopted the Zimbabwe Youth Employment Network (ZIYEN) as promulgated by the UN. ZIYEN's framework provides essential packaged interventions to address youth unemployment in Zimbabwe. The Ministry has approached various financial institutions to ensure youth participate effectively in the mainstream economy as a way of combating the unemployment problems faced by the country especially for the youth. The current support for the Youth Empowerment is being received mainly from various sources including but not limited to:

•   Stanbic Youth Empowerment Fund

•   CABS Youth Empowerment Facility (Kurera/ukondla fund)-Old Mutual

•   CBZ Youth Empowerment Fund

•   Meikles Youth Empowerment Facility

•   IDBZ (Infrastructure Development Bank of Zimbabwe) Youth Development Facility

To administer these funds and any other support, the Ministry of Youth Indigenization and Economic Empowerment works with the Zimbabwe Youth Council as an implementing arm responsible for the day to day running of the funds/support.

Over and above this, various local and international NGOs have been roped in to support the Government's initiatives to combat youth unemployment mostly through supporting youth vocational skills training. The GoRZ adopted Integrated Skills Outreach Programme (ISOP) in 2006, and this was meant to train vocational skills to the youth in their communities instead of them going to 42 vocational training institutions dotted around the country. Support for ISOP was received from various organisations like ILO and IOM and by the time of evaluation of the ISOP programme, a total of 8 184 youth benefited from the ISOP programme (ISOP Evaluation Report 2012). This was far too short of expectations, considering that this was a programme done nationally and for a period spanning more than 5 years. The effectiveness of the programme was also highly questionable as the same products from this programme failed to make it as they reportedly lacked further support from the local financial institutions in Zimbabwe.

2.7 Ministry of Youth initiatives towards unemployment reduction in Chipinge

As the main Ministry dealing with youth, the Ministry of Youth Indigenization and Economic Empowerment has carried out a number of initiatives in Chipinge district as a whole. Firstly, in all the wards, there is presence of a minimum of 2 Youth

Officers who are based in the wards. These are part of the 8000 Ministry employees representing the Ministry of Youth and tasked to, among other things:

- Assist in identifying the needs for the youth in the wards where they are based

- Organise business Training sessions on proposal development in order for the youth to access funding from financial institutions

- Provide information on funding opportunities and create linkages with any potential support from Government or other related agencies.

2.8 Conclusion

This chapter looked at and reviewed related literature on the perspectives of Youth unemployment in general. The global and regional trends were also explored in an effort to comprehend the Zimbabwean situation. The next chapter focuses on the research methodology.

CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter introduces the reader to the research methods adopted and used for this study. The chapter covered research design, research techniques, data collection methods, target population, sampling and data analysis. The study collected data from unemployed youth, local communities where the youth stay, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and Government officials. Questionnaires, interviews and observation techniques were employed in data collection. Observation was also used throughout the entire process and this aspect added richness and depth to the study. Methods applied in the selection of a sample are also discussed.

3.2 Research Design/strategies

For this study, the researcher's strategy/design which is "a plan, structure and strategy of investigation so conceived to obtain answers to research questions or problems" (Babbie and Mouton (2005:79), was mainly observation. This enabled the researcher to explore and gain insight into the activities of the unemployed youth. For purposes of this study, both quantitative and qualitative approaches were used in gathering data.

Justification for Choice of Design

To address the challenges deriving from large amount of data, information needed and the complexity of this research, both quantitative and qualitative methodological

approaches are used in this study. Qualitative research design was used for its ability to verbally describe how participants in a setting perceive and interpret various aspects of the environment and their situation. It has an interpretive character and hence was used to interpret the youth situation and the environment in which they live. Qualitative research design in this study emphasised the involvement of the researcher in observation, generation, and use of qualitative data, together with the use of a low structured, inductive research, focusing on meanings (Creswell, 2007). The researcher utilized questionnaires, interviews, observation, and interaction and these helped to describe the perspectives of the respondents who participate in the study. Qualitative research method was used to generate non numeric data often referred to as attributes. In this study it was used to generate data on the magnitude of youth unemployment, degree of vulnerability (effects) of unemployment. In addition it was used to examine how various people in the area of study relate to each other, their feelings, emotions, attitudes, behaviour and happiness. The use of the above aided the researcher to get a better understanding of the subject matter of youth unemployment and hence its suitability for this study.

On the other hand, the researcher also used quantitative method to seek explanations and predictions on youth unemployment with the intention to establish, confirm, or validate relationships and to develop generalization that contribute to theory. In this study, quantitative research was used to gather data on the population in ward 5 and 7, household sizes, number of unemployed youth and NGOs beneficiaries.

The study used this method to find out the statistics and levels of youth unemployment in the area of study and thereafter generalize the findings of the study to other situations with similar conditions of the subject matter. In this study, descriptive statistics were used to present quantitative descriptions of data using pie charts, bar graphs and tables. Data was quantified in order to permit statistical manipulations and analysis. Bias like subjectivity was difficult to completely avoid in this study but was minimised at all cost by the researcher. For instance, the numbers of single observations that are made are so many and the assumptions and theories developed henceforth could one day be challenged. This necessitates the blending of qualitative approach with quantitative approach.

3.3 Population

Howard and Sharp (1983) comment that when conducting research, the first step is to define the population to be studied in terms of its geographical, demographic and other boundaries to decide whether it should be fully or partially covered. A study population therefore refers to the entire group of people to whom researchers wish to generalize the findings of a study, including persons who did not participate in the study (Crowl, 1996:76). Bless and Higson, (1995:21) posit that population parameters and procedures are of paramount importance when conducting research and become critical as a factor in the success of any study.

3.4 Demographic Information on Chipinge District

Chipinge district is predominantly rural and is situated about 190 km South East of the provincial capital Mutare. Chipinge district is bordered by Mozambique to the East, Chiredzi District to the South west, Buhera to the North West, Mutare to the North and Chimanimani to the North East. Chipinge district is divided into rural with 30 wards and urban district with 8 wards. Chipinge urban District has a total population of 76 368 (36 531 males and 39 837 females) (ZimStart 2012 report).

The research population in the study targets Chipinge Urban district's wards 5 and 7 in Manicaland Province of Zimbabwe. The population in this area comprises the adult and youth population which is disaggregated by sex. For purposes of this research, the population studied included youth (70%) and 30% key informants, mainly the adult members in the wards made up of parents, community leaders and Government Officials

3.5 Background and Nature of Ward 5 and 7

The researcher focused on Ward 5 and 7 as the specific areas of study. The two wards have different historical backgrounds and different problems from each other. Ward 5 is a high population density area which historically is one of the first residential places set aside for the black population of Chipinge during the colonial period. The ward has housing problems and water challenges due to the ageing facilities. It is inhabited by low income earners and mostly people of foreign origin who provided foreign labour to local farmers during the colonial and Federation era.

The same people have remained as permanent residents of this ward. This means that some inhabitants of the ward were originally from Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia, three countries which formed the Federation of Southern and Northern Rhodesia 1953-1963. There are no recreational facilities in the wards for children and the youth, except open spaces, one stadium and one public hall. There are only 2 primary schools (Gaza and Matione Primary Schools) which service all the densely populated wards 1 to 6. In terms of water provision there are serious challenges of potable water supply, characterised by constant sewer pipe bursts. The place is dotted with small grocery shops and several informal markets occupied by people trying to make a living through vending. People in ward 5 have strong family ties and connections as they have a history in this ward hence the close networks. The people are closely related and the community is largely homogenous. Most families share common totems such as Muyambo, Sithole, Simango and Mhlanga (traditional Zimbabwean totems). Totems of foreign origins like Phiri, Achimwene, Zhuwawo and Tembo are also common in ward 5 due to the historical links and the influx of foreigners from the neighbouring countries. According to the 2012 National Census, Ward 5 has a population of 11 808. Of this population females constitute about 53.34% and youth and children constitute 68%. The sizes of the household, which on average, in Chipinge urban is 5.1, have a strong bearing on the quality of life experienced by the inhabitants (ZimStart 2012 report).

On the other hand ward 7 has a population of 6 040 (Zimstart report 2012). In terms of land size, the residential stands in ward 7 are bigger with sizes ranging from one to two thousand square metres. The spaces in ward 7 are bigger enough to

accommodate even drilling of boreholes and having reasonable gardens within the stands. In ward 7 there are 2 private clinics and shopping centres, with 2 good schools (one primary school, Chipinge Junior and one secondary School-Chipinge high). All the schools are Government run and none were built with assistance from donors. Family networks are weak or absent in ward 7 due to the status of the people who live in the ward.

The main economic activity in the district is agriculture and the majority of the people are peasants who depend on small scale family farming as their source of livelihood. This increases the degree of vulnerability in the event of a drought especially among the youth and the elderly. This is mainly done in small urban plots or in nearby farms surrounding the town of Chipinge. The number of unemployed youth has increased tremendously in Chipinge urban according to the Ministry of Youth, Indigenization and Economic Empowerment Chipinge district Head in the past few years as a result of the rural to urban migration and the effects of the economic meltdown 2000-2008, which has led to high drop outs from schools and closure of industries. Many unemployed youth therefore suffer from marginalisation and stigmatisation in their communities as they are treated as jobless and only dependant on their parents.

3.6 Sampling

From the entire population of Chipinge urban district, the researcher sampled 100 research participants for this study. 95 respondents were selected randomly from

both unemployed and employed youth and 5 were purposively sampled as key informants from Ministry of Youth, Indigenization and Economic Empowerment, local leadership as well as parents in the wards. This representative sample was therefore randomly drawn from Chipinge wards 5 and 7 with the hope that their views represented those of the rest of the district population.

Justification of the Choice of the sample

The researcher used purposive sampling to select a sample with the unique knowledge to answer the research questions. The youth, ministry officials, local leadership as well as parents in the wards were selected as part of the sample precisely because of the knowledge they possess on issues to do with youth unemployment and other related challenges. Interviews were strategically meant to explore issues and even get recommendations from these participants or stakeholders who are mainly informed professionals. This justified the balanced composition of the sample indicated above. The unemployed youth formed 80% of the sample for self- administered household questionnaires as the main subject of this research. The 20% non-youth were meant for comparison purposes. Community leadership was also targeted to be included in the sample as the researcher sought to get their views as leadership and also establish the general acceptance and appreciation of youth unemployment.

This researcher collected data from primary and secondary sources. In primary data collection, the researcher collected data using methods such as interviews and questionnaires, among others. This gave the researcher data items which are original

to the problem under study. Primary data proved to be a reliable way of data collection because the researcher knows where it came from and how it was collected.

On the other hand Secondary Sources (based on the data that was collected from the primary sources) was also used by the researcher. This included Ministry of Youth Indigenization and Economic Empowerment Policy documents and any literature on youth unemployment.

3.7 Choice of instruments

This study used structured questionnaire and key informant interviews as well as Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) to collect primary data from the respondents and interviewees respectively. The researcher used questionnaire because it was necessary to obtain comparable data from all the respondents, hence the need to ask the same questions. As Gray (2006) advises, the questionnaire was carefully formulated, constructed and sequenced so as to obtain the most useful data in the most effective and efficacy manner. It has a set of questions with fixed wording and sequence of presentation as well as more or less precise indications on how to answer questions. The questionnaire used guaranteed anonymity, privacy and confidentiality where respondents answered questions without fear of victimization (Bless and Higson Smith, 1985:107). It has a written list of simplified questions, the answers to which are recorded by respondents. Respondents read the questions, interpret what are expected and then wrote down the answers. This instrument was a convenient

means of collecting attitudinal and perceptual data. In each questionnaire, there was a section on consent for the respondent, where confidentiality of information was assured and the intended use of the data was clearly spelt out.

As Leedy (1986) and Bell (1993) both agree, the questionnaire designed were instruments that were used to observe data beyond the physical reach of the researcher. In the questionnaire, the instructions on how to complete it were given. A number of possible answers were provided so that the data were easier to quantify as well as represent diagrammatically. In addition, open ended questions were also included so as to get original facts and opinions from respondents. The questionnaire was used since it helped people to respond freely and write what they knew best. Furthermore, since the researcher was not present when the selected respondents were entering and / or ticking the most appropriate options, his perceived status did not influence then in any way.

The questionnaire was prepared beforehand and the assumption was there would be a possibility that the questions would unearth what they intended because they had been well thought out, revised and tested on some respondents outside the area of study before presentations to the targeted respondents. The assumption was that respondents treated all questions as being equally important since, with the questionnaire, the researcher was not present to indicate or show approval or disapproval or stress where he/she needed more concentration or emphasis by the respondents. This way the respondents` answers are assumed not be biased since no one was present to show them that certain answers were more acceptable than others.

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After the respondents completed the questionnaire individually, the assumption here was that they felt some sense of confidentiality in whatever they had put on paper. The questionnaire also enabled some respondents to put their piece of mind on paper during their spare time and at their own pace. In this regard, the researcher was a passive taker of the conditions of the respondents.

To further ameliorate these shortcomings of the instrument, the questionnaires were pre-tested on some respondents before broadly distributing it to the sample. This greatly assisted the researcher to check ambiguity, validity and reliability of the research tools employed. Weakness, which needed amendments before the research were carried out. Furthermore, possible problems were detected and mistakes rectified thus this lead to the successful data collection procedure in the research.

The second instrument used in this research was the interview which is described by Dunne (1999: 330 as involving asking a designated person or persons for information and opinions in a structured way and recording the answers appropriately for the intended publication. This involved the interviewer asking questions and the interviewee gives oral responses. An interview is advantageous in that it enabled the analyses of attitude and values of the interviewee. It also enabled the researcher to probe further in cases where the interviewee wanted to hide certain information and / or give vague answers. Again, clarifications were sought to get more detailed responses to questions asked.

In this regard, the researcher achieved and got the policy issues regarding the subject matter from government officials. The interview has flexibility and adaptability since it permits much greater depth. Above, all the face –to- face interaction greatly helped maintain good rapport since the interview had to establish friendly communicative skills and this further helped friendly working relations.

Despite the demerits experienced regarding the interviewer were that, it was time consuming, expensive to conduct the interviews as all the costs were met by the researcher. Lastly, interviewees tended to be biased unintentionally when responding to some sensitive questions. The researcher tried, as much as possible, not to be biased by showing gestures or modulating the voice in a way that would make the interviewee respond accordingly. The interview questions were given in advance to the intended officials in order to build confidence, openness, transparency and rapport in them.

Observation was also used throughout the data collection process. Observation technique which refers to the collection of data through direct visual or auditory experience of behaviour (Monette et al, 1989:233) was used to complement other methods. Observation enabled the researcher to informally probe deeply to uncover new clues, open up new dimensions of the problem and to secure vivid, accurate inclusive accounts that are based on personal experience. By and large the choice of instruments was done in a manner that closely considered the merits in terms of coming with the best data, which was valid and truly representative of the population's opinions.

3.7 Validity and reliability

As Babbie and Mouton (2005) posit, validity refers to the extent to which an empirical measure adequately reflects the real meaning of the concept under consideration. To ensure validity, a research instrument must measure what it is supposed to measure (Gray, 2006:90). In order for a research instrument to be valid, it has to cover subject areas that have been operationally referred to as zones of neglect. It should however, eliminate issues of no direct relevance to the research study zone of invalidity.

The following measures were taken into account to ensure the research instrument is valid, namely the researcher ensuring that the questions in the instruments were explicitly linked to the research objectives, pre-testing of research instruments, implementing interview techniques which build rapport and trust and hence facilitated rich detail in responses and allowing sufficient time for interviews. Rushed interviews that are conducted without establishing rapport were avoided as they could lead to hasty answers and deliberate distortion by disgruntled interviewees. Testing for validity was done through the pretesting of the questionnaire by the research team. This ensured that the questions posed got the correct and appropriate responses / information they intended to get. This also helped to weed out ambiguous questions that might have led to meaningless responses. The questionnaires were pre-tested in ward 8, which is outside the community under study, but with similar characteristics. During the pre-test the researcher checked for precision of the questions, as well as the duration of the interviews. Feedback on

these helped the researcher to re-phrase the questions in an appropriate way and also to plan to ensure adequate time was scheduled for the interviews.

Quality control is important in any research to ensure quality outcome of the data. In this particular study, this was achieved through the following:

Pretesting of the structured questionnaire was done to ensure its suitability to collect the required data. Pretesting was done to determine, among other things that the questions included were clear, well worded, sequenced appropriate and free of ambiguity. After the pre-test, changes were incorporated as necessary before actual field data gathering.

The research assistants were carefully selected. Preference was given to university students on attachment with some previous research experience and who were resident in the area. They were trained before field data collection began and were given clear explanations about the study objectives. In addition, interviewing techniques, as well as appropriate handling of issues, were comprehensively demonstrated to them to prepare the ground to gather quality data. The principal researcher supervised the field Assistants throughout the field-work period.

The research team kept field diaries to record any events that were deemed important in the interpretation of the results. Review of the completed questionnaire forms was done on the spot following each interview and during the nights of each successive day`s work to ensure that each relevant question had been asked and a response

appropriately recorded. There was use of more than one method (triangulation), which guarded against bias.

On reliability, Creswell (2009:190) states that reliability is a matter of what a particular technique, applied repeatedly to the same object, would yield the same results each time it is administered. It means that, using the same method, the same information will be collected each time in the repeated observation of the same event. The pre-testing of the questionnaire practically ensured its reliability as evidenced by the consistency in the manner respondents answered the questions asked. Reliability can be compared to a ruler which gives consistent measurements every time a similar object is measured. Pre-testing the data gathering instrument ensured its consistency in gathering data that was sought from the respondents.

The researcher made all effort to design questions that answered questions related to the objectives of the study. Similarly, the instrument as a whole cannot be reliable if it does not sufficiently sample the attitudes, beliefs, opinions and knowledge levels under study (Nachmias and Nachmias, 1993). The researcher made an effort to ensure reliability and validity of the data gathering instrument.

3.8 Data Collection Procedures

Being guided by the research objectives, the research instruments were designed by carefully listing a number of questions and formulating the questions for the research tools. This included all the relevant aspects as presented in chapter one on the

objectives of the research. These questions were analysed and critiqued and used to prepare the questionnaire. The instrument was shared with experts from the Ministry of Youth Indigenisation Economic and Empowerment (MoYEE) to check on all aspects including sensitivity and pre-tested. Consent was assured by obtaining a letter from Africa University which was signed by the Ministry of Youth official in Chipinge on the purpose of the research and a clearly spelt out consent form distributed to respondents during the data collection process. The questionnaires were distributed to some respondents for them to fill in indicating their voluntary choice to participate or withdraw.

The researcher made interview appointments with respondents namely ward Councillors, Ministry officials, parents and youth. The appointments were agreed through phone calls and by physically going to the targeted interviewees.

With regard to the secondary data method, the researcher made use of the Library at Africa University, identified relevant and strategic books for reference and was effectively and efficiently captured. However, the captured relevant data obtained from the books, journals and internet was reviewed and the relevant content incorporated into the study. Contemporary literature on youth from Ministry of youth offices was obtained and made use of during the research.

3.9 Data Presentation and analysis Procedures

All researched data having been amassed, was carefully cleaned and analysed and summarized accordingly. The research made some summary tables on the respondents and some information was grouped. The researcher mostly used excel sheet to analyse the data collected and went further to present data in tabular and graphic formats. Some descriptive narration of that information was presented and in some instances graphs and tables were used in the data analysis

3.10 Ethical Consideration

In terms of ethical considerations, the researcher respected the rights to voluntarily offer information and withdraw when participants feel so. Client confidentiality was respected by clearly explaining to all the participants the purpose of the study and in some cases making them sign a consent form before the interview process. Clients were assured of the confidential treatment of their collected information and anonymity of their identity as they were not requested to indicate their names on the questionnaires or even identify themselves before or during the interview process. The researcher respected individual preferences of participants and would make sure he would give the respondent all the respect and ensured he/she is met at the most convenient period when he is comfortable to answer the questions or take part in the interview sessions.

3.11 Conclusion

This chapter discussed methodological and data gathering procedures on youth unemployment and the effects to the youth and the community. The chapter focused on research methodology, population, and data collection instruments. The chapter dealt with the research design used in this study. Methods applied in the selection of respondents were discussed. The next chapter presents, analyses and interprets data collected from unemployed youth and other key informants who participated in the research interviews.

CHAPTER 4: DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter focuses on the research findings. It gives information on the results of the interviews conducted in the specific area of study. It focuses on presented and analysed data, which had been gathered through interviews from experts and self-administered questionnaire copies from the subjects of study, the youth and community leadership and key informants as well as from observations carried out by the researcher. The respondent questionnaire had two sections where section A covered the background information of the respondents and section B focused on the information seeking to assess the effects of unemployment on the socio-economic status of youth. Data is presented based on the objectives of the study. Tables, graphs and pie charts are used in the analysis and presentation process.

4.2 Objectives of the study

The following objectives guided the study:

1. Investigate the effects of unemployment on youth in Chipinge urban district.

2. Examine the socio-economic status of unemployed youth in Chipinge urban

3. Establish the possible effects of unemployment and the escape routes available to the youth in Chipinge urban

4.3 Demographics attributes of the respondents.

The demographic attributes provide background information of the respondents. Data was collected from 100 respondents. 30 Questionnaires were distributed specifically to the youth and 10 to key informants who are above the youth age range, who were mostly the community leaders, Government officials, school heads and NGO workers operating in the 2 wards. Interviews were also carried out separately on 20 Youth, 10 parents, 6 community leaders (Councillors and church leaders) as well as 4 Ministry of youth ward based officials in the 2 wards. 2 key Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were contacted in the 2 wards with each group having 10 participants made up of an equal number of males and females.

Table 2: Respondents Demographic Attributes

Questionnaires distribution		Interviews Carried out		Focus Group Discussions	
Youth = 30		**Youth =20**			**Youth =20**
Ward 5 15	Ward 7 15	Ward 5 10	Ward 7 10	Ward 5 10	Ward 7 10
Key informants=10		**Parents =10**			
Min of Youth 2		Ward 5 5 Parents	Ward 7 5 Parents		
School Heads 4					
NGO workers 4					
		Church leaders/Councillors=6			
		Ward 5 3	Ward 7 3		
		Min of Youth in wards=4			
		Ward 5 2 Youth officer	Ward 7 2 Officer		

4.4 Profile of Youth Respondents who were interviewed

Out of the 70 youth respondents interviewed in Ward 5 and 7, the majority, 86% of them indicated that they are actively looking for jobs. The majority of the 86% of these Youth can spend more than a week without getting any form of temporary jobs due to lack of opportunities. This is due to unreliability and unavailability of these part time jobs as some indicated that they could only at times access such jobs once in a month. The same group of youth do not subscribe to the classification of menial jobs especially in the informal sector as a form of employment. However, the majority of the youth still try their luck in buying and selling, which from direct observation in all public spaces has evidently been over-subscribed as more youth with capital are involved in this venture. However due to lack of funding from Government and NGOs for income generating projects the majority still find themselves not involved in hawking (buying and selling) as they lack any alternative source of funds.

20% of the interviewed youth indicated that they usually have some temporary/part time jobs but these are erratic as they come once or twice in a month. 40% of the youth interviewed also indicated that they had dropped out of school before completion of Ordinary level due to various other challenges like lack of user fees as well as lack of motivation to continue with Education in a very unpromising environment. 60% of the youth indicated that they completed O' level but either failed to obtain the required and mandatory 5 O' level subjects or they failed to proceed to tertiary levels due to a variety of reasons. This hampers their absorption into the employment market and hence they are kept at the periphery.

Poverty also tends to reduce access to basic needs for the youth. About 30% of the youth interviewed in Ward 5 and 7 did not have birth certificates and hence no Identity documentation. This is mostly due to the fact that the majority are orphaned and have no guardians to help them access the birth certificates. With some, even the parents do not have the National Identity documents and this is mostly for those of foreign origin which are very common especially in ward 5. The absence of birth certificates has the effect of reducing youth access to basic needs such as further education, formal employment opportunities and even access to funding for Income Generating Projects as most of such services and facilities are accessed through banks and financial institutions where proper personal details are needed. As indicated in the table below, the number of youth without birth certificates and National Identity cards from the interviewed youth are very common in the area of study.

Table 3: Youth without birth Certificates and National I.Ds

Ward	Est. youth Pop	Est. % of Youth without Birth Certificates	Est. % of youth without I.Ds
5	6000	10%	20%
7	4000	20%	25%

Source Estimates from FGD in ward 5 and 7

Based on the above estimates, it is important to note that a sizeable percentage of youth do not have any form of documentation. For such youth, they have failed to sit for their examinations and their future is almost doomed as they cannot enter the

formal job market as unavailability of these documents is a key impediment to accessing any official services offered by the Government and other services providers like loans. The only access youth without official documentation has is the informal sector. This is a very common escape route which is open to most unemployed youth in the area and even the whole country. However, participants in the informal sector are subjected to and vulnerable to various forms of abuse and ill-treatment from their employers in the informal sector, who are also struggling to adequately pay respectable wages/salaries.

Figure 1: Youth Without B/Certificates and National I.Ds in wards 5 & 7
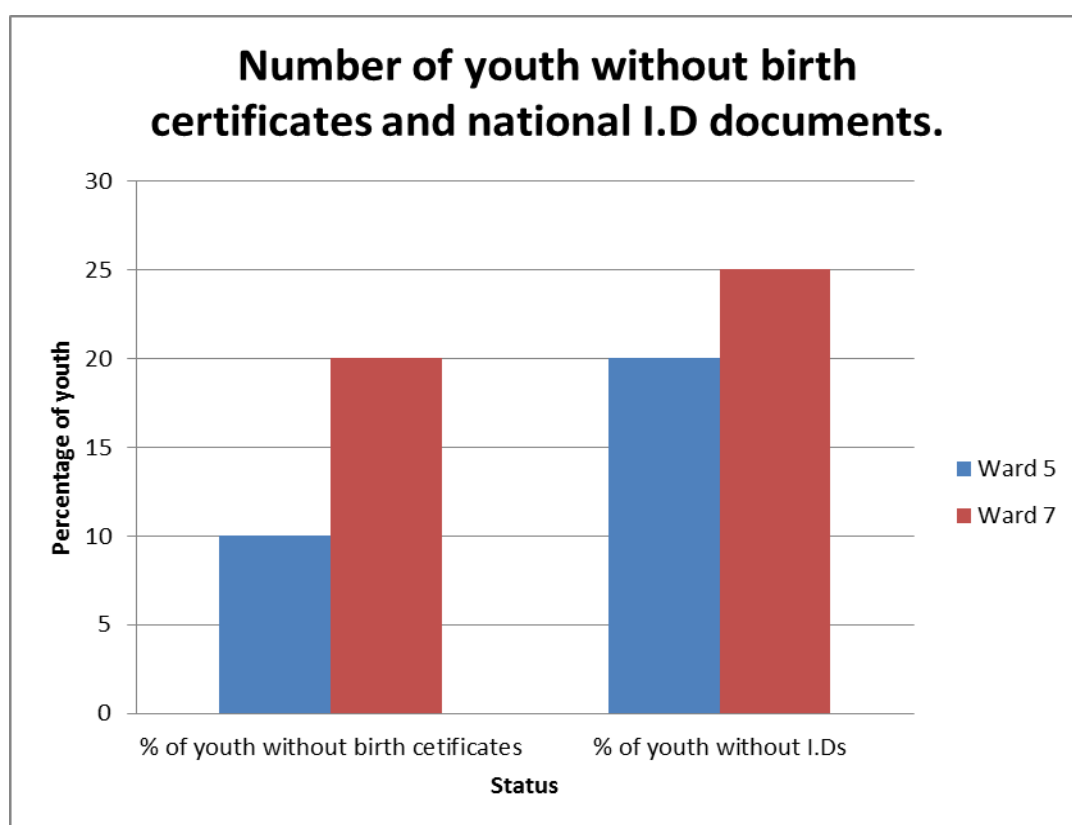
Source: Own source

Figure 1, shows the number of Youth without birth certificates and national Identification certificates in the 2 wards where the research was conducted. During the interview sessions, youth without the identification documents expressed the fear that besides affecting their access to employment opportunities, there is a very high likelihood that this will further affect their own children, who will also not have access to the same documents as the parents do not currently have the same documents. Hence the parents as well as the children and youth feel condemned as they do not have equal opportunities with those who have proper national Identity documentation.

Demographic data

The table below shows the number of youth compared to the number of adults in Chipinge urban wards.

Figure 2: Youth versus Adult Population in Chipinge Urban by wards
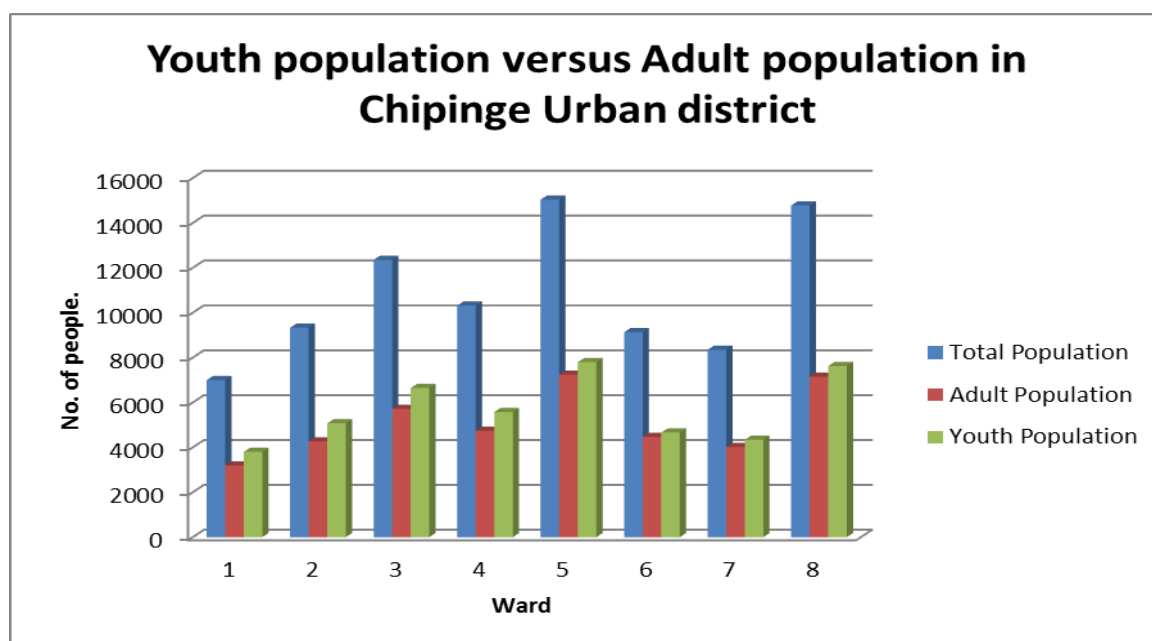
Source: Own Source

On the population of Youth versus Adults in Chipinge urban, the research found out that the population of Youth in the two wards is higher than the adult population. The Youth population stands at 68%. As shown on the table above, both Wards 5 and 7 have more Youth than adults and the trend seems to be the same in the other adjacent wards. The explanation lies in the fact that the life expectancy for Zimbabweans is getting lower and hence the youth population is bulging as in any other developing country which may ultimately lead to a youth bulge. This may also lead to other related challenges emanating from the identified challenge of youth unemployment.

4.5 Extent of Youth Unemployment in Chipinge Urban

From the interviewed youth and key informants in Chipinge urban, figures for unemployed youth are higher than those in both the formal and informal employment. This means the majority of youth are on the unemployed side and are suffering from the effects of unemployment. The challenges do not only affect the unemployed youth as it has been observed that unemployment has an indirect effect on the employed people as well as they also heavily rely on the goodwill of the few who are gainfully employed. This is made worse by the aspect of dependency syndrome especially in most of African settings, where the disadvantaged and unemployed youth continue to depend on the few who are gainfully employed.

Table 4: Extent of Youth Unemployment in Chipinge Urban

Ward	Est. youth Pop	Est. % of Youth in formal Employment	Est. % of youth in informal employment
5	6000	5%	20%
7	4000	6%	18%

Source: Own Source

As shown on the above table, the percentage of Youth in both formal and informal employment is comparatively lower than those out of employment. In ward 5, only a paltry 5% is recorded as in the formal employment, while 20% are reportedly in the informal sector. This is made worse by the fact that even those in the informal employment still regard themselves as out of employment and are actively on the job market looking for jobs. The situation is more or less the same in ward 7, where only 4% of the youth are in the formal employment. 18% of the youth in the same ward are in the informal employment sector. Put together, on average, 24% of the youth in the area are estimated to be in employment that is if those in whatever form of informal employment are considered as employed. The average of 24% as employed is rather low considering the high figures for the youth population within the area, which is reported at 68%. This makes youth unemployment a cause for concern in the area as is the situation in the whole country. This makes the rate of unemployment as high as 76% in the area, which is a worrisome scenario. Considering the fact that the rate of unemployment in the Country, is estimated to be around 80%, it is safe to conclude that, the adult population out of employment is only around below 10%. And from an economic development position, this is not a

good indicator, as the youth in the age bracket of 18 to 35 years of age are physically at their prime period, when they should contribute towards the economic development of their communities and countries. Youth in this age bracket have the physical and mental energy to work towards contributing to high production levels in their countries and respective communities.

Youth who participated in the focus group discussion (FGDs) gave some of the reasons for being out of employment as follows; 20% lack of meaningful and proper professional qualifications for the available opportunities and jobs, 18% blame their unemployment status to lack of national Identity documents which disqualifies them from being employed in the formal sector as they cannot open bank accounts and offer security to those who want to assist them. The majority, 52% also attributed their unemployment status to the fast shrinking opportunities due to closing of factories and industries, 10% referred to low salaries and demotivating working conditions due to ill-treatment of workers. Some also cited various reasons for their failure to make it even in the informal sector and these included the following reasons; restrictive and politicized financial assistance to Youth as well as the over-flooded informal market which leads to high and stiff competition amongst the players. The other reason cited is lack of proper national identity documents, which also disqualifies potential beneficiaries from accessing loans within the local banking sector and other service providers in the areas of operation.

4.6 Main Challenges faced by youth in Chipinge Urban

The research revealed that youth compared to adults are generally more vulnerable and exposed to poverty, unemployment, lack of continuous educational opportunities, food insecurity, HIV and AIDS and various forms of abuse such as physical abuse, sexual abuse and psychological abuse. Interviews conducted with the youth themselves and their parents as key informants revealed that many youth are mainly affected by lack of opportunities in most facets of life. These can be in terms of further education or employment related opportunities. From the 100 respondents interviewed, 80% of them said youth Educational and employment opportunities are very limited and that tends to have a dehumanizing effect on the youth. The few job opportunities available seem to favour experienced people at the expense of the youth who are fresh from schools or colleges, with little or no working experience at all. This is worse for the youth, some of whom will end up taking up anything that comes their way including some risky opportunities. As a result they feel inferior in the presence of other better off youth who are either in schools or are in the working Sector but living in the same communities. More than 50% of the youths complained that they are generally looked down upon by their peers, who regard them as second tier people. This tended to increase stigma, marginalization, desperation and social exclusion as they feel they are not at par with their peers as they do not compete at the same level.

4.7 The Impact of unemployment on the socio-economic status of youth in Chipinge

According to this study nearly 90% of youth who live in Chipinge urban face more or less the same challenges, which are, low quality education, lack of marketable skills (due to skills mismatch), high rates of unemployment, crime, early pregnancy, social exclusion, and the highest rates of new HIV/AIDS infections. Most if not all the above challenges are faced by the youth due to their vulnerability status. This is costly to the communities and the countries at large as the socio-economic status of youth suffers.

As Hunter and Williamson (2000) argue, HIV and AIDS lead to loss of family and identity. This is mostly the case in the event where children and youth lose their bread winners and such experiences lead to depression resulting in reduced well-being (low status). They lose inheritance and in some cases they are forced to migrate to other areas in search of opportunities. The losses may lead to homelessness, vagrancy and high crime rates among youth. This also applies very well in Chipinge urban district. Most Youth in Chipinge have no choice but are forced by circumstances to migrate to neighbouring countries like South Africa, Mozambique and Botswana in search of employment and further education opportunities. Some even move to bigger cities like Mutare, Harare and Bulawayo in search of better opportunities and this leads to homelessness and vagrancy.

On the other hand unemployment also leads to health problems associated with the HIV and AIDS epidemic which may result in lower nutritional status, reduced

attention when sick and increased vulnerability and marginalization by the society at large. The majority of the youth feel looked down upon and this also works against their own self- esteem and confidence. Due to lack of safety nets to absorb the vulnerable youth and children, society also tends to neglect these youth and children who will in turn resort to some negative coping mechanisms which may be detrimental to their health and social well- being.

From another angle, unemployment leads to increased labour demands as male youth strive to look after themselves and prove their manhood. Lack of employment may work as a driving force to most youth who will put some extra effort to get some meaningful economic activities. This has led to a new way of thinking, where the issue of status is not considered anymore. Unemployed youth just take anything which comes their way despite the low regard of the said activity. However, this may also lead to stigma and social isolation, harsh treatment and forced or early marriages. On the issue of forced early marriages, the youth may not be physically forced into a marriage but are forced by the situation into an unequal marriage. It exposes children to sexual abuse and exploitation, grief and depression, and abandonment leading to anti-social and deviant behaviour by the victims. Exploitative labour practices are reported to also result from the few employers in a community where many job seekers are roaming the streets. With the demand for work so high, this is leading to high competition and ultimately low wages to the workers as they are prepared to take whatever is offered. Declining income levels lead to buying less food and less nutritious food and this leads to cyclical

unemployment as consumer spending is significantly reduced. Major challenges (effects) that lead to low socio-economic status of youth are:

- Lack of educational opportunities for the youth

- Unemployment after school due to limited opportunities

- Lack of Security leading to high vulnerability for the youth

- Lack of Safety and protection leading to abuse

- Lack of representation and voices when youth are not involved and hence limited or no participation by the youth

4.8 Main coping mechanism available to the Youth

The most common options available to the youth in Chipinge district are as follows; Joining the informal sector where the majority of the unemployed youth are involved in selling of airtime which has been seen as an escape route for the majority of unemployed youth in Zimbabwe with even school children doing it on part time basis during holidays and weekends. They throng all major public places with the airtime tabs and jostling to sell to the public. However due to over subscription mainly caused by the number of participants in this venture, the market has been over-flooded and the airtime vendors end up more than the buyers for the same commodity. Of the interviewed youth, more than 70% said they have at one time or another attempted to sell airtime or broadened to do all sorts of informal trading/hawking in various wares. Informal trading in any items that are in demand has also been mentioned as a very common activity in the area. More than 90% of the youth in the district have been involved in hawking at one time or another. Items on sale range from fruits, second hand clothes (*mazitye*) to fuel which is sold on the

black market. Lack of employment opportunities has led to a thriving black market, which is run by what are termed "middle men", who specialize in selling any wares/commodities which are in short supply. This has led to a powerful middle class which is made up of these middle men/women who operate the informal sector. Some people interviewed also blame the thriving black market for the increase in cases of theft and the rampant corruption in the area and country at large. The growth of the informal sector has been seen as one of the key results of lack of employment in the area of study.

Faced with the reality of inadequate life chances and bleak prospects, (Dahrendorf 1979), youth are forced to shape their lives and strategies in their attempt to generate meaningful lives and opportunities. In the words of Vigh (2003:2006), youth seek to escape confining structures and navigate economic, social and political turmoil and hence resorting to some coping mechanisms. Migration has been regarded as another common escape route available to youth in this district as it has been known to bring about opportunities. This has been the same case in the area of Chipinge. Traditionally, people from Chipinge district have been known for crossing to South Africa in search of jobs in the mining industries. In the past this has been the preserve for men but with the shrinking of the economy in Zimbabwe during 2000 to 2008, women have also resorted to joining the migration and taking up the diaspora opportunity. Due to lack of proper documentation like birth and national identity documents and lack of financial resources to acquire legal documentation like passports and visas, some youth then resort to illegal migration. In the illegal

migration the youth use some unorthodox means to get to their preferred countries of destinations. Some reported unorthodox means are use of undesignated entry and exit points into and out of the country. Some use corrupting their way through border posts using cash. Of all the 10 parents interviewed in the 2 wards, more than 75% indicated that they have relatives or sons or daughters, mainly in the youth bracket, who are out of the country, with the majority being in South Africa. Most parents also alluded to the fact that the majority of their children have dropped out of school and illegally crossed to South Africa in search of green pastures. Reports of youth being human trafficked were also made with Chipinge district being mainly the source of human trafficking, where the trafficked people originate from. They are then trafficked to South Africa with some mostly transiting to European destinations. This is despite the dangers associated with the adventure of crossing flooded rivers, forests infested with wild animals and the abuse they face on the way to and during their stay in foreign countries. More than 60% of the interviewed youth conceded that they have illegally crossed the border to South Africa and either came back voluntarily or were deported by the host Governments. For the majority, the main driving factor for them failing to legalize their migration is lack of national identity documents like Birth certificates and National Identity papers as well as money for taking passports. Also cited were the delays involved for one to acquire the passports as it was reported the process takes at least more than 3 months. This leaves the impatient youth with no options but to resort to illegal migration as most of youth are now interested in short cuts in achieving their objectives in life.

From the findings, early marriages are also reported as the fastest escape route from poverty for most girls, when they are faced with challenges such as dropping out of school and lack of employment opportunities. It seems this mind set will take time to erase from the minds and beliefs of the majority of the inhabitants of the area studied. This according to the study is very common especially in Chipinge district which is regarded as very conservative in nature. The district has been traditionally known for such practices as polygamy as well as early and forced marriages. This mainly affects young girls and of the interviewed female youth, 20% of the girls have already been forced by circumstances into early marriages. It was also interesting to note from the research that of those who were forced into or attempted marriages some have already been divorced or widowed at the tender ages of 20 years. This option of early marriage comes with the challenges of HIV/AIDS and related abuses, with the majority of girls interviewed 55% confessing that they have been in abusive relationships as a result of their vulnerability in such unequal power relations. In most cases these young girls are taken advantage of and they only realise late that they are on the losing end in most of the relationships as it is based on unequal basis.

Lastly, due to Chipinge Urban's proximity to farms, most unemployed youth move into nearby farms in search of casual labour. During these short term engagements, the common catch phrase for the youth interviewed in the area is, "looking for a job" as they engage in these casual activities as a temporary stop gap measure. For them, they will only regard themselves as employed when they are in full time employment where they are assured of a monthly salary.

4.9 Main Coping mechanisms

Figure 3: Main coping mechanisms for Youth in Chipinge urban
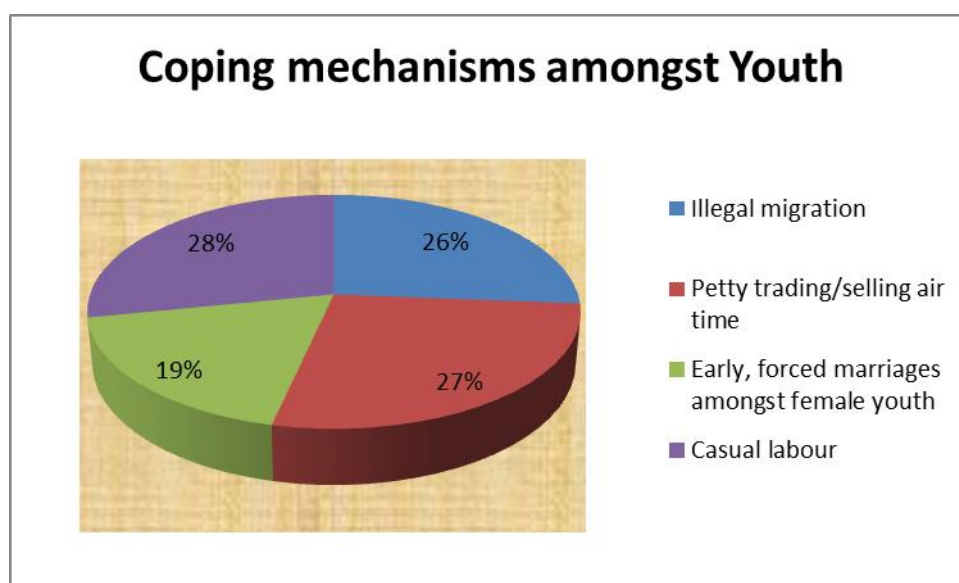
Source- (Own Source)

Figure 3 above with percentages from the youth respondents in interviews, questionnaires or Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) carried out during the study shows that the majority of youth in the area have at one time or the other resorted to some form of negative coping mechanisms. The main coping mechanisms were illegal migration (26%), petty trading (27%) and early/forced marriages (19%). Some youth have also resorted to casual labour (28%) in the nearby and surrounding farms where they go into the farms to do menial jobs like land preparation, weeding and harvesting from the fields. The majority of the unemployed youth in the area studied are normally armed with hoes, which are regarded as their "tools of trade" in doing their menial jobs which are as outlined above, mainly land preparation, weeding and harvesting in the fields.

4.10 Application of theoretical frameworks

From the research findings, the Social exclusion theory can be linked to this study and used to explain the contemporary forms of social disadvantage and peripherization of minor groups like the youth. In this particular study the theory of social exclusion which relates to alienation, disenfranchisement, marginalisation and stigmatisation of the unemployed youth who end up viewing themselves not as equal members of the society and cannot fully interact and integrate with their families, friends and the community at large. Related to Galtung's ABC theory of Conflict, the study has been very relevant in as far as understanding the unemployed youth's attitude, feelings, anger and perceptions against the Governments. This plays a very crucial role in shaping the relationship between the unemployed youth and the Government. Youth interviewed perceive the issue of unemployment differently. Some perceive it as a curse, while some view it as failure by the Government who have failed to plan for their future and grow the economy for the benefit of all its citizenry including the youth. This has led to a divergent, resentful and negative view of the elders by youth. The youth view and depict the elders, mainly the politicians as immoral and influenced by selfish evil forces. The youth therefore adopt some contemporary reform minded discourse of morality in the youth's efforts to change the political landscape in their countries and communities where they live. This they believe will help to shift the balance of power in their favour.

On the other hand the behaviour of both sides clearly shows some contradictions due to the incompatibility of goals- (interests, needs and positions). The law as reflected by the Legal age of majority act in Zimbabwe puts 18 years as the start of adult life.

This clearly shows the law conflicting with the reality obtaining on the ground, where youth age bracket gets to 35 years. This is despite the fact that some youth if unemployed will remain dependent on their parents even at age 35 although legally they would be considered as mature.

Glossop's frustration Aggression theory which refers to human beings as having animalistic traits if they feel aggrieved and excluded. In this study, the frustrated youth may pose a serious threat to peace and stability, if they remain frustrated and as is common with all human beings, they end gravitating into the Hobbesian state of nature where they resort to some aggressive animalistic traits where the law of the jungle will take centre stage thus leading to conflicts and instability.

The energy within the youth, can be exploited/manipulated and used negatively (destructively) to cause both overt (direct) and structural violence, injuries, death and destruction to society or the environment. Within the cycle of violence at individual level, youth resort to alcohol or drug abuse, suicide and depression. At community level high cases of crime, rape and domestic violence are reported and blamed on the unemployed youth. At national levels rebel movements, wars, terrorism, revolutions and coups can also emanate from such issues such as unemployment though however this is not yet the case in the area of study.

When states or communities are faced with deep structural challenges like unemployment or an upsurge of criminal activities, youth are taken as scapegoats

(Stan Cohen 1980). In the same way, youth in the area of study who are marginalized are also taken as prime candidates for blame for any ills or upsurge of criminal activities and this may lead to a moral panic, which also further leads to heightened levels of fear, anxiety and mistrust in the community. This may create a vacuum (space), which may be exploited by the powerful forces like business people or politicians or even crime gangs. Youth in most cases become cannon fodder as they are easy to be manipulated by the powerful forces, as the powerful forces have an underlying fear of chaos generated by the fear of anxiety and possibility of transformation. The advantaged and influential people hence strive to maintain the status quo as youth are viewed as a risk to themselves as well as to the established order.

A quarter of the interviewed youth also view their unemployment status or lack of opportunities as caused by sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe by Western foreign powers. The above different perceptions show that for each perception there are always some theoretical explanations given. In the same vein, some youth in the majority feel they are excluded, deprived and marginalized from sharing the national wealth which is very well linked to the exclusion theory anchoring this research. Due to the youth's need for self-fulfilment and the need to acquire assets of their own as well as develop into fully fledged and independent people, most youth feel deprived of their rights which is very closely linked to the deprivation theory. They feel the available opportunities and resources are not fairly shared and distributed equally to all the socio-economic groups. The current prevailing situation favours the highly

connected adult population at the expense of the youth and hence they cannot realize their self- fulfilment.

It is also important to look at the fact that the shrinking of the formal employment sector has led to the massive growth of an informal sector which is struggling to absorb all the unemployed youth. This is as a result of the attempts by youth to navigate the social relations, networks and events in their search for life chances and social worth. Faced with the unenviable situation of unemployment, many youth put a lot of effort into their survival as well as improving their social standing and lives. Young men and women try desperately to escape the position of youth, which they consider as a period of life to be over and done with since it is a regarded as a time of heightened social marginalization and exclusion. They put concerted efforts in their attempts to achieve adulthood by moving away from the shunned stage of dependence and marginalization.

CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter provides concluding remarks on the whole study. The remarks are centred on the problem of unemployment faced by youth, their vulnerability and the coping mechanisms available to the youth in the study area as well as the impact this has on their socio-economic status of the same group of people, the youth. The Chapter further highlights the extent to which youth challenges being faced in Chipinge urban district can also affect the entire population. The chapter also gives various recommendations on how the problem of youth unemployment can be tackled effectively by all the key players in order to reduce its impact on the affected youth as well as the community and the country at large. The recommendations are meant to reduce the negative impact of the problem of youth on national and international development. They are meant to positively influence national policy as well as guide potential interventions in rural development programming especially for humanitarian agencies working in the area of youth intervention.

5.2 Demographic Conclusion

From the research findings it can be concluded that Chipinge District has the highest population in Manicaland Province with 300 792 people according to the 2012 National census. Of this population, the majority are still in the youth bracket since they are under the 35 years national cut off point of youth definition. The majority of the people making the entire population are found in the rural areas which are characterised by overwhelming poverty and lack of opportunities. This poverty

which is due to poor economic performance increases pressures and youth vulnerability and as a result the affected youth resort to rural to urban migration and other negative outward illegal migration. Wards 5 and 7 have more youth populations compared to the adult population at 68% of the total population. This is in line with the national figures in the 2012 national census report where youth population is pegged at the same level. The existence of more females amongst the youth population further increases the vulnerability of youth as most females tend to resort to negative mechanisms when they find it difficult to survive and to take care of themselves. This compromises the quality of life and socio –economic status of youth who end up as victims who feel depressed and suppressed in their own communities.

5.3 Recommendations

The following recommendations have emerged from the current study. Most of the recommendations were a product of ideas from the study participants as well as a synthesis of the ideas by the researcher. The recommendations are meant for consideration by and for the attention of central Government, local authorities and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) when they are addressing youth unemployment issues in this or any other area with related problems of youth unemployment. The main recommendations given are as follows;

Youth intervention should not be done in isolation without the due consultation and full involvement of all relevant players including the youth themselves.

Young people cannot be separated from the problems and issues confronting them and their societies. Separating the two will lead to half- baked solutions at the end of the day.

There is need to address structural and macro- economic fundamental systems in the countries which is accused of favouring the adult population and which are blamed for the intergenerational reproduction of deprivation of the youth as they tend to exclude the youth from the few available opportunities and resources.

There should be on-going formation of professional associations and youth movements and use of networking skills and joining pressure groups which will advocate on behalf of young people. These should be supported by the Governments with budgetary allocations at national levels. These associations will advocate for genuine integration of youth into the power structures from national down to community levels as opposed to the use of youth as a means to achieve the objectives of powerful politicians and business people who want to maintain the status quo.

There is need to intensify efforts aimed at teaching the youth or parents as well as the communities on acceptance and appreciation of the situation which one finds himself/herself in, in order to reduce stigma. In most communities unemployed youth are given the unnecessary pressure through being labelled as failures, outcasts and looked down upon in life. As a result they feel marginalised thereby reducing their self-esteem and human worth. Under such circumstances, unemployed youth suffer from depression which is detrimental to their health and social status. Their confidence levels diminish to the lowest ebb and the consequences may, in many cases be detrimental.

More emphasis should be put on programmes that target youth especially young women due to their vulnerability because in most cases they are the ones who suffer more due to their exposure in the communities. In many situations, it has been realised, they end up falling on the way side with no chances of ever making it in life as they are totally condemned by the situation.

Youth participation and involvement should be prioritised by all national Governments. Youth should therefore be included in planning and strategic decision making for their programmes so that they are not reduced to spectators.

Youth and women rights should be respected and guaranteed so that they regard themselves as important citizens in the country who enjoy equal status with rest of the population irrespective of their employment status. Since women are numerically more than men, they bear the brunt of suffering more at the expense of their male counterparts and end up as bread winners in female headed households. The government should make serious efforts to integrate youth as well as women and allocate them resources through a proportional representation, for them to be involved in the economic development of their country.

There is need to implement a holistic approach in addressing the problems of youth through an open and all inclusive approach which ensures youth involvement and participation. Such transparent approaches will put to rest some accusations of political favouritism and corruption.

There is need to strengthen co-ordination and collaboration among stakeholders in Youth programming issues. Stakeholders should work together and promote an intensive sharing of information on issues affecting unemployed youth in the communities and where possible youth are given opportunities to be trained in vocational skills and later absorbed as labour force in a more coordinated way.

Schools which are situated all over the communities should not exclude unemployed youth in their core activities. They should continue to play an important role in their continuous life- long learning programmes supporting young people and they should continue to provide education on life skills such as basic HIV/AIDS, psycho- social support, in the forms of games and recreational activities, gender and protection. Schools are important institutions for providing such information on HIV/AIDS as Ainsworth in Rosen (2002) argues. Schools should have life- long training centres where youth are trained in life skills, business and household management training, agricultural training and care for children and ill adults. Teachers in these schools can be supported to address the psychological problems affecting youths and act as youth Counsellors and Advisors.

Finally, it is recommended that planners, policy makers, donors, international agencies and local institutions involved in the welfare of youth should always think of effective strategies to deal with the problem of youth unemployment. This may involve where possible pooling together of resources for an effective and intensive intervention.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A: Household Questionnaire On employment Status

My name is **Charles Muzite**. I am a student of Africa University in Zimbabwe studying for a Degree of Master in Peace and Governance (MPG)**.** I am carrying out a study on the Effects of unemployment on the socio-economic status of youth: Its Impact on the coping mechanism in Chipinge urban District, Zimbabwe. The research is for academic purposes only. I want to ask you questions about your Household. The questions will take between 10 and 30 minutes. Information gathered in this interview will be treated with utmost confidentiality and care and your identity will remain unknown as no names will be used in the final report. You are free to opt out of the interview.

Questionnaire Number……………………………..

Date of Interview: ………………………………….

SECTION 1: Demographic and General Questions

1.1 Status of the Respondent   a) Head of House hold

   b) Parent

   c) Guardian/Caregiver

   d) Youth

1.2 Sex   a) Male

   b) Female

1.3 What is the name of your Household? ....

1.4 How many people live in this Household? ....

1.5 Who is the head of your Household? ……………………………..

1.6 How old are you? ....

1.7 State the ages, sex, relationship to you and employment status of other members

of your Household below.

AGE (In YEARS)	Sex (M/F)	Relationship to you	Attending School	Working/Not working
0-5				
6-12				
13-17				
18-35				
36-60				
61+ (Elderly)				

SECTION 2: Livelihoods Sources

2.1 What is the household source of income? (*If more than one, rank them in order*

of importance)

Formal employment	
Pension	
Hawking/Informal Trading	
Remittances	
Crop Sales	
Livestock Sales	
Vegetable Sales	
Selling Crafts	
Gold panning	
Others (Specify	

2.2   Do you keep any chickens at home?   YES/NO

2.3   How many of the following do you have?

       Chicken/poultry……………………………………………………

       Rabbits……………………………………………….

2.4   What assets do you have as a family?

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

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

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

2.5   Do you have any cash remittances from relatives who are working elsewhere?

                                              YES/NO

       If yes, how significant are these remittances to your livelihood?

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

2.6   What is your source of livelihood?

       a)…………………………………………………………….

       b)…………………………………………………………….

       c)…………………………………………………………..

       d)…………………………………………………………….

       e)…………………………………………………………….

2.7   How many meals do you take a day? ....

APPENDIX B: Key Informant Questionnaire

1.   Status of the Respondent   a) Ward Councillor

     b) Headmaster

     c) Guardian / Parent

2.   Sex   a) Male

                                                                                b) Female

3.   What is the name of your ward?

………………………………………………………………………………………

………………………………………………………………………………………

4.   How many people are in this ward?

………………………………………………………………………………..

5.   How many youth are in the household?   a) Male

                                                                                b) Female

                                                            Total………………….

6.   Are there any employment opportunities to take care of the youth in this

ward? Yes No

7.   If yes what are they? …………………………………..

8.   What percentage is absorbed from this ward? ……………………………

9.   What percentage of youth is employed?   …………………………….

10.   What is the main source of income? ……………………………..

11.   What opportunities are available in this ward? …………………………

………………………………………………………………………………………

………………………………………………………………………………………

12.   What are the basic needs of the youth? ....

…………………………………………………………………………………………

…………………………………………………………………………………………

13.   Are there any vocational skills Training centres?   **YES/NO**

If yes who pays for their fees? ....

14. Are Youth in this household getting any assistance from any organization?

YES/NO

21.   Which organizations are giving assistance?

…………………………………………………………………………………………

………………………………………………………………………………

22.   What form of assistance are they getting?

…………………………………………………………………………………………

………………………………………………………………………………

23 What form of coping mechanisms are available to youth in your area? List them

in order of frequency.

APPENDIX C: Interview Guide for youth

1.   Status of the Respondent   a) Head of household

b) Young Parent

 c) Guardian / Caregiver

2.   Sex   (a). Male

                                                        (b). Female

3.   What is the name of your household? ....

4.   How many people are in this household? ....

5. How many youth are in this ward?   (a). Male

                                                        (b.) Female

                                                        Total……………………

6.   Are there enough opportunities for the youth in this ward?   YES/NO

7.   If yes what are they? …………………………………..

8.   How many youth are employed? ....

9.   What is the source of income for the ward? ……………………………..

10   How many meals do you take per day? ....

10.   What assets do you have in this ward?

……………………………………………………………………………………………

……………………………………………………………………………………………

11.   What is your source of livelihood? ....

12.   Which Government department cares for youth in this ward?

…………………………………………

13.   Which NGOs assists or works with youth in this ward?

14.   What form of assistance is offered to youth?

15.   How is youth generally perceived in this ward?

…………………………………………………………………………………………

16.   What are the basic needs for the youth in this ward?

17.   Are you going to school? YES / NO

18.   If not what was your last level?

…………………………………………………………………………………………

19.   Do you have any professional qualification to do any job? YES/NO

20.   What is your profession?

………………………………………………………………………………………

21.   How are unemployed youth generally perceived in the area?

22.   What is the effect of such perceptions on the unemployed youth?

23.   What are the coping mechanisms you resort to as youth for survival? List

them

(1)..

(2)..

(3)..

Appendix D: Introduction Letter from Africa University

INSTITUTE OF PEACE LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

AFRICA UNIVERSITY
(A United Methodist-Related Institution)

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:iplgdirector@africau.ac.zw - Website www.africau.edu

15 April 2014

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Re: Permission to Undertake Research for Dissertation at Africa University

Charles Muzite student registration number **107736** 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 2014. The research topic is **"The Effects of Unemployment on the Socio-Economic Status of Youth: Its Impact on the Coping Mechanism in Chipinge Urban, Zimbabwe".** Charles is expected to undertake this research during the period January- April 2014 before the dissertation can be submitted to the Faculty in May 2014.

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

"Living our Vision in Faith, Embracing Diversity, Developing Leaders for Africa"