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FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

**THE IMPACT OF GENDER IMBALANCES IN POLITICAL
REPRESENTATION IN ZIMBABWE: A CASE OF GWERU URBAN
CONSTITUENCY SINCE 1980-2013**

BY

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SCIENCES IN PARTIAL FULLFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
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DEDICATION

I do dedicate this work through the support of my parents Mr and Mrs Mafuta and two my siblings Sollow and Nick and my uncle Godfrey.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AIPPA	: Access to Information Privacy Protect Act
BSA	: Broadcasting Services Act
CEDAW	: Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
ERC	: Election Resource Centre
IPU	: Inter-Parliamentary Union
MDC	: Movement for Democratic Change
POSA	: Public Order Security Act
SADC	: Southern African Development Community
WOZA	: Women of Zimbabwe Arise
ZANLA	: Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army
ZAPU	: Zimbabwe African People's Union
ZANU-PF	: Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front
ZESN	: Zimbabwe Election Support Network
ZIPRA	: Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army

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Abstract

This research was an analysis of gender imbalances in political representation in Zimbabwe in the context of Gweru Urban Constituency since 1980-2013. A review of the causes and factors that militates against women political representation was discussed. Also the reasons why women should be politically represented and the legal and structural policies promoting women political representation was also discuss. Theories were the support base of the thesis. Both qualitative and quantitative research methods were used to gather information with the use secondary and primary sources. The researcher made use of questionnaires and interviews in gathering data from a selected population sample. The target population comprised of the permanent residence of Gweru urban but only those of the voting majority, as well as male and female councillors and lobby groups. About 60 questionnaires were administered. The researcher were necessary had to use the native language thus shone to assist in the interpretation of questions. The data gathered from the field was presented by the use of tables, bar graphs and pie-charts. The researcher had to analyse the data he got and summarised. The data gathered shows that women were militated by political, social, economic and legal factors. As a result the researcher had to give recommendations on what has to be done to redress gender imbalances in political representation.

Chapter One: Research Proposal

1.1 Introduction

This chapter focuses on the following background of the problem of gender imbalances, the research questions, the problem statement, the research methodology, research objectives, definition of terms as well as the limitations and delimitations of the study.

The issue of gender imbalances dates back since time immemorial. Gender imbalances in political representation is an appendage of the deep rooted socio-cultural benchmarks which discriminated women to be fully represented in the politically arena. The smoke screen agenda of democracy though perceived to be a redress of the injustice levelled against women has done little in according women equal opportunities and positions in mainstream politics. Albeit that women were accorded the same rights to vote as their male counterparts however there are finding it difficult to permeate through the glass ceiling. Rather they are leading the cheering role in the political arena. Considering the fact that there constitute to about 52% of the world population they still remain under-represented. Men have dominated women in the entire representative domain such as the parliament, executive, judiciary and also the local wards to be elected as councillors. Despite the calls by statesmen to offer remedies to redress these imbalances not much has been done to correct the injustice. Various preambles, declarations, conventions and protocols urging a realignment to the framework policy aimed at empowering women through political representation has been forthcoming. Zimbabwe is a signatory to one of the many conventions, declarations and protocols such as the Beijing declarations, SADC protocol on gender, millennium development goals on gender and the CEDAW(UNDP 2010,ZESN 2009, WIDSA,2008). No real meaningful progress has been attained to curb the imbalances in political representation. This gave birth to the women civic groups in politics agitating for women rights in politics to be fully represented.

As a result women emancipation activities began to take a centre stage after the signing of these various conventions and declarations. Various women organizations were founded to lobby for their political rights such as the Women of Zimbabwe Arise and the Women in Politics Support Unit. Women have been actively involved in voting only but not campaigning for political offices. So the study is to clear factor out the casuals which militates against women participation in politics.

Women are under-represented in Gweru urban constituency considering the population distribution trends. The constituency has got 18 wards and only two females are councillors which do not tally with number of women in the constituency. According to the Parliament of Zimbabwe Report (2011) the constituency has got a population of 48 959 with a large portion being of females totalling 25 256 while male constitutes 23 703. The House of assembly member is a male candidate.

1.2 BACKGROUND TO THE PROBLEM

The historical developments of gender imbalances in political representation can be traced in three distinctive periods thus, during the pre-colonial era, the colonial period and the post colonial era. Various factors and causes have been eluded as attributes of gender imbalances, which have objected women's equal representation in national and party politics with their male counterparts. It is within this purview of making political structures and processes in the political parties or groupings which has prompted inequality of representation between males and females. Since it is believed that social-cultural factors do take a centre stage in influencing the decision that a woman is to make or take in society. This has resulted in women being accorded with political roles that are of less significance such as voting, cooking, dancing and singing during wars as opposed to their male counter parts which make decisions and strategies of wars. These political inequalities which existed shaped the roles that women and men played were as a result of the social construction. In the Shona culture, patriarchal practices, controls, influence and infiltrate gender inequality and preclude women in any form of control as a result over their sexual biology. This is because of the factor that custom in Africa is central than domination, that it takes precedence over the law, and even over religion. The differences of roles that men and women partake in societies are socially constructed as to the expectations, norms, beliefs and values of the societies. So this stems from this social benchmark which denied women to enjoy the same privileges as their male counterparts which has led to male domination as opposed to female subordination. Socially it is known that a woman's place is in the home as a mother while a man's place is in the public sphere.

During the pre-colonial era, political organization of these societies was mainly dominated by males as opposed to females. This was noticed in the making of the Kings council (dare ramambo) which helped the king in administering the affairs of the societies, also the army of these societies were mainly dominated by males though women participated in the Ndebele state as cooks, dancers and singers so as to entertain the army. This then shows that women's role were not equal to that of their male counterparts. Even though the king's queen (vahosi) played an advisory role to the king the final decision was of the king and that of the council. So these early societies maintained a highly centralized monarchical government which was dominated by males. Females were only recipients of the political outcomes made by a patriarchal system. This was further evidenced with the coming of the white settlers. The composition and making of their governments, the legislation which denied women voting rights since it was only accorded to property owners and access opportunities to participate in the public life. Due to the fact that the traditional norms of the time denied women to acquire property, so it was by default that women could not vote and participate in the public sphere of life. This same system prevailed under the Westminster type of government of the colonialists since it was capitalist in nature.

Prior to the attainment of independence it was thought that the new government was to take a radical move in reforming these differences which existed between males and females but rather it inherited the colonial legacy. The regime type of a particular country is likely to affect the level of women's participation politically. In a more dictatorial regime women find it difficult to clamour for positions of power and even compete with men as a result they tend to believe that everything is centred on men. Prior to the attainment of independence the new black government of Zimbabwe adopted the one party state regime of the colonial era which was characterized with male dominance. So women had difficulties to penetrate through the political systems thus through holding of rallies, meetings campaigning for their parties in decision making as to get into political office but rather they had to remain submissive.

It adopted the existing constitution and the electoral act which denied women to stand at national elections as candidates and also to vote. There was some noticed significance pertaining to the role that women displayed in national politics. Thus during this era some women took part in the liberation struggle not necessarily as cooks, singers rather as guerrillas in the battle field but this did not reach parity in terms of numbers as their male counterparts. For example ZANLA and ZIPRA forces recruited over 10 000 trained women

guerrilla fighters. Also the formation of the political parties i.e. ZANU-PF and ZAPU was mainly influenced by men. Even though women were allowed to partake in national politics there were given positions which had less significance in the making of decisions, as well as designing policies that well suit their needs and interests as a group in a political system thus constitution making processes, the electoral systems of a state, the legal framework or institutions of a state . As a result of their biology and cultural expectations women were accorded positions which were more inclined to their domestic roles. Other factors that have been brought forward to try and explain these political inequalities; however there is need to notice that these factors and causes have all stemmed out of socialization thus cultural norms and values of a society. Some of the factors which have contributed to unequal representation of females politically can be scrutinized through ignorance or attitude that women perceive about politics, lack of support from fellow women, lack of political exposure, insufficient financial resources to stage up campaigns and insufficient mobilization of media support.

The nature of the political environment is one of the attributes which is likely to have an effect in women's participation in political processes such as election campaign depending on how the environment is conducive in accommodating diverse views. Zimbabwe's election period be at local, district, provincial or at national level has been marred with political violence. Women by nature are delicate and not aggressive. Most of these elections have been characterized with gross political violence ranging from the organizing of party structures, parliamentary and presidential elections. It is from this evidence that women tend to dislike politics as they perceive it as a dirty game only associated with violence and killings. Rather they would be satisfied to remain in the domestic arena than participate in such conditions.

Presentation of women in political structures in terms of positions and making of decisions is less as to that of their male counterparts, due to the drawbacks which have been explored above. The persistence of gender imbalances in political representation is to be understood in the context of the setting up of early societies before the establishment of the modern day state. Hence the establishment of these societies was founded on the bases of cultural values and expectations, which then denied women to have equal access of political participation and presentation as to their male counterparts.

1.3 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Albeit various conventions, protocols, declarations urging women towards political emancipation no real progress has been curtailed. Women are still under-represented in the political domain as compared to their male counterparts. Particularly this was shown by few women standing for political positions in the elections of 2000, 2008 and 2013 in Gweru urban .The research is an analysis and an exploration into the causal factors of gender imbalances in political representation of Zimbabwe.

1.4 Research Methodology

1.4.1 Research design

Both qualitative and quantitative research methods of data collection will be used to explore and analyze the various causes and factors that have attributed to gender imbalances in political representation were appropriate. Interviews, questionnaires will be used as instruments data collection. Graphs, pie charts and tables will be used to present the findings of data collected.

1.4.2 Qualitative research-is much more concern with explaining and analysing of data collected. It is concerned with soft data.

1.4.3 Quantitative research-more concerned with hard data presentations such as statistical and mathematical models.

1.4.4 Questionnaire

This refers to structured list of questioned in sequential order aimed at gathering data relating to the phenomena. The researcher will hand distribute the questionnaires.

1.4.5 Interview

This refers to one on discussions aimed at gathering data. There is no sequence of asking question by the interviewer and the interviewer is flexible to ask question other than those on the list.

1.4.6 Target Population

This refers to the specific set of units thus the people that are to be asked questions and interviewed by the researcher.

1.4.7 Population Sample

This is a technique used in selecting units or components out of the whole population. The components to be chosen will represent the entire population as a whole. Believing that the components possess all the traits of the entire population. The samples are to be chosen either by random selection or purposive sample regarding people of majority age and the permanent residence of Gweru.

A case study technique will be used so as to understand and explain the existence of gender imbalances in political representation. Gweru urban will be the port of call in the collection of data.

Secondary sources of information will be used to fill the knowledge gap of the literature under investigation. Textbooks, government's gazettes, newspapers and reports will be encompassed in the quest for the data relevant to the field of study.

1.4.8 Analysis of Data

In analyzing data both content and textual analysis will be used. It is the task of the researcher to understand what is happening and what influenced the occurrence of gender imbalances and to understand the actors that were involved in trying to resolve these imbalances in political representation. This will be achieved through observation, conversation and interview through encoding key issues. This process involves firstly comparing interview and other forms of data and comparison will be done to theoretical approaches that will be employed. Results of this comparison will be categorized according to themes or variables and their properties.

1.5 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To identify the causes of gender imbalances in political representation of Zimbabwe.
- To analyze the relevance of women in politics.
- To acknowledge the policies which are being curbed to redress the underlining causes of gender imbalances in political representation.

- To offer recommendations to the remedy which has to be prescribed?

1.6 Research Questions

- What have been the causes of gender imbalances in political representation in Zimbabwe?
- Why should women be represented in politics?
- Which challenges do women face in the political arena?
- Which actors have been influential in advocating for gender sensitive policies?
- Which policies were adopted in addressing gender imbalances?
- Have these policies been effective in addressing these imbalances?

1.7 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

1.7.1 to the Student

The importance of the research is to allude to the facts, causes and effects of the gender imbalances in political representation of Zimbabwe thereby demystifying the mystery underlining the thesis. Since this will enable the researcher to understand and learn as well give necessary recommendations, also taking into cognizance the efforts of the government to redress these imbalances so as to promote political gender equity.

1.7.2 to the Government

Since this will unearth hidden facts and issues surrounding unequal representation of women in politics, and provide possible solutions. This research will help the government in addressing the challenges and also understanding the real problems affecting women so as to the enable the government to frame policies and pieces of legislation to address these challenges.

1.7.3 to the Community

This will help them to redress these imbalances and treat each other with respect especially women since this research will be printed out and be made accessible to all.

1.7.4 To the University

This research will be used by university students to fill their knowledge gap in their research to the study as literature to compliment their knowledge.

1.8 ASSUMPTIONS

The researcher assumes that

- ❖ Will get all the relevant information from the key actors to be consulted in the political arena to give the research some value.
- ❖ Political parties are making recommendations necessary as per the dictates of the national constitution to curb in for gender equality in their structures.

1.9 Definition of Terms

1.9.1 Woman

According to the New Merriam Dictionary a woman is an adult female person. According to the Zimbabwe's Constitution eighteen years is the age of majority were one can exercise freely the right to vote. So in this case a woman is one who would have attained 18 years of age. They constitute about 52% of the entire population according to the Population Statistics of 2006. However they remain marginalized as opposed by the socio-cultural benchmark which does not permit them to accord wealth, political positions.

1.9.2 Gender imbalance

It refers to a scenario in which members of one sex have got an edge or advantage over the other or a situation when sex determines one's position in society. This has hindered women

to be actively involved in politics leaving men to dominate. As a result there is unequal representation of women in politics as compared to their male counter parts.

1.9.3 Political Representation

Refers to how citizens of a state are represented in all political systems which include the electoral systems, the legislature, the executive, the judiciary, and other government commissions. The issue of political representation is a bone of contention that is even when these representatives are chosen through fair and democratic elections it is often said that these assemblies remain unrepresentative according to Hamilton, A (1987). These assemblies are under-representative of women.

1.10 DELIMITATION AND LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

Information relating to the field of study will be gathered in Gweru urban constituency which is in Midlands province. The constituency has got 18 wards. According to the Parliament of Zimbabwe Report (2011) population distribution is about 48 959 people with 25 256 females and males totalling 23 703. Lack of resources to use in carrying out the study is going to be a challenge. The resources like money to spent for travelling. Also time will be a limiting factor to consult responsible people; they will be occupied and busy when you will be at their premises wanting to get information resulting in bias information. Some people will not be able to disclose the information needed by the researcher because it will be private and confidential. The problem will be resolved by obtaining vital information by reviewing available literature.

1.11 SUMMARY

Despite government efforts to actively involve women in politics by reserving 60 seats for them in both the legislative and senatorial house, women representation do still lag behind with that of Rwanda. There is still a huge gap in terms of numbers. The focal synopsis of this chapter was to give a background of the causal factors which have militated against women active involvement in politics. These socio-cultural benchmarks have hindered progress towards women's emancipation in politics. So it is within this purview that the researcher with the aid of the objectives and research questions which will guide to answer future questions relating to the study. This chapter also centres on the limitation and delimitations of the study as well as the significance of the research particularly on women representation in the political domain of Gweru. The problem statement which alludes to what is to be researched and why so not other related studies so as to come up with solutions to the problem.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

The term literature review refers to the gathering of information through surveying, observations and discussion of the related literature in a given area of study thus according to St Mary's University (1902). Literature review can also be said to be a process which is concerned with reading, analyzing, evaluating and also summarizing the scholarly material about that particular topic is called as attributed by Nardquist (2010:2). Basically literature review is gathering and scrutinizing of related information from various scholars concerning the issue of gender imbalances in political representation. A wide spectrum of different divergent views have been encoded and disseminated in all forms such as textbooks, newspapers, radio and TV as well as other telecommunications mediums in an attempt to explain the root causes of gender imbalances in political representations and other reasons why there are fewer numbers of women participation at national politics, district level, ward as well as at provincial level. Since it has been noticed that there is low figures for female representation in parliaments as well in national policy making ranging between two and ten percent as accorded by Gisela Giesler (1995:545).

Although women constitute about 52% of the world population they do still lag very far behind to their male counterparts in terms of political representation. Through various researches conducted they do consistently reflect that in many parts of the world, women still find it difficult to penetrate through as a result linger on the fringes of political realm and their participation in the government structures and democratic process remains very low this is according to Vissandjee et al (2006). In spite of the clamour for women political involvement by the world leaders not much to acknowledge their calls to redress these imbalances has been attained in promoting women political empowerment. Rather these world leaders have turned a deaf ear in respect to the various conventions declarations, obligations, policies and legal frameworks meant to balance these disparities of political gender imbalances. Although other African countries like Rwanda has made some noticeable progress towards the struggle, Zimbabwe lags far behind in conforming to the redress issue of women emancipation in politics. A lot of factors have been put across to explain more the exclusion of women in the political life scene as opposed to their male counterparts. These

factors include socio-cultural thus religion and patriarchal attitudes, education, finance were found to be casuals which militates against women full participation in politics and governance. It has been attributed that a country's political culture can affect women's role in politics this is according to Hill. D (1981). More-so a country that has either liberal or egalitarian culture does tend to advance for the rights of women's political representation and more political opportunities. In contrast, of the ongoing discussion the traditional culture is monopolized by men since these traditional cultures are less likely to advocate for equal opportunities and positions to the political sphere as a result leading to fewer women nominated according to Paxton and Kunovich (2003).

Women have become victims of the past injustices which have denied women to access positions of power and have the same political rights as those of their male counterparts. This colonial appendage greatly shaped the events in the involvement of women into politics. It was because of the unfriendly pieces of legislation during the colonial era that directly influenced the present government inclination towards women in assuming leadership positions. According to Gaidzanwa R (1994) the shabby pieces of legislation during the colonial era discriminated women to have their voting rights and own the means of production. More focusing on political rights, Mill J S (1986) contends that until women were given the right to vote, they would not become active citizens. Which then later was realized but by then women had been greatly outnumbered.

Ignorance can be viewed as the negative perception or attitude that women tend to have towards alienating them with politics, thus being directly influenced by culture. Women then view politics as a game of men only which has nothing to do with them. Politics is portrayed as a dirty game, which requires tough qualities that very few women are attracted by it. Those women who enter politics display have to really prove that they have that tough biological trait so as to counter the pressure brought about by patriarchal attitudes which then define them as weak citizens not fit for public office according to Makombe, P.F (2000) and Kambarami. M (2006). Older women and those that are of mediocre talent tend to be content with their submissive roles rather to be involved in politics.

Choosing out of politics is not necessarily due to political depression as some African men would like us to believe .Rather it is based on the experience that women do then enter politics on terms set by the male elite who then use their political energy for their own ends

as attributed by Gisela. Geisler (1995:546). So it due to lack of political experience that women then find it so hard to penetrate to positions of power. If women tends to assume those positions of power their husbands start to have a directive influence in the manner in which their women acts politically.

However it is important to note that if women are to be fairly represented politically they have to first access positions of influence thus economic wise. This is because of the fact that politics and economics are inseparable. The economic power has direct influence on the ability one to mobilize support. Since lack of resources has been attributed as one of the hindrances why women fail to participate in politics fully. In other words women must possess an economic muscle before they can ascend to positions of political power and authority thus according to Oakes and Almquist (1993, pg71). This point of view is strongly supported by stratification theorist such as Blumberg (1984) and Chafetz (1984), are of the assertion that economic power in the form of visibility in the professional world is an important variable in women's status and access to political power.

Furthermore an analysis on the figures of women in various political institutions i.e. political parties, ward councillors and parliament in this case Gweru urban constituency. Looking at how women have clamoured for positions of high influence as compared to their male counterparts. Also a brief look at how the media has given both males and female equal access to campaign. It is because the media has a direct influence in appealing to voters.

So it is from this purview that women's participation has been greatly affected by attributes which were beyond their own control but rather fallen prey as victims of these benchmarks. Those who could partake in the struggle of accessing political roles were thus given positions of little or no influence not anything which was above the making of decisions of a party or policies of a state.

This research seeks to fill the knowledge gap and explore some of the attributes pertaining to the cause of less involvement of women in politics. It then explores some of the means that various factors including the government being at the forefront in implementation of policies which are designed to curb for the past discriminatory gender legislative frameworks. This has been due to international calls to create policies that are gender sensitive such as the

Beijing declaration and platform for action and the SADC declaration on gender and development. Some of the policies include the National Gender policy, quarto system and the foundation of various government ministries that are meant to empower both parties equally. These include the Ministry of Youth Development, Gender and Employment Creation and the Ministry of Women affairs. Critical analysis of these gender censored policies will be looked at in trying to discuss that the promotion of equality between men and women is more likely to disempowering men rather offering a remedy to the discrepancy considering the population percentages of these two gender groups. Women topping the list with 52% while men with 48%.

In a bid to redress this world leaders through international conferencing have engaged one another to support women hence have adopted measures such as the MDG 3, quota system. Various theoretical frameworks have been put forward to explain the gap of gender imbalances in terms of political representation. The main thrust of this chapter is to acknowledge various scholars on their research and offer an insight on the whole issue by analyzing and scrutinizing the thesis under review.

2.1.1 Political Representation

Refers to how citizens of a state are represented in all political systems which include the electoral systems, the legislature, the executive, the judiciary, and other government commissions. The issue of political representation is a bone of contention that is even when these representatives are chosen through fair and democratic elections it is often said that these assemblies remain unrepresentative of women thus according to Hamilton, A (1987). These assemblies are under-representative of women. According to Bird, K (2003) it has been reflected that through these elections political representatives tend to be drawn from the elite stratum of society. Parliamentary representation should be the microcosm of the nation thus it should mirror the whole population in which it is drawn from. In other words it should represent all classes in society in order that their feelings and interests may be attended to as attributed by Hamilton, A (1978). Rather it should be a demographically representative of the whole society. In essence representative democracy should accord the marginalized groups in society thus women should be accorded political leverage in a wider spectrum in order to curb the gender disparities. Women participation on equal footing with men stems the pillars

of real democracy without that it cannot exist as cited by IPU (2005:1). Political representation can be at cell, district, and ward, provincial and national level. This then depends on the structures of political parties. For instance ZANU-PF has got structures from the cell level to the national level. It is within this purview that women should be actively involved and be accorded positions of higher authority in terms of decision making. Posts like Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasury should also be reserved for women to be representatives.

2.1.2 Political representation of women in the National Assembly

The table below shows the distribution of women seats in the legislative house of Zimbabwe since 1980 to 2013. Women are under-represented despite that they constitute about 52% of the world's population. This has been as a result of the electoral system which has deterred women political representation. The electoral law does not protect women political empowerment thus ensuring that women emancipation for gender equality in political representation can be attained. Albeit this has negatively impacted women since the law does not protect them but places them on equal footing with men during election campaign periods. Contesting for position of power such as the house of assembly, senatorial and ward councils. The electoral system of the land is so hostile towards women in according them positions of decision making in political institutions. If women are to be accorded meaningful positions their concerns and interests scan be heard. According to the Election Resource Centre (2013) an electoral system has got a bearing in the way that votes casts are translated into seats in the August house. Zimbabwe's electoral system uses a combination of the two forms of political representation of candidates to get into the political institution thus the Legislative assembly and the Senate house.

The first which is the plurality-majority is the most widely used. This type of electoral system accord candidate's positions in the legislative and senatorial house based on the votes that they won thus a majority win. So in this regard the person with the highest number of votes becomes the legitimate winner of the constituency or ward. Most of the political parties thus ZANU-PF and the MDC do tend to field more male candidates than women. This system has got deterrence effect on women political representation thus according to ERC (2013) voters tend to have negatives towards women instead they prefer male candidates

2.1.3 Proportional representation

Proportional representation entails of according a party seats in the political institutions thus the legislative house as per the total poll votes percentage it has won in the province. The number of legislatures a party is to choose depends on the percentage of vote's turnout. This system is believed to favour or encourage women representation in parliament.

This is another form of the electoral system which is being used in Zimbabwe. Arguably it is one of the best systems which ensure that more women can be represented in the political institutions.

In a bid to have more women in the senatorial house via proportional representation political parties under the electoral act are obliged to field candidates in a zebra cross sectional criteria. This is aimed at ensuring that women do top the listing so as to try and balance the gap of women representation in the senatorial house. However this has sparked debates since 16 of the seats are reserved for chiefs who are predominantly male according to Mhlanga (2014). This does not make any real progress in redressing the gender imbalances between male and females. More-so in a bid to wag women political representation in both the upper and lower legislative house the government of Zimbabwe through the amendment of the electoral act under the new constitution. 60 seats will be reserved for women in the national assembly while other sixty seats in the senatorial house will be reserved for women and out of each provincial council 10 will also be elected on the bases of proportional representation.

Distribution of seats in the legislative house between male and female candidates

Table 1

Year	Actual seats	Women seats	Men seats
1980	100	9	99
1985	100	8	82
1990	150	21	129
1995	150	22	128
2000	150	14	136
2005	120	20	100
2008	210	30	190

2013	210	85	225
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Source: Primary source

So this is evidence that the electoral system of a state can also affect the levels of women political representation. Despite the fact that Zimbabwe is a signatory of SADC Protocol on Gender has failed to meet the deadline of 2015. It has only 85 women parliamentarians against 185 male parliamentarians. Women are still politically marginalized in top positions where decisions are made. This shows government's reluctance to comply with its commitments.

2.1.4 Political parties on women political representation

Political parties are supposed to be the pillars of support to women political representation. Regardless that all of the political parties in Zimbabwe have got a women wing league organ that deals with fostering their interests in policy formulation network nonetheless women are still under-represented. Despite the fact that they constitute a large support base of these political parties they are excluded in the main decision making ranks of the political parties. It is the party structures that impede on the selection criteria of candidates who are represented in an election. Research by Mair and Sithole (2000) attributes that there has been democratic centralism within ZANU-PF. Since it is the Politburo that decides on which candidates to field this is also likened to the National Executive Council of the MDC which is also the highest decision making body of the party. This structure within these parties controls the nomination process. Instead of the structures supporting women on primary elections against vote buying and rigging most women have become casualties. Women cannot withstand male candidate opposition at primary elections in terms of resources as well as other socio-cultural biases that the voters have on women.

Women political representation profile should merge from the party structures to raise a profile if there are to represent at national level. Both the MDC and ZANU-PF remains unimpressive in advocating for women driven positions in decision making of the party structures. The party structures that women should have been accorded positions include the party's secretary, national chairperson, treasury and the presidency of the party. However none of the party has given women high positions despite them being either in the National executive council or the Politburo respectively. They are still outnumbered so it becomes difficult for them to influence an outcome to come with a majority vote. According to the

EISA Report (2004) parties have to consider the upholding of reserving seats and adopting of the quota system at the nomination phase and primary elections. This will then help to curb for the disparities of gender imbalances in political representation. Research in the Gweru urban constituency shows that neither the political parties thus ZANU-PF and the MDC have really made any meaningful progress towards the inclusion of women in the decisive party structures. The decision making positions are still dominated by men. Women are still politically marginalized.

Political parties have also been criticized for failing to offer adequate financial support to female candidates running for a position in general elections. Female candidates are not given equal resources as their male counterparts running for the same elections. The campaign resources are not evenly distributed by political parties so as to ensure an outright victory for female candidates rather it will be a try and error approach. Political parties do play a role in deterring women representation in both the Legislative and Executive arm.

2.2 The nexus between democracy and women political representation

There is a link between the two; democracy is the pre-requisite for women to be politically represented. States with genuine democracy do value women representation in all the political institutions and processes. Genuine democracy ensures that both women and men are accorded equal opportunities and participate equally in all political activities. The rule of law is one of the pillars of the fundamental principles of democracy which then ensure that women rights or laws governing the political systems i.e. the electoral systems are being applied to all without discrimination. Democratic values promote women participation in politics since it allows for a pluralistic society that encourages women freedom of association to any civil group which advances their interests. It is within this purview that there is no democratic state that can survive without the inclusion of women in the political processes and systems. Since democracy fosters the rule of the majority thus women and men being represented in the political institutions reflecting the will and interests of the majority. According to SARDC and WIDSA (2008) it is one the fundamental values of democracy that joint networking decision making between men and women towards the political processes and national legislation is imperative in furthering the interests and concerns of women.

The concept of democracy cannot be fully apprehended if women are excluded in the political institutions and processes. Rather it is a hand in glove as the two are inter-twined in promoting a representative majority of women in decision making positions of the State.

2.3 Factors which militates against women representation in politics

These factors can be categorized into three thus socio-economic and political factors have attributed to hinder women's political representation.

2.3.1 Lack of Financial Support

This is a determinant factor which has negatively impacted women's political desire. Considering the fact that a lot of women in Zimbabwe do not have the economic muscle and a number of them do not have high earning salary jobs. Only a few are captains of the industry, of which political participation needs a lot of financing if one is to clamour for such positions of power. So lack of financial resources is a factor constraining women's political efficacy. Financial resources to fund election to include paying of registration and nomination fees, the finances to fund the election campaign process such as to mobilize the supporters, buying and printing of campaign regalia. However mostly in Africa poverty wears women's face according to, UN Economic Commission for Africa (2009:3). According to World Health Organization (WHO), (2013) poverty is associated with the undermining of a range of key human attributes, including health. Since the poor are directly exposed as result of their economic positions which then has a detriment upon their health as well as the link or access to information? The poor have difficulties in accessing medical facilities as a result most of their savings will be used on healthy due to malnourishment.

Under the prevailing economic hardships poverty is dominant then they become the receiving end since access to education will be denied, access to credit and finances resources thereby becomes a challenge this is according to the World Health Organization (2003). This then reduces women political participation thus undermining their representation. More-so party financial resources are in the hands of man thus the treasury which then becomes a constraining effect for women. However it is important to note that if women are to be fairly represented politically they have to first access positions of influence thus economic wise. This is because of the fact that politics and economics are inseparable. The economic power has direct influence on the ability one to mobilize support. Lack of resources has been

attributed as one of the hindrances why women fail to participate in politics fully. In other words women must achieve economic parity before they can ascend to positions of political power and authority this is according to Oakes and Almquist (1993, p. 71). This point of view is strongly supported by stratification theorist Blumberg (1984, 1991) and Chafetz (1984, 1990), who concludes that economic power is imperative in determining women's economic strength in the form of visibility in the professional world since it is an important variable in women's status and access to political power.

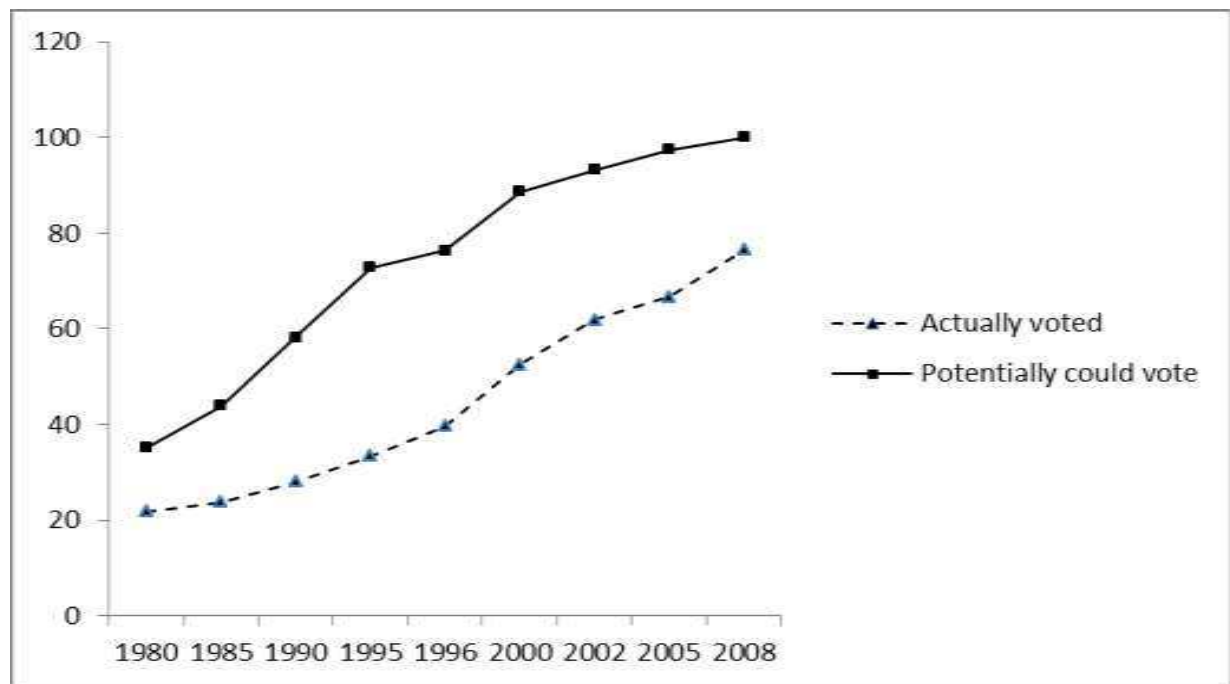
2.3.2 Political Violence

According to Wolf (1969:33) he defines violence as "as the illegitimate and unauthorized use of force to effect decisions against the will or desires of others". Then political violence is all the unsanctioned assaults within a political community aimed at the political regime, its actors including competing political groups or even the civil society. The emergence of a vibrant formidable opposition party thus the MDC in 1999 has dredged the political landscape with cases of politically motivated violence escalating. As a result viciousness has been a consistent feature. Women have become victims who feel the heat in the process. This has negatively impacted on the numbers of women who clamour for positions of power. Most women have withdrawn to clamour for positions of power as a result of the political violence which has marred the political landscape. Cases of political violence are reported in most election merging from the primary election and also choosing local party structures leadership. The results statistics released by ZESN in 2011 clearly indicates the women's withdrawal from elections as result of marred political violence. According to ZESN electoral violence report the period since independence thus the elections were marred with political violence thus from 1980 to 1985 Parliamentary sessions included 9 % of women who sat in the August House and in 1990 to 1995 saw an increase to 14 % but the number however deteriorated in 2000 as a result of charged political contestation to 9, 2% as cases of political violence. Hence this clearly indicates that violence has a negative impact bearing on women participation in politics.

Kellow (2010:19) also in support of the ongoing discussion he has put forward a number of attributes that attributes to the challenges women face as a caused by political violence thus women's fear of rejection, disowned or even violence from husband and family if they are to

strive to enter politics. Also in support researcher Reeler of Research and Advocacy Unity (2011) clearly highlights how violence militates against women participation in politics in Zimbabwe. Albeit that there are various factors that act as barriers to women participation which include administrative issues such as failure to register as a result of economic constrains such as lack of resources. However, the data presented below clearly shows how violence has grossly affected women political representation.

Figure 1



Source RAU 2011

2.3.3 The Patriarchal and Cultural attitudes

Many attributions have been linked to culture as the solemn benchmark that has denied women to both access and participate in politics so as to assume leadership positions. It is of this glass ceiling that has precluded women to taste public life. Culture is a broad term with mixed variations and there is no a universally accepted definition of the term however it can be said to refer to the beliefs, attitudes, values, customs, institutions and achievements of a particular nation, a spectrum of people in society or group according to the South African Concise Oxford Dictionary (2002:282). Since culture entails of upholding the values, customs and beliefs shared by a particular group of people belonging together. Custom in

Africa takes precedence over the social setup which then makes it stronger than domination or even stronger than the law, stronger even than religion. Over the years customs, beliefs and values have been enshrined into religion and ultimately have come to be believed by their practitioners to be demanded by their adopted gods or cult as attributed by Lightfoot Klein (1989:47) cited by Okome (2003:71). Since social construction perception regards the home as the only arena of the woman where she can only display her talent and skills as opposed to that experience of public life of their male counterparts. Hence this has resulted in the domination of men. A woman then assumes the submissive roles. Patriarchy then takes precedence over the manner in which women acts according to their own interests rather that role is taken away from them.

The aforementioned have been attributed as a major factor that hinder women's political efficacy. According to various schools of thought Zimbabwe's political landscape is replete with the culture of male dominance. A strong cultural belief background in the outer most parts of the countryside which is very obnoxious militates against women's access to positions of political power. Those women who enter politics have to really prove that they have tough calibre in order to withstand the pressure brought about by patriarchal attitudes which define women as weak citizens not fit for public office according to Makombe, P.F (2000) and Maureen.Kambarami (2006). Feminist's theorists like Henslin (1999:292) argue that gender is not natural but rather constructed socially. As a result women were differently placed and accorded positions and roles that are totally different from each in terms of political rights. These theorist attributes the existence of gender imbalances in political representation was as a result of cultural dynamism that distinguished the difference of roles that man and woman are to play in society. As a result woman were lowly placed and accorded with positions of little significance thus the political rights which man were accorded were different from their male counterparts thereby inflicting gender imbalances. Women then tend to view politics as a game of man only.

2.3.4 Partial Legal Framework

It is also imperative to take into cognizance that the country's legal system arrangement has played a significance role in hindering women political participation. Chiware cited in Mpavirihwo (2010:23) has strongly argued that the country's laws like Public Order Security Act (POSA), Access to Information Privacy Protection Act (AIPPA) and the Broadcasting

Services Act (BSA) all have a detrimental effect to the dissemination of information to individuals and infringed individuals liberties of free association. This has got a tremendous effect as citizens would not be fully acquainted with relevant information hence hinders women to fully participate in politics of the day in fear of victimization by government machinery.

2.3.5 Lack of political will

This is also another cause which has attributed to women being under represented in the political arena such as the legislature, executive, senatorial and both the rural and urban council. Most women have got a passive attitude towards politics rather there are content with voting only than being involved in the political structures and processes. They tend to like the cheering role. Women have got a negative perception towards politics they regard politics as the game of men. They do lack the political zeal and will to be on the forefront being accorded with decision making positions. So as a result women are underrepresented in the political arena

2.4 Why women in politics

Albeit that woman constitute over 50% of the world population rather they continue to be under represented as voters, political leaders and elected officials. According to the World Bank (2012) women constitute about 52% of the world population albeit their magnitude numbers women are however still marginalized in most aspects of life. The National Democratic Institution supports women to acquire the tools necessary for them to effectively participate in the political process. According to the National Democratic Institution women around the world should participate in politics since they are highly committed in promoting national and local policies that address the socio-economic and political challenges which militates against women ,children and the disadvantaged groups, women are honest so it then helps in reducing levels of corruption on the ballot box where women are elected as leaders, since women are peace lovers by virtue of them being afforded chances to participate in politics will likely to ignite a peaceful world with less or no wars of conflicts between states. Clinton the former United States of Americas President once attributed that the pillars and strength of democracy, economy all depends on the hardworking of women. Graff (2003:10) is of the view that if women do participate in politics the world can benefit as a result of their biological trait especially the disadvantaged groups like children the physically challenged

and the elderly since they are the one who nurse such groups at household level. According to the Beijing Platform of Action attributes that without the full cooperation of women in main stream politics at all levels in terms of decision making development and peace cannot be attained. It is a pre-requisite of democracy to be a representative of the whole stratum of society if it is to be fully accorded. Since democracy upholds that there should be equality in the treatment of all sex to public life, women are still politically marginalized. Democracy cannot exist without full representation of women thus equal representation of women in decision making positions. Women's political representation is not just a mere redress to the social injustice but a long term benefit in fostering long term social developmental policies this is attributed by Kwinjeh (2010) cited in Thulani. Women just like man have got needs so there is need for them to be fully represented by their fellows in the political arena. Women most therefore play the leading role just as their male counterparts.

Also the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women strives for the agenda of empowering women with equal rights as their male counterparts in all walks of life.

The preamble also articulates that women should be accorded equal opportunities and treated on equal footing as their male counterparts. It also states that women have the same voting rights and that there had the right to hold public offices. Women just like men had the right of free choice of association to a group that furthers their interests in society. However are challenges in affirming too many of the statutes of the convention. Especially the Muslim religion does not support women political representation as they claim that women domain is the kitchen. In Zimbabwe there are some religious sects such as Jehovah Witness Kingdom church and vapositori which does not permit women to vote. This has negatively affected women representation in politics.

On the other hand the new constitution of Zimbabwe clearly supports women participation in politics. Thus women representation must be fully complied which reads that

- Chapter 2.7 of the constitution state that the government must ensure full women participation in all spheres of society on the basis of equal with men
- Chapter 4.6.2 also state that women must have equal treatment with men including opportunities in politics...

Through this women are empowered to participate in the field of politics thus they have to participate

2.5 Measures which promotes favourable conditions for women representation

2.5.1 The Quota System

In order to redress an entrenched history of gender imbalances in terms of women political representation in the legislative house, the statesmen of the world adopted an affirmative action called the quota in a bid to reach gender parity. According to the Election Resource Centre (2013) a gender quota is where a certain portion of seats in parliament or candidatures are reserved for women in order to increase their representation or to increase their chances of being elected. Quotas are designed to curb against discrimination so as to secure women's positions of power, to enable them to have the much required critical mass so as to be able to formulate policies and make decisions. In affirmation to the quota system the government of Zimbabwe enshrined these principles in Chapter 2 section 17 of subsection (a) and (b) which reads respectively

- The state must promote full participation of women in all spheres of Zimbabwe society on the basis of equality with men;

- The state must take all measures, including legislative measures needed to ensure that-

(i) both genders are equally represented in all institutions and agencies of government at every level; and

(ii) women constitute at least half the membership of all Commissions and other elective and appointed governmental bodies established by or under this Constitution or any Act of Parliament.

Basically they are three main types of gender quotas which include political party quotas, legislative quotas and reserved seats according to the Election Resource Centre Report (2013)

Party quotas – refers to specific measures or policy that a party adopts in order to increase the number or percentage of women so as to proportionally represent female candidates from the ward, district, provincial to the national level.

Legislative quotas – this is national policy instrument which is enshrined in a country’s constitution adhering that all political parties to nominate a certain percentage or proportion of women candidates to them.

Reserved quotas - it’s a policy which set aside a number of seats in parliament specifically for women.

2.5.2 The SADC Gender Protocol on Gender and Development

This calls for all member states to ensure that there is parity in decision making positions between males and females by year 2015. So Zimbabwe as a signatory is mandated to implement about 30% of female representation in parliament by 2005 and by 50% in 2015 as stipulated by SADC Gender Protocol article 5 this according to ZESN (2009). According to Mhlanga (2014) Zimbabwe is ranked on position thirty in terms of women political representation in the National Assembly. However the government has failed to affirm to its commitments as a result of the hostile pieces of legislation like the electoral system which does not encourage more women representation in the legislative assembly.

2.6 Theoretical Framework

There are various theories which have been propounded to explain the reasons and factors why women do tend to like and dislike politics or chose not to be involved in the whole political processes such as elections. At the same time it has to be taken into cognizance that there are measures being put in place to encourage women participation /involvement in politics. The theories do insight why women should be actively in politics. The theories include civic voluntarism model, patriarchy theory, economic modernity, cultural modernity, historical legacies and the institutional design perspective theory.

2.6.1 Economic Modernity

Focuses on economic development thus it considers an increase which supports democratic values of equal participation and human choice as a direct outcome of economic flexibility as attributed by Lipset (1959) and Rostow (1960) et al. In relation to gender equality this theory holds that economic development is essential in increasing the pool of women eligible for

positions of social power so if women are to access positions of power they have to first acquire the political muscle. Women have to possess relevant skills and knowledge for economic development. Education is very instrumental in giving one choices in looking for occupational resources. According to this theory economic development comes first by having education which then increases women chances of professional development, creating a larger pool of women eligible for power positions such as political office. These scholars establish that increased economic development associates with a more broad based distribution of educational and occupational resources. There is a link between economics and politics. Economic power determines one's ability to compete in an election or clamour for position of power. The economic principles of politics expect one to have a pool of resources so as to enable to exert an influence or a decision. Women have to be economically empowered if there are to clamour for positions of power.

So there is needed to equip women with economic tools thus education and jobs of high positions to enable them finance their clamour for political positions since there will be earning high giving them a political leverage. Since a lot of women do find it difficult to get financial assistance when garnering for such positions they tend to be outweighed by their male counterparts. Politically women must have the economic power in order to survive or contest. As a result many women in Zimbabwe do tend to disenfranchise them from the political arena as they lack the economic stamina hence explaining the gender gap in parliamentary seats and ward councillors as highlighted in Gweru urban constituency. Research has shown that most women though possessing the political will and support they tend to be outnumbered by their male opponents during primary elections due to lack of resources to mobilize supporters and the whole election campaign process.

2.6.2 Historical Legacies theory

History has got a bearing on determining one's attitude or perception towards something. In this case politics has been viewed by most women as not their trade. It is within this purview that the historical legacy of a state can negatively affect on the levels of women political representation regardless of the positives that modernization can bring to women political and social status. History tends to influence the manner in which the political institutions are to be administered thereby these legacies affects society's abilities to improve women lives since they deny women access to political or public life thus according to Krasner (1984). It has

also been discovered that the emergence of institutions, whether cultural or the result of policy changes can sometimes pave and breeds types of social organization that have a continuing and somewhat determinant influence on the subject epitomized by relevant to those institutions far into the future as attributed by Peters (1999). As a result women are excluded in the political arena through long standing historical traditions such as religion, long tradition of female suffrage. Basically the historical legacies have a negative impact in secluding women in the political processes. For example some of the problems bedeviling gender imbalances in political representation are an appendage of the colonial legal system. The pieces of legislation that the settler regime used impeded on the participation of women in politics. Women were disfranchised by these pieces of legislation. They were not allowed to vote view as second class citizens. This has created a retrogressive benchmark towards women emancipation in clamouring for positions of political power. Women in Gweru urban constituency have also faced difficulties in relation to historical legacies. As a result most women view politics as the game of man only.

2.6.3 Patriarchy theory

This theory was propounded by Millet (1969) explains how a society functions in terms of who makes decisions. Basically it explains the historical dominance of men in all spheres of life. It stems from the biblical quotation of the creation of human beings that males were first to be created and a female was created as a helper to the male. As a result men have dominated all avenues or access to institutions of power. As attributed by Alidade (2012:461) the role that women are to play in society is socially constructed as a result society has been dominated with patriarch. All the political positions of highest regard thus in terms of decision making be it in the army ,policy ,universities ,finance and like any other political office is in the hands of man . Patriarch denotes that women have to be submissive to their husbands. The role that women are to play in society is strictly limited to that of private life which includes nursing of children and cultivating the fields. In patriarchal setup women are not permitted to taste public life. There are only to play the submissive role that all they require will be provided by their husbands.

It is of this glass ceiling that most of the women do not want to participate in politics or want to contest for political positions. Since they are expected to carter for the well being of the

family albeit this if there are accorded a chance to participate in politics they will be limited. Time will become a limiting factor to them; they are some political meetings which can be held at night which their husbands will not permit them to attend. This then becomes a barrier to laid strategies to enable them contest against a male candidate who has got no limitations. As a result of this most women do opt out of political positions and tend to be passive supports and voter rather being part and parcel of the political institutions. This social construction has got a negative bearing on women representation in politics.

This is a clear indication that women have been marginalized by their male counterparts regardless of the fact that they constitute about 52% of the world population.

2.6.4 Institutional Design Perspective

Unlike other theories that do centre on economic resources, culture and the historical legacy in trying to explain the reasons or causal factors that militates against women political representation the institutional design theory is of different approach. The institutional design perspective centres on political institutions and systems as the causal factors. It explains the role being played by these institutions in waging the gender disparities in political representation between men and women. Women do find it difficult to enter into the political institutions if these are hostile to them. For example the electoral system of a state has got a determinant effect on the number of women to participate in politics. Also democratic institutions are likely to attract more women to representation in the legislative house .The countries laws have got a central influence in deciding the variation in institutional characteristics and that it do encourage mass support for women's emancipation. The political system if it is to attract a pool of women in the political institutions it has to be determined by the level of democracy that the state is in, the type of the electoral system and the gender electoral quota system.

In a broader perspective it emphasizes on the fundamental goal of democratic institutions in eliminating all forms of discrimination against equal participation of women in the political institutions. Issues of unequal treatment of women are against the background of democratic values this is according to McDonagh (2002). Whilst Welzels (2002) preserves and socialize free and equal citizenship, democratic institutions supply women with more rights and more channels for making their voices heard. It also depicts the effects of institutional differences within democracies on women's political representation.

2.7 Summary

This is a body of related literature pertaining to the causal factors that militates against women from actively involvement in politics, and why women should be involved in politics. It further went on to discuss measure that is being done urge women to participate in politics. Appendages of theories have been put across to try and elude challenges, factors and what has to be done to redress these imbalances. Graphs were used for simplicity to clarify. Party has been also been identified as the factor which promote or deter women political representation. The electoral system has got also a bearing as it determines the number of women who are to participate in the political institutions and processes. Women are still politically marginalized despite the fact that Zimbabwe is a signatory to one of the many various declarations, conventions and protocols on gender. The government has failed to fully commit itself and has failed to meet the SADC deadline of ensuring 50% of women representation in the Legislative assembly.

There is need to encourage women participation in promoting policies that are favourable to them. Party structures must also adopt policies or legal instruments that adhere to the principles of equal participation between male and females in the political institutions. Zimbabwe has got a role to play in ensuring that gender disparities in political representation between male and females are addressed.

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter focuses on the methods that were used by the researcher to gather information relating to the gender imbalances in political representation in the Gweru Urban constituency. Both qualitative and quantitative research methods of data collection were used to explore and analyze the various causes and factors that have attributed to gender imbalances in political representation were appropriate. This chapter will also describe the research instruments used to collect data primarily the qualitative research methods which include the questionnaires and interviews. Gathered information will be presented in the form of pie charts and bar graphs. Therefore research methodology refers to the instruments and techniques used to obtain data both primary and secondary. As this data will be used analyze in the presentation of data for the next chapter. According to O'Leary (2004:85) research methodology refers to the framework associated with a particular set of paradigmatic.

3.2 Research design

According to Churchill (1987) research design is the tool of networking the collection of data that is used as a guide in collecting and analyzing data. Basically research design identifies and deals with the methods of data collection, the instruments to be used, how the research instruments will be used and the way in which the gathered data is to be organized, presented and analyzed. Methods of data collection in this research include questionnaires and interviews. Therefore the role of a research design is to make certain that the evidence obtained helps us to respond to the original question as clearly as possible.

3.2.1 Qualitative

This method of research is so particular in describing the phenomena and in analysing of the research findings. The qualitative method of research is much more concerned with soft data presentation in a descriptive manner through the use of sentences or symbols thus according to Neuman (2000:151). Furthermore Neuman attributes that this method of research focuses on the quality of the texture of the data collected rather than the magnitude. This is one of the mostly used methods as it encompasses questionnaires and interviews to try explain the causes of gender imbalances in politics, also to explain why women should participate in politics, the challenges that women face in the political arena and what the government and

other actors are doing to curb these injustices. This type of research needs the researcher to be on ground thus the natural setting meaning to say that the researcher has to be in direct contact with the site thus going there in person as attributed by to Creswell (2003:133). As a result the researcher had to conduct in person the questionnaires and interviews in Gweru urban constituency. Qualitative research method differ with quantitative in the manner in which there are used to gather data .What matters is that there are all methods of collecting data so they complement each other.

3.2.2 Quantitative

This research method is concerned with the presentation of hard data in a numerical model. According to Aliaga and Gunderson (2000) quantitative research is the analysing of the research findings aggregated in numerical terms using mathematical modes of calculation. It quantifies data into proportional samples which reflects the whole data.

3.3 Target population

Target population refers to a particular set of units to which research findings are to be aimed at in relation to specific criteria chosen by the researcher to help find the answers. According to Cox (2013) attributes that target population explore the outcomes of the units that the research is to generalize. The target population of this study will be councillors, residents and lobby groups in Gweru urban constituency. The constituency has got 18 wards with a population of 48 959, women being 25 256 while men are 23 703.

3.3.1 Population sampling

This refers to how the researcher is to select a set or units out of the whole population using a sampling method that gives results which represents the population as a whole. It is not concerned with entire population but concerned the cross sectional part of the population. A sample is the subset of the population representing microcosm of the population, while population is the entire group or a whole that share similar characteristics.

3.3.2 Sampling technique

Both purposive and random sampling techniques were used by the researcher to come up with the best results to represent the entire population as a whole. Purposive sampling is more inclined to the researcher's own choice ranging from a variety of criteria in choosing a

sample. Particularly for this research the sample population was chosen on the knowledge of the people based on their understanding of gender imbalances in political representation. The qualities applied included the age of majority and the residents of Gweru urban constituency only. These samples were randomly selected to represent the whole population believing that those been selected will generally represent others who were not selected. These samples become a representative of the whole population. The research self administered about 84 questionnaires to include the residence and the lobby groups. The sample technique and size of the population is illustrated below

Table 2

Target	Sample size	Data collection technique	Sampling technique
Permanent residence(male and female)	80	Self administered questionnaires	Random sampling
Lobby groups	4	Self administered questionnaires	Purposive sampling
Councillors	7	In-depth interviews	Purposive sampling

Source: primary source

3.4 Data Collection

Data collection is the process of gathering information from different sources whether from secondary or primary sources. According to Kumar (2011:138) he defines primary data as original data thus firsthand approach. While secondary data is the data that was obtained for use in the study by the researcher but was not originally intended for the research and is being used as a complimentary source. Secondary sources of information were used to fill the knowledge gap of the literature under investigation. Textbooks, government's gazettes, newspapers and reports were encompassed in the quest for the data relevant to the field of study. Primary sources were used to gather information relevant to the field of study. A questionnaire method was implemented to source data from residents, councillors and members of parliament. Data was also collected in form of interviews in the Gweru urban

constituency. The researcher had to seek permission from the University through the use of the introductory letter in order to conduct the research in the Gweru urban constituency.

3.4.1 Self administered Questionnaires

This is a tool that is used for collecting data by asking questions in a sequential manner relating to a specific area of concern. It is chronologically arranged with questions providing specific reference to clear instructions and the space to fill in the answers or administrative details. The researcher used face to face questionnaires. According to Turney and Robb (1971: p.130) they define a questionnaire as an instrument that consists of a series of questions or statements to which individuals are asked to respond. In addition to the definition Carman (2004:8) attributes that a questionnaire is data collection tool which is in written form, in which questions are written down presented and answered by the respondents. Kumar (2011:12) stresses that in a questionnaire respondents read the question and interpret it and write down the answer. The questionnaire age group target was of 18 years of age both male and female residents in Gweru Urban Constituency. This was done in a bid to gather information prior to the causes of gender imbalances in political representation, the challenges that women face in the political arena and why should women should participate in politics and their views on what has to be done to address these challenges. So information was collected from the residents and councillors. The researcher administered 84 questionnaires to the permanent residents of Gweru include both male and female residence and four lobby groups.

3.4.2 Advantages

The questionnaire was used because

- It is cheap and easy to conduct as it can target a large number of people since they can be distributed by hand at relatively low cost.
- The respondents are free to answer questions in any order since there is no format of answering.
- It gives room to independent thinking as respondents are given enough time to digest about the subject at hand before responding.
- Questionnaires can also allow respondents to consult colleagues, significant others on the subject at hand unless instructed otherwise.

- Can also save time since it can be given to many people simultaneously.

3.4.3 Disadvantages of questionnaires

However a questionnaire has some disadvantages as noted by Turney and Robb (1971) like another evaluation method occur after event so participants may forget important issues

- Response rate and refusal may be high since at times the respondents may decide to respond the questions asked.
- Respondents may answer specifically, especially if the questionnaires take long to complete. The researcher had to make the sentences short and precise.

3.4.4 In-depth Interviews

According to Taylor and Bogdan as cited in Kumar (2011:161) defined interviews as a face to face encounter discussions whereby the researcher ask questions aimed to generate answers relating to the views, opinions and belief relating to the subject matter in their own thinking. The main task in interviewing is to understand the meaning of what the interviews say as attributed by Kvale (1996). Since it is a qualitative research interviews seeks to cover both a factual and a meaning level, though it is usually more difficult to interview on a meaning level thus according to Kvale (1996). Interviews are as imperative as it explore different angles in articulation of the manner based on the participant's experiences. The interviewer can peruse in-depth information around the topic .Interviews may be useful as follow-up to certain respondents to questionnaires for example to further investigate their responses attributed by McNamara (1999). The interviewer is free to choose from the possible list of questions to ask the interviewee. This then gives a chance to the interviewer to obtain all relevant information since the conversation is focused on the interviewer's research objectives and explanation. Interviews were only conducted to four councillors.

3.4.5 Advantages of interviews

- There is high response rate since they are conducted face to face.
- Data collection is immediate.
- According to Walliman (2011:162) attributes that the visual signs such nods, smiles among others they are valuable tools in promoting complete response.

The body language is imperative as it permits the researcher to have a visual imagery or a clear picture to each response.

- Interviews also allow the researcher to control the line of questioning during the session. Yin (1994: 87) argues that interviews are flexible, as questions and topics can be added or omitted during the interview.

3.4.6 Disadvantages

Like any other research instrument it has its own disadvantages

- It is an expensive method since it requires time to schedule for appointments and the desired respondent may be unavailable or busy which requires time to reschedule.
- It is also subjective the researcher may influence the interviewee in responding to suit his /her questions thereby biasing the results.
- Bryman (2001) notes another disadvantage of a synchronous communication of place is that the interviewer has no view on the situation in which the situation the interviewer is situated.

3.5 Summary

The chapter has explained the methods that were used by the researcher to gather information. Both quantitative and qualitative research methods were used to collect data relating to gender imbalances in political representation. Both primary and secondary sources were used. These are the methods of data collection. Questionnaires and interviews were used as research instruments to collect data. The data was collected specifically from a target population which was randomly and purposively selected. The target population comprised of the residents of Gweru thus the local and only those that could vote, councillors and lobby groups were also part of the target population. So the next chapter will present and analyze the findings as the results of the research methodology above.

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter consists of the entire research findings. Data collected during research will now be analyzed and presented. Presentation of the research findings through the questionnaires and interviews will make use of tables or graphs where ever possible. The research findings that were carried out in Gweru urban constituency in a bid to find out the causes or factors that affect women in political representation, their understanding of gender imbalances in political representation and why should women be politically represented, also their understanding of policies, legal instruments that promote their understanding of being politically represented. Basically these research findings are typically of the views of the residents, lobby groups and councillors relating their understanding about gender imbalances in political representation, the causes, challenges that women face in politics, why women should be involved in politics and what they think should be done.

4.1.1 Questionnaire Response Rate

Response rate for residents, lobby groups and councillors

Table 3

Target Group	Questionnaires administered	Total Response	Response percentage %
Residents	80(50 women and 30 men)	45 women and 20 men	81
Lobby groups	4	3	75
Total	84	68	81

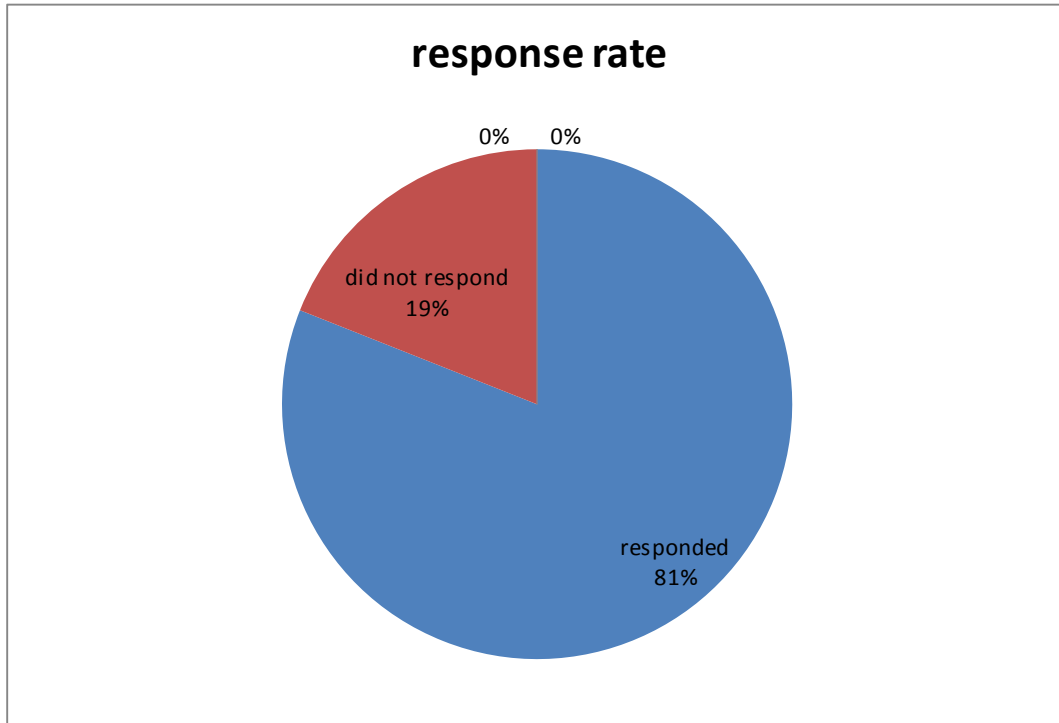
Source: primary data

As indicated in the table during the survey conducted by the researcher in the administration of the questionnaires to residents and lobby groups in Gweru urban constituency who were randomly handed the questionnaires. Out of the 80 questionnaires only 65 were successfully completed giving a response of 81%.Of the lobby groups out of 4, 3 were completed

successfully giving 75% response. This helped the researcher to have a clear cut view of the issue pertaining as the response rate is reflective of the majority.

This is illustrated using a pie chart below

Figure 2



Source: primary data

4.1.2 Interview Response rate for Councillors

Table 4

Target group	Interview target	Initial interviewed	Response percentage
Councillors	7	4	57%
Total	7	4	57%

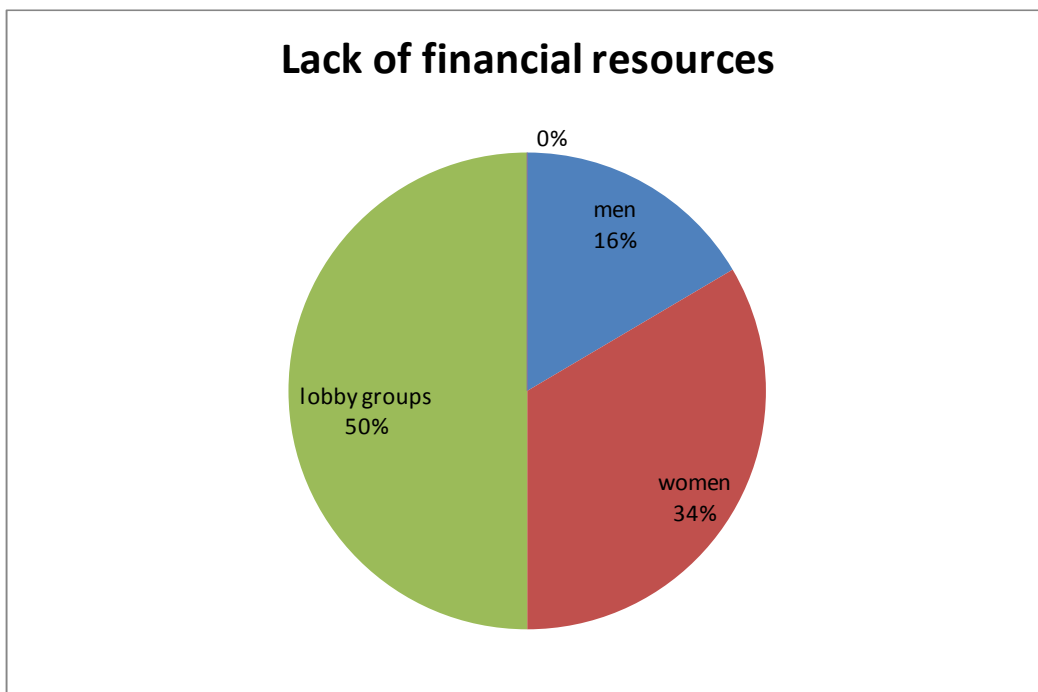
Source: primary data

From the table above it indicates that of the seven councillors who were supposed to be interviewed only four were available and the rest were pre-occupied with council business.

4.2 Gender imbalance in political representation (question 1)

Data was gathered on residents pertaining their understanding about gender imbalances in political representation. This was the starting point of the researcher. The respondents were also asked to respond if there was gender imbalance in political representation between men and women. The pie chart below shows the results obtained from the questionnaire if there was gender imbalance in politics.

Figure 3



Source: primary data

It is evident by the percentage of figures shown that all of the lobby groups do understand what is gender imbalance in political representation and they do agree that there is gender imbalance in the political arena. They attribute that there is low level of women participation in politics both in the lower and upper house assembly. Residents were categorized into two thus men and women. The data obtained shows that 84% of women do agree that there is gender imbalance and 75% of their male counterparts do agree that there is gender imbalance.

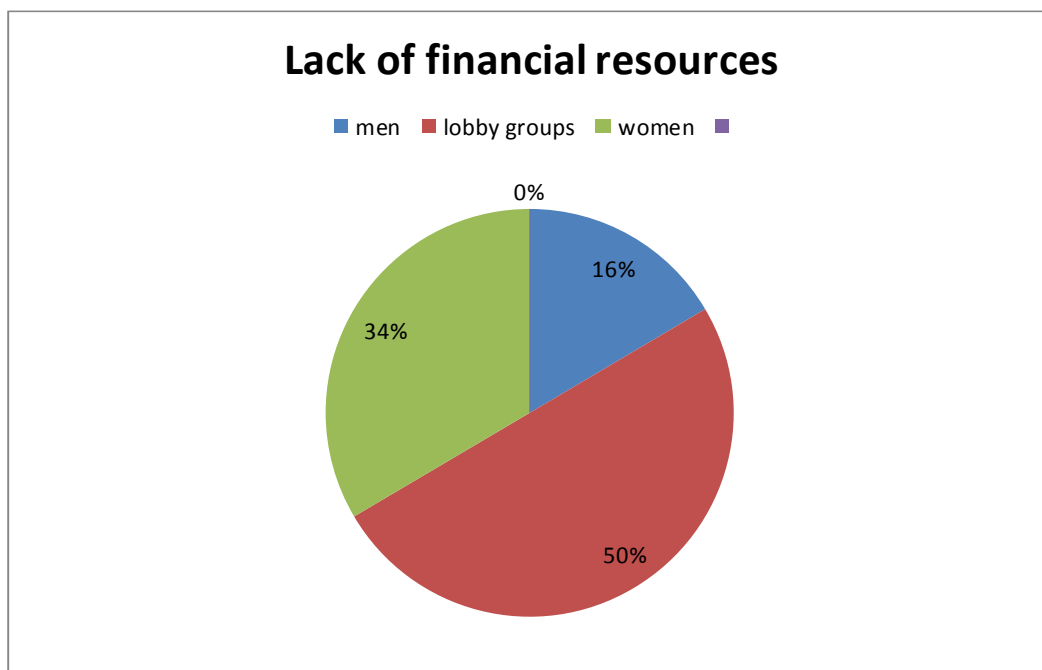
They all did attribute that women were politically marginalized despite the fact that they top population of Gweru. The findings indicate that women were not accorded same opportunities as their male counterparts. In Gweru urban constituency of the eighteen wards only two were won by female candidate thus Mbano Nokhutula ward 3 and Cathrine Mhondiwa for ward 13. This does not tally with the population distribution of Gweru which is 48 959 with women being more than man numbering 25 256 while men are 23 703. This shows that women are politically marginalized in the political institutions thus the legislative and provincial council's assembly. Regardless the fact that women do constitute a large percentage of the population it is of cognisance that most of them do lack the political will despite that the constitution is giving them equal opportunities. Women do view politics as the game of men only so they do ignore political opportunities that may arise. Rather they do take positions of little or no significance thus the cheering role not the leading role. Women have been politically marginalised with their male counterparts. The social construction which has defined the roles of men and women in society has impacted on women appreciating the social benchmark.

4.3 The causes or factors that militate against women representation in politics (question 5&6)

The data findings proved that lack of financial support has been one of the causal factors affecting women involvement or representation in the political arena. The answers obtained from the lobby groups indicates that all of them(100%) shows that women were entangled in a financial limbo. 67% of women also agreed that because of their low levels of income they were not able to participate in politics .Only 33% of men agreed that women's lack of financial support militated them to participate in politics. The pie chart below shows how lack of financial support can hinder or affect women participation in politics thereby causing gender imbalance in political representation. There is nexus between politics and economics because it is the economic stamina that determines one's capability to enter into politics. Money gives one power to influence since the whole political process needs a lot of financing and without money it is difficult to gain political mileage. As a result most women have no financial autonomy rather depend on their husbands for financial resources. Even though they may have businesses as long there are married there is still control by their husbands.

Patriarchy takes over to influence the role of women in society. Empowering women economically is the key or a get way to political efficacy. In order for women to compete in the political domain as equally as their male counterparts they have to be economically uplifted. Money controls, influence, directs and dominate everything. Financial constraints can limit one's ability despite the charismatic trait that he or she may possess. Women should have money if there are to compete for positions of power because the political dispensation needs a lot of financing. So the reliance of women on men has deterred their chances of political penetration hence there remain submissive to the patriarchal political domain.

Figure 4



Source: primary data

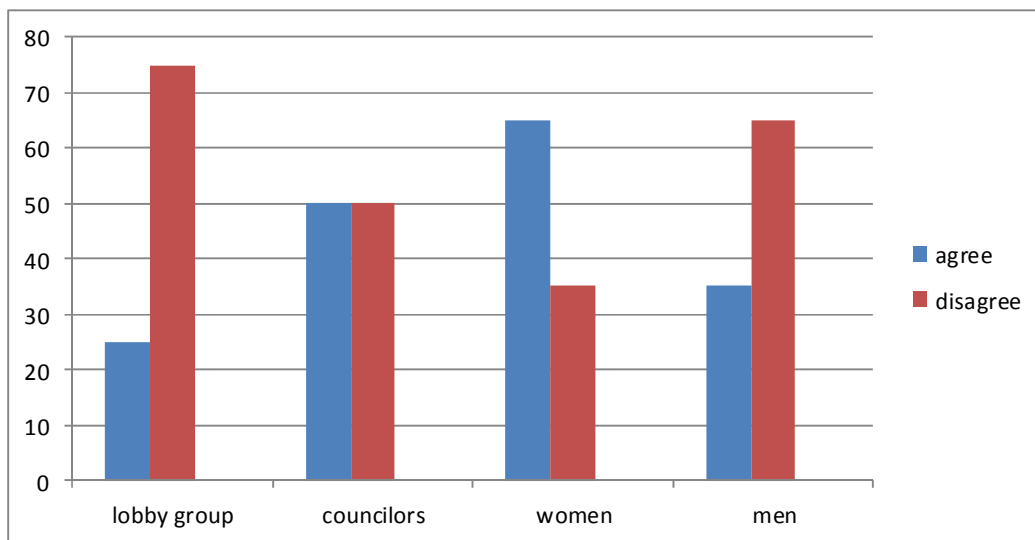
The statics indicated above clearly depicts that lack of financial support do negatively impact on the participation of women in politics. This is because the political processes like elections, do need a lot of funding so as to mobilize voters, printing of posters and t-shirts and campaigning. This is in relation with the economic modernity theory which attributes the link between politics and economic resources like finance which give one the economic stamina to push for political positions. Many women in Gweru urban constituency have failed to access political positions because of their low levels of income. This has been attributed also

to the lack of political parties to effectively fund women candidates which then negatively impedes on their participation in the political processes and systems as a whole.

4.3.2 Political violence

The research findings from the respondents in Gweru urban constituency reflects that political violence is another contributing causal factor hindering women to actively participate in politics. Political violence has been attributed as one of the most causal barrier militating women involvement in politics which has made most women to label it a dirty game. According to the ZESN report of 2011 women political representation tend is influenced by the peacefulness of the political environment. Most women do tend to perceive politics as a game of men which needs those with the physical muscle. Since women are peace loving and delicate they do find it hard to penetrate through. From the research findings 65% of women do agree with the notion above, while 35 % do not agree, 50% of the councillors agree while the other half do disagree and 25% of the lobby groups do agree while the other 75% do agree with the notion. 35% of men do agree while 65% disagreed. This is illustrated in the graph below

Figure 5



Source: primary data

It is prudent from the above bar graph that low levels of women participation in the political arena has been negatively affected by violence which has characterized the elections. As a result women have distanced themselves from all levels of political participation. Regarding how the 2008 elections were marred with high cases of political violence. Out of the 12 contested ward councillors only two women managed to break through. The political environment is hostile for women to take part in politics because the political process is marred with cases of politically motivated violence. Women unlike men are peace lovers it then becomes difficult for them to enter into politics because of violence. Political violence do emanate from the nomination process of party structures, nomination of candidates for parliamentary, ward, senatorial and presidential elections. This is despite the party's zero tolerance to all forms and acts of violence. The political arena is more of a jungle in order for one to survive he or she has to deploy measures necessary to survive. Women are then disadvantaged in the process. Issues of factional politics are prominent as a result intimidation and thuggery is the order of politics. This does not mean that only men are violent. Some women too are violence meaning that there can still compete with their male counterparts. However their numbers will tally with that of men.

4.3.3 Patriarchy and Cultural attitudes

The research findings obtained from the field in relation to patriarchy and culture reflect that it has no much bearing in hindering women to effectively participate in politics and be accorded political positions of more significance. It has set some benchmarks in other family set-ups as it has hindered some women to actively participate in politics since other cultures like women of the Muslim faith are not allowed to vote or clamour for any position of power. A large percentage of the results from the respondents disagree that women are being limited to exercise their political rights fully due to patriarchal and cultural set-up. 75% of the residents (both men and women) disagreed, while on the other hand lobby groups do strongly disagree that women were suppressed to express their political opinions and associations by their male counterparts.

Response rate on Patriarchy and Cultural attitudes

Table 5

Group	% Agreed	% Disagreed
Residents (both men and women)	25	75
Lobby groups	40	60

Source: primary data

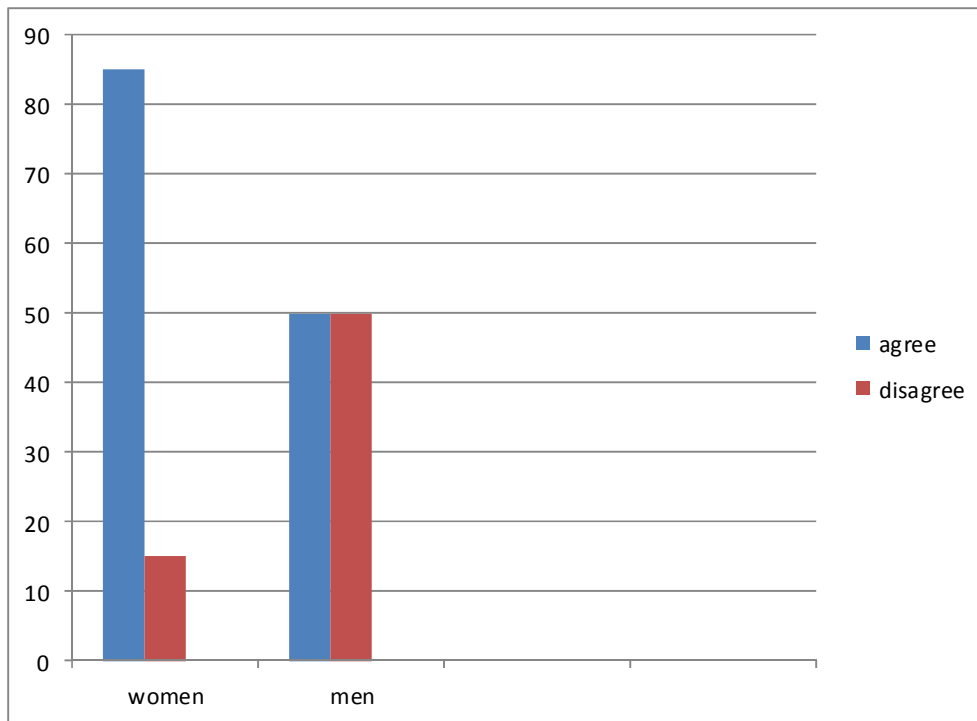
This clearly depicts that cultural and patriarchal attitudes are fading out as a result of modernization and improved technology which is awakening women from the idiocy of ignorance that patriarchy and culture limited women's political sphere. However, there are certain sects of the community which have limited women's political manoeuvre such as religion. Religion has taught women to be submissive to their husbands and denied women some public freedom. The rise of women groups lobbying for women political rights has raised awareness on their visibility in politics. The fact that patriarchy and cultural attitudes have a bearing on women's participation in politics cannot be discarded totally. The social construction despite it being fading due to modernisation it is the identity of a people or a nation. People are obliged to uphold their tradition. Culture and patriarchy is more like tradition. Disregarding tradition is likely to pose more serious threats to the existent identity brand. More or less women are obliged to uphold their tradition. The historical legacies theory depicted the notion of history on hindering women political representation.

4.4 Reasons for women political representation (question 7)

The results obtained about 85 % of women do strongly support that women should participate in politics because by virtue of them being human being it is their immediate right to exercise their political rights and freedoms. Others were of the view that since women were peace lovers, and delicate there would then use their diplomatic stance to avert some of the wars in the world through peaceful resolutions. Some articulated that since women constitute the largest percentage of the world population there are the ones that should be leading the world not men. However, 50% men disagreed with those women should reach parity in political representation as to their male counterparts but rather should be content with their private

life. They cited that it was because of Eve’s mind that tricked Adam to sin, so in their view attributes that women are more dangerous than man. There are disobedient which do leads to disaster. At the same time real democracy cannot exist without women representation. Democracy condones equal participation and equal opportunities to all sexes. Women have to be given equal access just like men. The legislation has to be gender sensitivity and be upheld if women are to be equally politically represented. This is illustrated in the bar graph below

Figure 6



Source: primary data

This clearly reflects that women should be on the forefront of mainstream politics if the world is to be made a better place. The wars that are being fought could end if women were statesmen of the world or diplomats because of their delicate trait. However from the writings of Thomas Hobbes we are all human and by nature selfish and egocentric which then results to a clash of interests leading to wars. There is need to strike a balance in terms political representation between men and women since they are lowly represented.

4.5 Government policy or legal instruments that encourage women political representation (Question 8&10)

The results obtained shows that a lot of women were not very much aware of the policies and legal instruments enshrined in the country's constitution. Findings shows that some of them had little understanding of their meaning but only knew that there were there. 60% of women are not aware only 40% are aware of these policies and legal instruments to include the Beijing declaration, quota system and the SADC protocol on Gender. According to Simbine (2009) the issue of quota system had only been encouraged at national level in African states rather than at local level. This is illustrated in the table below

Table 6

Stratum	Aware %	Not Aware %
Women	40	60
Total	40	60

Source: primary data

This clearly shows that the government thus the policy makers and legislators and through the use of the state media has not done much in educating women about what the law and other policies do really say in their participation in politics. Also various civic groups on women in politics like Women in Politics and WOZA has lagged far behind in running awareness campaign to encourage women participation in politics. However some can be attributed to the ignorance of women towards politics since many of them do perceive it as a game of men as highlighted on the factors that militates against their participation in politics. Considering the fact that a lot of information has been disseminated through the social mediums likes radio and tv , the press as well.

4.6 Response from interviews

Only four councillors were interviewed others were busy with council business.

4.6.1 Gender balance in the 2013 harmonized elections (question 1)

All the councillors asked refuted that there was gender balance in the 2013 harmonized elections. Considering that out of the fifteen ward councillors in Gweru urban constituency only two female candidates managed to penetrate the male dominated political bench of councillors. Findings indicate that women had to find it difficult to penetrate through because of their biological traits. All the two female councillors are from the opposition party MDC-T. The respondents all attributed that there had to partake in these ward councillors because these wards were specifically reserved for female candidates and that's how they got the chance to become councillors. The research findings from these interviews reflect that women were not accorded equally as their male counterparts. Participants attributed that even if there were to contest male candidates in the primary elections it was to run them down considering the experience that their male counterparts have over them.

4.6.2 Challenges faced during the campaign time (question 3)

Respondents attributed that they did face a lot of challenges in the political arena. The first challenge was that of financial support though they got some from the political party it was not sufficient to meet other campaign activities, as a result had to rely much on their personal pockets. The respondents all stressed that it was not easy to get financial support from their husbands. This depicts the economic modernity theory that without the economic base it is difficult to have power since it is the economic stamina that determines one's political will.

Political violence was also stressed as another challenge affecting women political efficacy. Factional politics has hindered women because of their very nature of delicacy there are not able to compete with men. Women are peace builders.

Another challenge emphasized by these respondents was of time. Considering the socio-cultural setup which expects a woman to be there in the house nursing the children and catering for the family as a result there had not much time to campaign and attend night meetings. The patriarchal society remains a barrier to all women even if there are to enter into politics so time is a limiting factor to this social setup.

4.6.3 To improve women political representation (question 4)

The participants stressed on the compliance of the quota system though the government is one of the signatory it lagged far beyond its commitment and that there was need for strict measures particularly the law makers of the land to ensure that women were to be fully accorded their quotas in parliament. Also alluded that the issues of reserving seats and positions for female candidates in all the three arms of the government thus the executive, the legislature and the judiciary had to be followed and that the number of seats and positions were supposed to increase. Considering the fact that women were more than men hence the need to compliment that. According to the UNDP Report (2010) women do constitute about 52% of the world population but are still outnumbered.

The respondents also acknowledged the role being played by women lobby groups in politics such as WOZA and Women in Politics by encouraging women to be actively involved in politics hence the need to support such groups.

4.7 Summary

The chapter focused on data presentations and analysis of the research findings through interviews and questionnaires. Information obtained relating to their views regarding the issue of gender imbalances in political representation in Zimbabwe thus the causes ,effects ,why women should be in politics and if the policies and the legal framework is conducive to women participation in politics. The research was conducted in Gweru urban constituency targeting the residents, lobby groups and councillors.

CHAPTER 5: SUMMAARY, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

5.1 Introduction

This chapter focuses on the entire research findings summary, filling the knowledge gap on what has to be done and the conclusion remarks regarding the issue of gender imbalances in political representation. The chapter will insight the community of Gweru urban constituency to encourage political involvement regardless of their sexual biology. This research will also help the government at large in policy recommendations.

5.2 Summary

The research hinged on gender imbalances in political representation in Zimbabwe. The issue of gender imbalances dates back since time immemorial buttressed by socio-cultural and politico-economic causal factors which have militated against women political representation. Women are politically marginalised despite that they constitute about 52% of the world population (UNDP 2010). Women have failed to permeate through the glass ceiling which has led them being outnumbered by their male counterparts in local and national politics. Even if there are to participate in politics they play a cheering role thus the role that they partake is of little or of no significance at all. The research also had to examine the various conventions, protocols and declarations such as the SADC Protocol on Gender article 5 and the Beijing Declaration Plan for Action which is meant to empower women's political representation. The issue of gender equity in political representation is actually enshrouded in constitution reserving seats for women. However this does not tally to the total 50% of women representation in parliament as articulated by the SADC Protocol on Gender by 2015. Women are still politically marginalized in the national assembly, the senate and in the wards. The research findings indicates that out of the 18 wards in Gweru urban constituency only two female candidates managed to sail through, female senator and a male member of parliament. This is reflective that women are still politically marginalised.

The research was a combination of the research objectives and questions which helped the researcher to find related literature pertaining gender imbalances in political representation. Thus the causal factors militating against women political representation, why they should be involved in politics, the measures or policies that being framed to promote gender equity in political representation relates to the literature obtained in examining the thesis.

Also the information was gathered through the use of questionnaires and interviews through random and purposive sampling. The data gathered is a complimentary sample to the available literature regarding gender imbalances in political representation particularly in Gweru urban constituency. The target group were the residence of Gweru of the majority age thus those who can vote included man and women, lobby groups and councillors.

Conclusion

Women do face challenges to permeate into the male dominated political arena. Lack of financial support has been attributed as one of the factors that militates against women political representation. Women do lack the economic stamina to partake in politics. Most women face financial constrains to finance the whole political process such as campaigns and elections. Since politics and resource based economics is inseparable it then becomes difficult for one to sail through. Most women do depend on their males for financing so it then becomes difficult for them to champion the whole exercise. Even if there are to get funding from the political parties it's not sufficient to carter for the whole political exercise.

Culture has a significant bearing in militating against women's political representation. The cultural benchmark has negatively impacted on the magnitude of women participation in politics. The research findings indicate that culture plays a pivotal role in disempowering women political. The patriarchal attitudes take precedence over the way women are support to act in society. Man dominates and decides on what they are supposed to do. This has resulted in women opting out of politics as they will have no choice but just play the leading role since they have been taught to understand that men are the ones to lead them. These research findings do then compliment the low levels of women representation in the legislative, judiciary, executive, senate and wards.

Women representation in politics is an important pillar of democratic principles and values. Since it fosters for equal participation it then becomes imperative that no real democracy can exist without the inclusion of women in the political institutions. Women's political representation is important because there are human beings and that it's their rights to be politically represented so that their voices can be heard. Since the do constitute about 52% of the country's population they were supposed to be equally represented.

Political violence has been a deterrence factor against women involvement in politics labelling it as only a game of men which needed the physical stamina. Politics has been masked a dirty game. Women by nature are peace lovers and delicate.

From the data gathered it can be eluded that the partial legal system is also playing a role in disempowering women politically. The electoral system is so unfriendly in according women opportunities to be fully represented in the political institutions. It is not been fair in treating women and men equally during nominations and the campaigning period.

However it has also been noted that women are also playing a part in disempowering themselves politically since they do lack the political will. Ignorance and jealous are the other attributes which have been forwarded as deterrence against women's political representation.

5.3 Recommendations

This is the researchers own point of view on what has to be done to redress the gender imbalances in political representation being caused by various factors which have been discussed above.

- There is need to lobby women support groups to foster for their representation in the political institution. These groups would encourage women to be actively involved in politics and support women political endeavours thus the economic side of politics. Also these groups would awake women from their idiocy of ignorance empowering them with more knowledge or education and expertise regarding politics.
- The electoral system has to be amended to increase the proportional representation of women in the senate and the legislative house. The issue of reserved seats for women have to be increase from 60 if women are to be equally represented with men.
- Political parties must all adopt policies in line with the regional guidelines and constitutional provisions relating to gender redress in political representation. The issue of representation of women must stem from the grassroots level if women are to be equitably represented as their male counterparts. Ensuring that key positions of decision making be at local, provincial and national levels are also to be reserved for women.

- There is need for women to speak with one voice. Since there is strength in numbers if women can only unite they will be able to counter these gender disparities in political representation. This is to the fact that women do constitute the larger part of the population, if there are to work together their voice can be heard and can effect changes on the constitution and policy formulation.

5.4 Conclusion

Women are politically marginalized in the political institutions thus the legislative house, senate, wards and the executive. In the context of Gweru urban constituency women were under-represented. There were only two women councillors out of the 18 wards and only one female senator. The causes of the gender imbalances have been attributed to three domains thus socio-cultural factors, economic factors and political factors. There is need to take into cognisance the above recommendations to redress these imbalances in political representation.

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APPENDICES

Appendix I Questionnaires for lobby groups

Date

My name is Knowledge Mafuta. I am a fourth year student at Midlands University studying a BSc Honours degree in Politics and Public Management and am carrying out a research on **The impact of gender imbalances in political representation in Zimbabwe. A case of Gweru urban constituency period 1980-2013.** . Information given will be used for academic purpose only. In order to maintain anonymity and confidentiality please don't write your name. Please answer the questions as fully as you can, write your answer or tick the appropriate box. Your effort will be greatly appreciated.

1. Please indicate your age, gender and the organization?

Female	Male	Age	Please indicate the organisation you work for.....

2 Indicate level of education

O Level	<input type="checkbox"/>	A level	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diploma	<input type="checkbox"/>	Degree	<input type="checkbox"/>
Masters	<input type="checkbox"/>	PHD	<input type="checkbox"/>

3 How long have you been working at this organisation

4. What do you understand about gender imbalances in political representation?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

5. Do you think there is gender imbalance in political representation in Zimbabwe?

YES [] NO []

6. What do you think have been the causes of gender imbalances in political representation?

.....
.....
.....

7. Do you think women should be represented in politics?

YES NO

8 Give reasons for you answer?

.....
.....
.....

9 What do you think can be done to encourage women to participate in politics?

.....
.....
.....

10. Are you aware of any governmental or international policies that encourage women's active involvement in politics?

YES NO

11 Give reason for you answer

.....
.....
.....

12 From your own point of view do you think these policies or piece of legislation has done much to curb for these gender imbalances?

YES NO

13 If YES Give reasons?

.....
.....
.....

14 What do you think can be done to address those challenges in your point of view?

.....

.....

Appendix II :Questionnaire for residents

My name is My name is Knowledge Mafuta. I am a fourth year student at Midlands University studying a BSc Honours degree in Politics and Public Management and am carrying out a research on **The impact of gender imbalances in political representation in Zimbabwe. A case of Gweru urban constituency period 1980-2013.** Information given will be used for academic purpose only. In order to maintain anonymity and confidentiality please don't write your name. Please answer the questions as fully as you can, write your answer or tick the appropriate box. Your effort will be greatly appreciated.

Date

2. Please indicate your age and gender

Female	male	Age

2 Indicate level of education

primary secondary

Diploma Degree

Masters PhD

3. For how long have you been staying in Gweru.....

4 From your on point of view what is there gender imbalance

.....

5 What might be the causes?

.....
.....
.....

6 From your own opinion should women participate in politics?

YES NO

7 Give reasons for your answer

.....
.....
.....

8 Are you aware of any governmental or international policies which encourage women's active involvement in politics?

YES NO

Yes

9 Give reasons to you answer

.....
.....

12 Whom do you think can be best in leaders? Women Men

13 Give reasons for your answer

.....
.....

Appendix III :Interview schedule for current male and female councillors

Good morning/afternoon. My name is Mafuta Knowledge .I am a fourth year student at Midlands State University doing a BSc Honours degree in Politics and Public Management and am carrying out a research on **The impact of gender imbalances in political representation in Zimbabwe. A case of Gweru urban constituency period 1980-201** and you have been selected an interview You are assured that information given will be treated as confidential and is going to be used for academic purpose only. Your effort will be greatly appreciated.

- 1. From your point of view was there gender balance in 2013 elections?**
- 2. What can you say were the major barriers in your participation in politics?**
- 3. Did you face any challenges during election campaign times?**
- 4. Are there any activities women are doing to improve their participation in politics?**
- 5. What do you think needs to be done to improve women participation in politics?**
- 6. What are your words of advice to those women who want to engage into politics and those who are already there?**

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