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FACULTY OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

RESEARCH TOPIC

**THE SUSTAINABILITY OF STREET VENDING AS A LIVELIHOOD STRATEGY OF
WOMEN OPERATING FROM HARARE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT.**

BY

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I, the undersigned do/do not acknowledge that the above student has consulted me for supervision on his /her research project /dissertation until completion. I therefore do/do not advise the student to submit his/her work for assessment.

Signed..... Date.....

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my mum to whom I owe my success and to my entire family for their support and guidance all throughout this journey and also to all the women street vendors who have survived through the harshest circumstances.

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research was to examine the participation of women in street vending and then evaluate its sustainability as a livelihood strategy by women in Harare Central Business District. Livelihood indicators were used in evaluating sustainability and these include, food security, income levels, level and quality of education, ability to acquire assets and the health standards. A sample of 30 women from 5 selected vending sites were selected as respondents. The researcher used structured questioners and interviews in conducting the research. The findings were based on the information captured in the questioners and the interviews which were conducted face to face with the women. Women dominated the number of those in street vending in Harare CBD although man and youths were also in the streets. The participation of women in street vending managed to help women improve the poverty levels in their families. The income in families improved as compare to the period before street vending, but however the incomes were very small and differed with the goods at sell. In education women could now send their children to school but to acquire basic education and also using local schools that had lower fees. Food security in household improved and women and their families could now afford to eat at least 2meals per day. Healthy facilities became accessible, although it was basic and only local clinics. The participation of women in street vending has helped in improving the poverty levels of women but however cannot be sustainable as a livelihood strategy because of the challenges that cripple the vending system and that include, harassment from town officials, cheap and poor quality of good on sell, lack of proper infrastructure, lack of operating licenses discs and low demand and high competition.

ACRONYMES

CBD	Central Business District
ZIMASSET	Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation
ZIMSTAT	Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency
HIV	Human Immune Virus
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
NAVUZ	National Vendors Union of Zimbabwe
ILO	International Labour Organization
ESAP	Economic Structural Adjustment Program

TABLE OF CONTENTS

RESEARCH SUPERVISION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM	i
DEDICATION	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iii
ABSTRACT	iv
ACRONYMES	v
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vi
Introduction	1
Background of the study	2
Conceptual framework	5
Statement of the problem	6
Theoretical framework	6
Objectives	7
Research questions	8
Significance of the study	8
Limitation to the study	9
Research methodology	9
Data gathering instruments	9
Questioners	10
Interviews	10
Sampling	10
Purposive sampling	11
Target population	11
Literature review	11
Ethical considerations	17
Chapter 1	18
Chapter summary	18
The rise of street vending in Zimbabwe	18
Social factors leading women into street vending	21
Economic factors leading women into street vending	24
Political factors leading women into street vending	27
The government and the street vendors in Zimbabwe	29
Goods traded by vendors in Harare CBD	31

Operation areas for Harare CBD street vendors	32
Conclusion	33
Chapter 2.....	34
The sustainability of street vending as livelihood strategy for Harare CBD women.	34
The economic and social status of women before street vending	34
Women’s participation and its effects on livelihoods	37
Health facilities	38
Food security	39
Acquisition of assets	40
House-hold Income	41
Challenges faced by women in street vending in Harare CBD	42
Harassment from town council officials	42
Stiff competition	43
Lack of operating licenses and corrupt council officials	44
Lack of permanent sites.	45
Lack of proper infrastructure.	46
Lack of access to financial services such as credit and savings	46
Limited goods to sell	47
Cheap and low quality goods on offer	48
Conclusion	48
Chapter 3.....	49
Strategies to improve the livelihoods of women	49
Chapter summary	49
Strategies that the state can adopt to improve women’s livelihood	50
Employment creation	50
Designated places that are conducive	50
Policy formulation and implementation	51
Provision of financial services to women	52
Educating female entrepreneurs	52
Policy and legislation review	52
Foreign direct investment	53
Economic diversification	53
Dedication of the budget to SMEs	54
Strategies that women can adopt to improve their livelihoods	54
Women saving schemes and cooperation’s	54
Livelihood diversification	55

Technical courses	55
Conclusion	55
Conclusion.....	57
Reference list	58
APPENDICES	63
Appendix 2	64

Introduction

Street vending has become one of the major activities in the informal sector that women have engaged themselves in developing countries and particularly in Africa. It has however been unclear as to whether or not street vending is there to stay or is one of the survivalist strategies adopted during economic crisis particularly in Zimbabwe. Therefore this research seeks to unearth the importance of street vending in the current economic crisis in Zimbabwe and examine its sustainability as a livelihood strategy adopted by women.

According to Mitullah (2003), street vending in most of the countries where it is practised is often unaccounted for and unrecognized in the national economic statistics. This is because in the past it has been viewed as an underground activity that undermines the health function of the formal sector. Women constitute the greatest number of people participating in street vending as it is now regarded as the fastest growing activity in the informal sector. The informal sector in Zimbabwe has become the largest employer in Zimbabwe employing more than 4 million Zimbabweans Munhande and Makaye (2008) citing Tibaijuka (2005).

Women in Zimbabwe constitute 52% whilst men are 48 % of the total population ZIMSTAT (2013) whereas most of their work goes unaccounted for in the informal sector. Mitullah (2003) notes that the negligence of street vending activities has resulted in the lack of accurate estimates of the number of street traders. In Harare Zimbabwe 9.4% of households are involved in the informal sector activities whilst 5.6 % of the people in Harare are involved in the informal sector activities and according to the data more females 54.6 than males 45.4 % are employed in the informal sector (Financial Express 2013). The informal sector contributes about 19.5% of Zimbabwe Gross Domestic Product or a total value of \$1.78 billion (Financial Express 2013).

Three quarters of urban vendors are women and of every ten stationary vendors seven or more are women according to the (ZCIEA) survey (herzimbabwe2015). It is therefore important to note the participation of women in the informal sector particularly in street vending across Zimbabwe and its contribution to the alleviation of poverty at household level and also taking note at the levels in which women participate in street vending because of their huge populations. Chirisa (2004) notes that women take the lion's share of responsibility for the family and the community and spend three quarters of their time in unpaid work.

This research therefore seeks to examine the extent of women's participation in street vending, their contribution towards household livelihoods and its sustainability as a livelihood strategy by women. Getting an in-depth understanding of the contribution of street vending as a source of income and how it can be considered a sustainable activity. The research will focus on women in Harare Central Business District as it is one of the places with large numbers of women involved in street vending.

Background of the study

Street vending has developed into one of the rising activities in the informal sector in Zimbabwe and this has been credited to the series of economic crisis facing the country since the attainment of independence in 1980. This has forced women into the informal sector and particularly in street vending in search of survival means for the family. According to Njaya (2014) the informal sector coincided with the formal sector since time ancient though at a very small measure up until the early 1990s. It is in the 1990s that street vending largely emanated because of the introduction of the ESAP which caused enormous retrenchments in the formal sector.

The growth of the informal sector can be traced back to the time of ESAP 1990-1995 in which the liberalization of the economy made many workers redundant from both the private

and the public sphere Njaya (2015). Nkululeko (2014) citing Kanyenze (2003) notes that the failure of ESAP to shift the economy onto a superior and sustainable growth path especially its underperformance in terms of employment creation left a legacy of poverty and marginalization. The increase of poverty in the country over the years is what has pushed women into street vending as a survival means.

Women have been impelled to find alternative income sources in the informal sector of the economy, and in finding a solution to the pressure, they often resort to least rewarding activities like street trading in cheap items such as fruits, vegetables amongst others Chirisa (2003). Therefore women participation in street vending is fuelled by the economic hardships that they face coupled with the responsibility that they have of taking care of the family.

According to Nkululeko et al (2014), the informal sector is dominated by women that is 55% females whilst the average range of people who dominate the sector range from 31-40 years of age. This can be noted that these are the economically active people. A study carried in Zimbabwe by Kanyenze et al (2003) indicate that women accounted for 67% of all micro-enterprises in 1991, and constituted 57% of the total informal economy employment Nkululeko et al (2014).

Some scholars suggest that women participation in street vending is as a result of the need to supplement their husbands income, or solely to bring an income in the family in the absence of other sources Mitulah (2003). Zimbabwe economic woes saw more than 50 companies lay off at least 6960 workers in 2014 according to the country's retrenchment board and unemployment rate stood at 80% and was to increase Rusvingo (2015). It is this unemployment of many that has led women into street vending as a means to help the family and supplement the husband's income.

Death particularly that caused by HIV/AIDs has been argued as one of the reasons leading to the involvement of women into street vending. According to Mitullah (2003), the negative impact of HIV/AIDs has had a thrust upon women of the not so famous role of being household heads. Divorced and widowed women carry the double burden of both production and reproductive role in the family Manyanhai (2007). Women therefore engage into street vending as an income source or a livelihood strategy.

Street vending in Harare has become the new activity and has been regarded as a venture that knows no bounds (Herald 2013). However the activity has been met with so much repression by both the government and the city council in Harare. According to Rusvingo (2015) with so much poverty bedeviling Zimbabwe left right and centre what remains to find out is how street vending has become a menace to Harare City Council.

According to Nyavaya (2015), in a bid to contain the lawlessness in Harare CBD the Harare town clerk Tendai Mahachi ordered the vendors operating on undesigned places to evacuate to designated places by April 2015. The National Vendors Union of Zimbabwe denied this move made by the city council claiming that till the government create decent employment vendors had found a new home in Harare CBD. However this move by the city council placed strain on female vendors because of their lack of mobility and also they are unable to afford the rental of the designated places. Women prefer operating in the CBD because of high customer turn up in the area.

According to Rusvingo (2015) citing Matenga (2015), the Harare City Council has finally resolved unanimously to set up a committee to deal with the paralyzing vending issue once and for all. Setting up a committee to deal with the street vendors was done so as to avoid confrontation after the street vendors operating at undesigned places had vowed to resist any forced relocation Rusvingo (2015) citing Matenga (2015).

Conceptual framework

Sustainability can be conceptualized to mean the ability to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising that of the future generations to meet their own needs.

Street vending across the country has become the new source of income by women. This therefore forms the bases of this research of how women participation in street vending can improve their livelihoods.

A street vendor is broadly described as someone who offers goods for sale to the public without having a permanent built up structure from which to sell and the term street vendor include both stationery and mobile vendors Bhowmik (2005). Others scholars substitute the term street vendor with the term hawker or street hawker.

A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets and activities required for a means of living and it is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stress and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future Chambers & Conway (1991).

Livelihood strategies comprise of activities that generate the means of household survival Bhowmik (2005) citing Ellis (2000). Livelihood embodies three fundamental attributes, the possession of human capabilities such as health, education, skills and psychological orientation, access to tangible and intangible assets and the existence of economic activities chambers and Conway (1992). The examination of household livelihoods will be based on the following livelihood indicators

- Income
- Access to and quality of education
- Health standards
- Food security
- Acquisition of assets

- Accommodation

Statement of the problem

Street vending has played a vital part in improving the household livelihoods of women in Zimbabwe. Urban poverty has been on the ascent since the 1990s coupled with a number of economic reforms adopted by the government. Street vending has provided a new avenue for women to earn a living as well as being able to sustain the family. Women's livelihoods have been enhanced and that include their access to health, income, accommodation and the standards of living. Therefore this research seeks to examine the participation of women in street vending, how it has impacted on their household livelihoods and the ability of the strategy to be sustainable as a livelihood strategy adopted by women. The research paid particular attention to women in Harare Central Business District.

Theoretical framework

The researcher used the Sustainable Livelihood Approach in explaining the various issues originating from the research. The sustainable livelihood approach is defined in terms of the ability of a social unit to enhance its assets and capabilities in the face of shocks and stresses over time Morse et al (2009). The approach also looks at the broader perspective of poverty, where it states that poverty as perceived by the poor is not just a matter of low income but also include other aspects such as bad health, illiteracy and lack of social services as well as vulnerability and a sense of powerlessness Krantz (2001).

This approach presses emphasise on assets as well as well as the impact of shocks and stress and also to be able to maintain and enhance capabilities into the future. It should be resilient to stresses and shocks. This therefore looks at how street vending b women can be able to sustain different shocks and stresses such as the government repression and live to cater for future generations. It also looks into the importance of the link between the 5 capitals that is

human, social, physical, economic and natural capital and how they relate to each other Morse et al (2009).

The approach also argues that people are at the centre of a web of inter-related influences that affect how these people create a livelihood for themselves and their households. Vending as a livelihood strategy needs to be analysed at the level of its capability in coping or recovering from shocks or stresses. The theory further looks at assets as an important aspect in the sustainable livelihood approach. An asset may not necessarily be owned by a household for it to be important but instead it is the ability of the household to access it Carney (1998). Therefore the sustainability of vending as livelihood strategy will need to be looked at with the acquisition of assets.

According to the approach resources are also considered and this includes skills and knowledge, health, access to education and sources of credit for the poor people. This approach therefore explains this research in that, because of poverty a lot of women are now practising street vending not as a livelihood diversification strategy, but rather as a source of income and livelihood strategy. The research therefore sought to explore and analyse the ability to acquire assets by women practising street vending both tangible and non-tangible assets. It also looked into the ability to cope and recover from shocks and stresses associated with the area of focus by women. Governing street vending laws and their effects on the practise are also looked into.

Objectives

- To explore the factors leading to the rise of street vending by women in Zimbabwe.
- To examine the sustainability of street vending as a livelihood strategy by women in Harare Central Business District.
- To offer suggestions on how women can have their livelihoods transformed.

Research questions

- What are the factors that led to the rise of street vending in Zimbabwe?
- To what extent can street vending be sustainable as a livelihood strategy by women in Zimbabwe?
- What has the government of Zimbabwe done towards empowering women?
- What are the other strategies that women can adapt to transform their livelihoods?

Significance of the study

This research is motivated by the desire to analyse the sustainability of vending as a livelihood strategy for women as street vending has proved to be the new source of employment in the country. With the decline of the economic status of the nation a lot of women have moved into the streets as vendors but these have received little or no recognition at all. The Zimbabwean laws have not made it any easier for the operations of the vendors. It is therefore the reason that informed this research ,so as to lighten different stakeholders on the importance of the contributions that have been made by these women not only at house hold level but also to keep the economy moving. The selected area of study was Harare Central Business District as it had comprised of the greatest number of women engaged in street vending because of the need the demand and the market it offered.

The research will help different stakeholders such as the non-governmental organizations that are working in informal sector, so as to better support the sector, and women operating within the environment of the informal sector. It will also inform the government and different ministries such as the ministry of SME and the ministry of women affairs for policy formulation. Academics will also benefit as they will get an understanding of the participation of women in street vending and how it can be sustainable as a livelihood strategy.

Limitation to the study

In conducting the research challenges were encountered and these included financial constraints and misguided judgements by the respondents of why such a research is being undertaken. The respondents' looked for financial benefit. The researcher needed a lot of stationery and transport money. There was the challenge of unwillingness of the respondents to disclose their private issues such as how much of an income they get from vending. However despite all these limitations the research was undertaken and the significance of the research still remains paramount to development.

Research methodology

A qualitative research method was used in the study by the researcher. . According to (Denzin and Lincoln 2005), qualitative research is a situated activity which locates the observer in the world and it involves an interpretive, naturalistic approach to the world. This means that the researcher interacts directly with the world of the people that are under study. Qualitative research allows for the researcher to get an in-depth understanding of how the issue under research happens and also how the people in it live and cope with it. It focuses on the natural settings that is life as it is lived in real situation, interest in meaning for example that which is attached to behaviours, and also emphasizes on processes. This methodology is largely descriptive and explanatory in nature. Qualitative research enables the observer to acquire this information through the use of different data collection and data analysing techniques. The qualitative technique enabled the researcher to retrieve information and also gained new ideas from the respondents because of the flexibility that is found in the different techniques that can be used.

Data gathering instruments

Two forms of data gathering instruments were used and that is questioners and interviews during the research.

Questioners

A questioner is basically a tool for gathering and recording data around a specific issue of interest (Oppenheim 1992). They are comprised up of a list of questions, but not only questions but they also come with instruction to help the respondent to answer the questions. Questioners' are imperative as they can contact a large range of persons at low costs and spares time. They are also crucial as they permit respondents to complete them at their own pace and time.

Interviews

The researcher will make use of interviews also as a data gathering technique and it should be noted that the interviews will be key informant interviews. Interviews are oral types of gathering data and makes use of inquiry and answers happening between the researcher and the responded. Interviews are critical because they permit for flexibility both on the researcher and likewise on the responded (Kvale 1996). They allow one to get a comprehensive understanding of a situation and also the researcher can make utilization of verbal and non-verbal ques being given by the responded. Women practising street vending particularly in Harare Central Business District were interviewed. Interviews can also make it easy for the responded and the researcher as meanings will be clarified and also the issue of illiteracy can be addressed as the researcher will explain to the responded.

Sampling

According to Frey et al (2000), sampling is the use of a subsection of the population to signify the entire population. Sampling is additionally divided into probability and non-probability sampling. Sampling was used as the research is complex and the target group that is women is too big and hence had to be narrowed down to only include a few representatives. Sampling is also crucial as it serves time and resources during the research.

Purposive sampling

Purposive sampling was used in the study by the researcher. This sampling refers to a deliberate selection of a particular unit of a whole for constituting a sample which represent the whole (Danny et al). This kind of sampling allows the researcher to focus only on the target population that draws interest to the research and depends on the judgement of the researcher. It also allows the researcher to deal with the direct population that have been affected. More over purposively selecting a population saves time and resources for the researcher.

Target population

According to NAVUZ Harare alone has more than 20 000 vendors on the streets sidewalks in the CBD area Rusvingo (2015) citing Ndebele (2015). Women constitute the greater number of these street vendors. These women vend everything from fresh vegetables, to mobile recharge cards medical drugs and so forth (Njaya 2014). They fill up the majority of the pavements and walkways in the CBD, particularly on the Copacabana area, Ruzende area, Market square area, Charge office area and Fourth street area. However this research only focused on women practising street vending in Harare CBD and only 30 women were selected using purposive sampling.

Literature review

Street vending in the developing nations

It is of paramount importance to look at literature review in other countries and how they have embraced the dilemma of street vending and also investigate the work of other scholars. Street vending is pervasive across the globe, especially in developing countries. It provides an important source of earnings for the unemployed in urban areas, as well as a source of relatively inexpensive goods and services for city residents.

In India, street vending has become one of the significant developing activities in the informal sector ever since time immemorial and it has continued to increase. It has been projected that 93% of employments in India are in the informal economy and urban planning has needed to accommodate street vending, it is also argued that women constitute the greatest number of vendors in the country. According to (Prabir 1998) Mumbai constitute 250 000 vendors, whilst different urban areas take after it. Delhi with an approxiamtely 200 000 vendors, Calcutta having more than 150 000 and Ahmedabad having around 100 000 vendors. Some studies have likewise assessed that the total number of street vendors can reach 2% of the metropolis. Bhowmik (2005) notes that there is no clear figure of the total of women vendors in India besides for the city of Ahmedabad where 40% of the 80000 street vendors are women. Vendors in India just like vendors everywhere else in the world are considered unlawful and hence they are subject to harassment by the official laws in the country. Bhowmik (2005) notes that female vendors in India are poorer than their male counter parts because of lack of capital to invest and also because they had to do other roles at home. He also argues that the major reason behind the joining of women the informal sector was because of the loss of formal employment by the previously employed husbands and the wife resuming the role of taking care of the family. However vending in India is not only considered as offering employment for the unemployed but they are also regarded as service providers as they provide affordable and quick service to the consumers other than them having to go to the market place, which might use up a lot of their time.

Bhowmik (1999) notes that female vendors in Indian cities were liable to all types of harassment by the police and municipal authorities as they do not have operating licenses. Although street vendors in the India are considered to be illegal vendors, this is subject to review as it is in contrast with the country's constitution. According to the National Policy for Urban Street Vendors, 2009, Article 39a and b of the constitution clearly states that each

citizen whether men or women similarly have the privilege to a satisfactory livelihood. This therefore implies that constitutionally street vending in India is no crime. Some of the major challenges experienced by Indian vendors is the issue of the absence of operating licenses which make them illegal, vulnerability to natural and manmade disasters, lack of social security amongst others and all these were addresses in the policy documents.

Street Vending in South Africa

Just like many developing countries South Africa has also embraced the notion of street vending. The number of street traders in the country increased a lot towards the end of the politically sanctioned racial segregation (apartheid) in 1994. The increase in the number of street vendors in the country was contended to have been brought on by two noteworthy reasons. Firstly, the post-apartheid government was less authoritarian, and did not stop street trading in the similar manner in which the apartheid government did. Secondly, the lack of employment in the nation forced many individuals to try and earn money through street trading.

Women's participation in labour force in South Africa expanded throughout the years, in the 1980s and early 1990s, negative genuine growths were experienced and this went along with vast scale job-losses, several women in the textile manufacturing businesses lost their jobs Lund (1998) citing Valodia (1996).

According to (Fleetwood 2009), South Africa's high unemployment rate still is one of the government's most vital challenge. In June 2015, the unemployment rate in the nation was recorded at 25.5%, therefore forcing all those without formal employment into the informal sector. Street vending is one of the leading activities in the informal economy of South Africa (Skinner 2008).

High unemployment rates also worsened the level of poverty in South Africa. Two out of every five South Africans live in abject poverty. A 2007 government investigation of incomes and expenditure found that half of all family units lived on under \$75 per individual per month, while the poorest 20% of households lived on under \$125 a month. For these families to survive they have to practise vending as it is also the only employment which requires low income to start up.

In 2000, there was a large proportion of about half a million street traders in South Africa. In the Durban metropolitan area there were an estimated 20 000 traders. In the central Business district of Johannesburg there were between 3 000 and 7 000. In Greater Johannesburg, there were between 12 000 and 15 000. Additionally more than 70% of all street traders in the country vend food and more than 68% of the street vendors are women (ILO and WIEGO 2013). Just like in many other African countries, the informal sector in South Africa contributes essentially in the provision of employment of people (Fleetwood 2009).

In South Africa not only has the high unemployment rate increased street vending but also the gigantic numbers of foreign nationals in the nation with no means to acquire decent employment. The streets in the country are flooded with vendors from various parts of the world, differing races and genders (Madichie & Nkamnebe, 2010). A range of ages, from the youthful guys who dropped out of school to the old ones whose aims is to build a better tomorrow for their children. They are all there for one good reason, to sell goods for survival, battling against hunger and creating self-employment.

Women street vendors in South Africa are argued to lack an educational background as likened to their male counterpart, as likened to men women lacked educational training Lund (1998). Typical Street vendors in South Africa just like vendors in any other country face a common set of problems, which range from tenuous property rights and harassment from

municipal authorities to subsistence living and earning. Rover (2013) notes that female street vendors in South Africa face problems in the form of provocation by the police, request for bribes, physical abuse and seizure of goods. Although their business require very low start up often they fail to acquire this because of poverty. Finding start-up capital through savings or loans is particularly challenging for the poor women (Ligthelm & Masuku 2003). Ownership rights are required as collateral for bank credits. Failure by the street vendors to provide collateral means they cannot access formal credit from banks. Consequently, they have to find alternative ways to obtain money to start their informal businesses

Some authorities in South Africa have however tried to address the issue of street vending by accommodating it as a contributor in the country's economy. For instance in Durban, local government has made effort to address street trading for many years. The city has spent a large sums of money on building markets. The local authorities in this metropolitan work in consultation with the street vendors themselves and various organizations that represent them (Cichello, 2005)

Street Vending in Europe

In Europe the informal sector is also another area which is growing. Street vending in most European countries to a greater extend involves the selling of food staffs (Dines 2002). In Italy's biggest Southern city Naples, the general population which participate in informal business such as vending is thought to be in that business as a method of escaping from paying taxes and contributing to pensions (Williams, 2002).

In Australia, there is no constant regulatory framework for vendor management. The policy on street vending can be entirely different among the local governments. For instance, in the city of Sydney, street hawking is for most part not permitted, with exception for food vending using vehicles and vending in indoor and outdoor bazaars (usually known as "markets" in Australia). In the city of Melbourne, the local government, in any case, supports and

encourages street trading with the point of building an enthusiastic street environment and enriching city life. Henceforth taking note of the dynamics in issue of street vending.

Street Vending in Zimbabwe

The early studies off street vending in Zimbabwe started in the early 1990s with the expansion of this economic activity as a result of the introduction of ESAP and the continuous collapse of the economy RAU (2015). According to Saunyama (2014) citing Chirisa (2009) women because of their historical background were they were confined in the private sphere were affected more by the economic decline in Zimbabwe and this led to women turning to the informal sector for their livelihood and this can be credited also to street vending. Women in general experience high unemployment complications than men Saunyama (2014) citing Cheston & Kun (2002). This high unemployment is due to their lack of education and life skills to survive in a harsh economy.

Between the years 2000-2007, 80% of the manufacturing industries in Zimbabwe saw a decrease in production volumes. And it is the collapse of the formal economy that forced thousands of people into the informal employment so as to earn a livelihood for their families. According to Mutillah (2003) particularly women moved into street vending as a livelihood strategy to help supplement their husband's incomes which were no longer sufficient to cater for the family. Saunyama (2014) citing Makumbe (2009). Njaya (2014) notes that it is not easy to produce precise estimates of the number of street vendors in Harare as their population have grown over the years and this has been to a greater extend caused by lack of employment opportunities in the formal sector.

Street vending in Harare is unlawful and it is just permitt on designated places for example on flea markets where hawkers rent space for retail Njaya (2014). Women vending in Zimbabwe are subject to harassment by the police and the municipal authorities because they operate without operating licenses. According to the Mutillah (2003), there are by-laws which govern

vending and these are a set of standards that vendors are required to operate within and comply with them. However violation of these laws has led to women and the municipal working at logger heads with each other.

The above reviewed literature indicate that most countries in the world experience street vending and this is because mainly the reasons and the challenges faced are the same. However there is lack of data on how much street vending by women accounts for in the economy. Most often it is encompassed into the broader spectrum of the informal sector, and in most cases only regarded as a way of supplementing income. It is however the aim of this research to analyse the sustainability of street vending as a livelihood strategy with particular attention to Harare urban women.

Ethical considerations

While the researcher will be conducting the research ethical considerations should be a priority as different people come from different backgrounds. The following ethics will be applied

- The willing consent of the participants – participants should only participate if they feel safe to do so.
- The confidentiality of participants is of importance – participants' identity should be kept private and never disclosed to anyone.
- The cultural values and beliefs of participants should also be respected – different people belong to different cultures and it is important to consider the cultural norms of these group of people.

Chapter 1

Chapter summary

This chapter seeks to give an insight on the rise of street vending in Zimbabwe as a whole and also its rise in Harare central business district in general. It will also give an overview of the factors that have led women to practise street vending in Zimbabwe and the Harare Central Business District to be precise. The section shall look at both internal and external causes. It will also go on to show the different factors dividing them into three broad categories that is social factors, economic factors and political factors that have forced women to move into street vending. It will also elaborate on the goods sold by women and explore on the government and street vendors relations.

The rise of street vending in Zimbabwe

The rise of street vending in Zimbabwe was precipitated by the rise of the informal sector in Zimbabwe in which all kind of activities were happening and that includes, cross boarder trading, street vending, retail amongst ,many other informal activities. The rise of the informal sector was caused by a series of economic crisis in the country in which formal employment failed to take in the large numbers of people that needed employment in the formal sector after independence.

The rise of the informal sector in Zimbabwe was to a greater extent caused by the failure of the economic policies embraced by the government since the time of independence. In 1991, the government embraced the ESAP as a reaction to the economic hardships that were occurring in the country. According to Munhande and Makaye (2008) the adoption of ESAP in 1991 by the government immensely added to the development of the informal sector. Because of the new development brought about by ESAP so many people became unemployed because of massive retrenchments while at the same time the formal job sector contracted making conditions for the expansion of the informal sector Makaye and Munhande

(2008) citing Saunders (1996). The shrunk in formal employment drove Zimbabwean to search for survivalist strategies such as street vending in the informal sector. According to Chirau (2014) by the year 1996, the informal sector utilized 1.56 million individuals whilst the formal utilized 1.26, and work in the formal sector had to a greater extent dropped whilst offering a rise to vending and small micro enterprises with a positive growth.

In addition to the crisis caused by the adoption of ESAP, the government took other economic policies that prompted the economic down turn, the policies were to a greater extend disruptive to the economy, and these include paying of tips to war veterans, the unpopular military intervention in the DRC civil war, and the not all that popular land reform Chirau (2014). The paying of appreciation to the war veterans led to inflationary consequences. These have been argued by many scholars to have worsened the economic condition of the country and led people into the informal sector and largely street vending as the formal employment could no longer provide an income to the people who were already in the formal sector

According to Nkululeko(2014) the decade between 1998 and 2008 has been alluded to by many academics as the lost decades as a result of a chain of economic declines, poverty levels in the urban areas were worsened and an increase in the informal activities was experienced and particularly vending. In 2000 the decision by the government of Zimbabwe to empower the once marginalized persons through land reform turned out to be unsuccessful and in the same way distractive to the economy. Njaya (2014) notes that the fast track land reform programme weakened the agriculture sector and devastated some of the industries that relied upon it for raw materials and inputs. All these effects led to the laying off of many workers from the industry because of reduced production. This however led to the growth of the informal sector and vending a strategy to find survival means in the context of a struggling economy.

According to Manyahaire (2007), citing UN Habitat (2005), employment in the informal sector increased from 10% in the 1980 to 40% of the total labour force in 2004. This was largely because the informal sector had largely become the employer in the country. Ndiweni (2013) citing Dekker (2009) notes that by June 2005 not less than 3million persons out of a population of 11 million people relied on the informal economy for their living. It is important to note that with the rise of the informal sector, more women than man were involved in the low paying sector because of different reasons.

Ndiweni (2013) citing Ngundu (2010) highlights that the involvement of many in street vending is a survivalist strategy. Women got involved into the informal business such as street vending as a last resort and it provided the only strategy to a livelihood. According to Ndiweni (2013)the reasons given by women as their drivers to take part in the informal sector and with some into street vending included valuing self-employment , taking part in activities that provided their main source of income and the flexibility that was provided by the informal sector.

Makumbe (2009) notes that between the years 2000-2007, 80% of the manufacturing firms in Zimbabwe saw a decrease in output volumes, 15% were working at 30 percent capacity, another third between 30%-50% and with more than 90% unable to take care of their expenses and thus making a loss. Saunyama (2013) notes that the collapse of the formal economy drove hundreds of unemployed Zimbabweans into the informal sector so as to moderate the impacts of an intense recession and earn livelihoods for their families. Women's involvement in the informal sector was due to the reversal of roles at household level during which the industries employment power had reduced and both men and women moved into the informal sector as a last resort to earn a livelihood and find means to survive under the harsh economy.

Mbiriri (2009) citing Makaye & Munhande (2008) notes that the informal sector covers an extensive of market activities joining two groups which are different in nature. The first set comprising of families and persons that utilizes the informal sector as a coping mechanism in a harsh earning environment. The second is comprised of small, micro and medium entrepreneurs who see the harsh economic environment as a chance to escape state regulations.

Njaya (2014) in his study noted that women were leading in street vending representing 53.1% and the number of man that were in street commerce was 48.9% and the greater percentage of those participating in street vending were the economically active.

The Zimbabwean economy has declined with greater pace since the end of the global political agreement and the inclusive government and the informal sector has turned to be the major source of earning a livelihood for the majority of the Zimbabwean citizens RAU (2015). It is because of this that today we have all the corners and streets of Harare CBD are filled with vendors, selling from everything, sweets, airtime, jiggies up to the extent that some are selling clothing.

Social factors leading women into street vending

Poverty has been a major cause that has pushed most women into street vending as a livelihood strategy. The rates of people living in poverty has increased over the years. The situation can be traced back to the time of ESAP where the majority of people lost their jobs due to the new economic reforms that saw many companies retrenching. Over the years the situation has increased, as the country's economic situation has continued to deteriorate with many people losing their jobs and with others going for months without pay. Mangundla (2015) argues that most families are living below the poverty datum line, with an average adult earning below \$3.50 per day. A study carried out by the Fin-scope Consumer in 2014

demonstrated that 44% of the nation's population had to skip a meal per day because of lack of money to purchase food (Mangundla 2015). Women bear the greater burden of having to take care of the family and children especially providing food them. However this is the reason why most women have moved into street vending as a way to provide for the family and also try and curb the extent of poverty in the family. The situation is most likely to worsen this year 2016 due to fewer rains in different parts of the country and hence an increase in female vendors.

Furthermore women tend to make up the greatest portion of the vendors in the informal sector because the majority of them lack formal education and skills because of the patriarchal nature of the society. According to Bhana et al (2009), girls are often disadvantaged and the benefit of education and even including that of economic opportunities are given to the male children. Women are socialized to be dependents of men, whilst men are socialized to be the bread winners of the family hence have to acquire education in order to feed for their family. Because of this lack of education and skills most women fail to qualify for formal employment when faced with the need to and therefore move into the informal sector particularly into vending as a livelihood strategy because of its low entry requirements. According to Kanyenze et al (2003), women accounted for 67% of all micro enterprises in 1991 and constituted 57% of the overall informal economy employment. Therefore showing that women constitute the greatest number of people who are informally employed because their poor education backgrounds.

The flexibility that street vending has had to offer is another factor that has attracted women to street vending. Cheng (2005) notes that vending in most cases is the only choice open to women to earn an income whilst still being able to undertake the tasks that are related to their reproductive roles especially their daily care chores. Due to the flexibility in the vending system where one can start and finish work at any time, women are attracted to the informal

employment rather than formal employment. This then allows street vending to blend well with women reproductive roles, where they can earn an income whilst at the same time taking care of the household chores and family responsibilities.

More so the increase in female headed families has pushed a lot of women into street vending as a livelihood means. Mitullah (2003) argues that the negative effects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic have imposed on women the new and not so famous role of being a breadwinner in most countries in Sub Saharan Africa. The pandemic has taken away mostly men who used to provide and feed for the family. This sudden change has left women burdened with the role of providing for the family even during times when the husband will be sick. Women therefore take part into vending as it gives an easy and quick access to an income as it does not require any life or technical skills to become a vendor Chirisa (2011). According to Manyanhaire (2007), research which was done in Sakubva Mutare, he takes notes that separated and widowed women carry the burden of becoming de-facto household heads and have to carry out a double burden of being both the father and the mother in the home. This social status therefore drives them into street vending as a means of getting an income. Hence the participation of women in the informal sector. Whilst Chirau (2014) in his research noted that 40.8% of the women vendors he interviewed were sore breadwinners and he argued that given the absence of the male bread winner. These women assumed the full financial responsibility for the family.

Women have been motivated to participate into street vending as it is a direct response to the known demand by customers in which they favoured open air environments. Women began their active involvement into the informal sector from the ESAP period due to high retrenchment rates. However not only has women operations in the informal sector created employment for them but it has also made it possible for consumers to access cheap goods. According to Timalisina (2007), urban street vending is not only a livelihood means for

women, but it provides reasonably priced goods and services to the majority of the urban poor. Bhowmik (2005) argues that a study on street vendors indicate that the lower salary groups spend a high percentage of their income in making purchases from street vendors mainly because their goods are cheap and affordable. Women are therefore attracted to street vending because of the availability of a ready market offered by the low income groups and also those who will be running from work and have no time of getting into formal shops where they experience long queues.

Economic factors leading women into street vending.

The high unemployment rate in the country and the loss of jobs by many has been a major cause of street vending especially amongst women in the Harare CBD. In 2014 more than 50 companies laid off more than 7000 employees and this was indicated by the country's retrenchment board. Mupedziswa & Gumbo (2001) take note of that dismissed workers, school leavers and school graduates have generated a new phenomenon of street vending in the major cities of Zimbabwe and Harare in particular. According to News 24, a 39 year old woman Njere expressed that street vending is a matter of survival for her as her spouse is out of employment. She later alluded that it was not out of her own will to practise street vending but however it was on account that there was no employment in the country. High unemployment rates have led to role reversals at household level, where the husband is out of formal employment and the wife has to find survival means. Therefore the unemployment rate in the country has left many women with no choice but to move into the street as a livelihood strategy and also because of its low entry points and also less demand.

Women in the Harare CBD have resorted to street vending due to the difficult economic conditions in the country. Most women even those who have jobs are struggling to make ends meet due to the difficult economic conditions. Research has shown it that even professional

teachers in the Harare, Mutare and other big cities have joined into street vending as a means to supplement their income which is not sufficient to cater for their families. Teachers have begun engaging into vending as part time job during their free time for example on weekends. Most teachers now can hardly survive on their monthly salary as it is no longer enough because of several salary deductions. Some have resorted to vending due to the delays in their receiving salaries, for instance December 2015 teachers did not receive their bonuses and had their pay dates changed. This forced many into street vending as a way to survive, for them vending is a way through which they can supplement their incomes. Nyavaya (2015) argues that most people have turned to street vending to earn a living as the economy continue to shrink in deflation since 2014 leading to company closures and a lot of job losses.

Street vending as a livelihood strategy is capital intensive and this has seen most women moving into the business as they require a very low capital to begin the business. According to Dhembu (1999), the informal sector is able to create more jobs with smaller capital outlays unlike the formal business which requires more capital and is capital intensive. The start-up capital required is as low as from USD \$1- USD\$50, whilst a few commodities might require USD\$50 and over. According to Njaya (2014) most women have moved to street vending business as it is a capital intensive business. Women are not able to access credit loans from different financial institution because of their disadvantaged backgrounds. Most of the financial institutions require collateral security which most women cannot provide due to their lack of assets and also dependence on the partners. This therefore attracts women to move into street vending as a livelihood strategy as it involves the purchase of goods that require very low start-up capital thereby providing a low cost of entry for the women.

Furthermore most women have engaged into street vending as a way of supplementing their family income. According to Mitullah (2003), women dominate vending so as to argument their husband's incomes. In Zimbabwe most civil servant workers have gone with little or no

monthly salaries and thereby informing the wife with the need to earn an extra income in order to be able to feed for the family. In an interview with (Herald 2013), Tendai a female vendor narrated that she needed to support her family as her husband's salary was too little and that people came to buy their goods because they are slightly cheaper than those from legal retailers. Due to high unemployment rates in the country most families have moved into the informal sector as a survival strategy. According to a research done by Chirau (2014), he notes that in-depth interviews done by women shows that vending was often a way of supplementing the income of their husbands, with the sky rocketing inflation and falling of the industries real wages could no longer sustain families for the whole month before the next pay day. However men have been said to move into more menial jobs such as carpentry whilst women move into street vending as it believed that it is a job for women.

The unproductive farming sector has also contributed to the massive increase in female vendors. Women have always been the major participants in agriculture both for the urban women and for the rural women. Over the years urban agriculture has reduced due to poor rains and the increase in the cost of agriculture inputs especially for the rural and urban poor. This has therefore increased the migration of women into the urban areas to join their spouses and for the urban poor who practised agriculture to look for alternatives. Njaya (2014) notes that one of the reasons for the rise in street traders was the increase of the rate of rural-urban migration of low skilled workers to cities. Agriculture was a major contributor to the diversification of women livelihood and so with the fall of rural and urban agriculture, the majority of the urban poor women turned to street vending as a new survival skill. The decline in urban agriculture has however caused the increase of female vendors in Zimbabwe.

Furthermore many women have moved into the informal sector particularly vending because it does not register on the country's tax radar. Most women practise street vending as a way of escaping the costs of having to operate a formal storefront business. Njaya (2014) notes

that women are attracted to street vending because it requires no overhead expenses of rental, rates and sometimes licensing charges. There have no overhead costs of rentals as rentals of operating a store in Harare are as costly as \$250 for the smallest available table. Vending in the streets also help women escape from the burden of having to pay for operating license disc that cost \$140 dollars (Herald 2013). The opportunity to escape from taxes that the informal sector has offered particularly to women who cannot afford to rent formal store if the reason why women have moved to street vending as a livelihood strategy.

According to Ngundu (2010), women have moved into the informal sector as a way of seeking financial freedom and also to enhance their self-esteem. Because of the patriarchal nature of the African society men have always been socialized as the bread winner of the family and woman the dependent one. However because of the difficulty economic situations most women are now seeking economic independence and hence venturing into different economic activities to get income. Also economic independence has a strong relation with enhancement of self-esteem. This has motivated most women to practise street vending as a means of seeking economic independence as it brings income to the family.

Political factors leading women into street vending

The time that women began practising street vending can be traced back to the 1990 decade. ESAP caused economic meltdown and the situation was worsened with some of the political decisions that the government made. These decisions worsened the economic crisis and women were faced with the burden of having to look for alternatives to sustain the family. Chibisa & Sigauke (2008) citing UN Habitat (2005) notes that the economic crisis in Zimbabwe got worsened because of the three major political decisions that the government made from the 1990s that is unbudgeted money that was handed out to war veterans in 1997, the military intervention of Zimbabwe in the Democratic Republic of Congo war and the infamous Fast Track land reform program in 2000. These decisions by the administrative

government prompted a serious economic crisis in the country and the greater impacts were felt in the urban areas where most of the working man had lost their jobs. This forced women in the Harare urban to look for alternatives to a livelihood and street vending provided an avenue for them to move out of poverty.

Operation Murambatsvina of 2005 is one of the major reasons why women engaged in street vending in the Harare CBD. Operation Murambatsvina an initiative too by the government in 2005 was intended to restore order in the whole of Harare and also other cities but because of poor planning by the coordinators led to massive poverty loss in the country where people lost their livelihood means. According to Chibisa & Sigauke (2008) before Operation Murambatsvina flea markets, vending and other informal activities had turned into the backbone of women and other urban poor many whom had licenses and legitimately allocated bays. Tibaijuka (2005) notes that a large number of those people who had been in the informal sector had lost their livelihoods because of the clampdown on flea markets, tuckshops, vending stalls and urban agriculture. Due to the fact that women lost their livelihood means through the clampdown of the informal sector, many Zimbabwean women had to eke out a living through illegal street vending. According to Chirau (2014) after the Operation Murambatsvina a greater part of the informal activities turned out to be more resistant and also adaptable than previously. Although most of women began cross boarder trading for the many that were left, illegal street vending was the only means for them to survive. Urban women began practising their street vending in the CBD during off hours so as to target those who were coming from work.

Failure by the government to provide alternatives for women to earn a livelihood has pushed most women into street vending as it is now the only available alternative source of employment in the absence of formal employment. Ever since the economic crisis that hit the country, the government has done little or rather nothing to address the plight of women and

also address their grievances of being in cooperated into the job sector. According to Ndiweni et al (2013), the failure of the government to address the needs of the poor drove people to seek entrepreneurship as a reaction towards the government whose part has little significance to their lives and they resorted to address their personal complaints through economic creativity. The economic blueprint ZIMASSET and Indigenisation policy have largely failed to help women out of poverty but instead the participation of women in street vending has greatly increased because of the worsening conditions in the economy. Hence it is the failure by the government to provide alternative means of an earning a livelihood for women that has led them into street vending.

The government and the street vendors in Zimbabwe

Most female traders face the challenges in terms of the Zimbabwe legislation and the by-laws enforced by the, municipal authorities. Some of the pieces of legislation that were set up to dishearten the expansion of the informal sector consist of the Town and Country Planning Act of 1946, The Vagrancy act of 1960, The Urban Councils Act and The Vendors and Hawkers by-laws of 1973 Brand et al (1993). According to Mupedziswa (2009), colonial legacies still continued to exist in Zimbabwe and this has been witnessed by the existence of the law in which all informal bodies are still expected to be registered by statutory bodies. It is because of the existence of these bodies that female street vendors still continue to experience harassment from municipality authorities as a result of failing to pay for their daily subscriptions or if found selling in undesignated places. This therefore indicated that the government of Zimbabwe hasn't done much in in-cooperating the informal sector as part of the economic drivers and in particular street vending.

Mitullah (2003) by laws set regulations in the endowment of public products and services in the part of street vending, and services offered by the street vendors and the expected code of conduct. These bylaws also allowed for the local municipality to collect revenue for

disbursement of services for example garbage collection and controlling of vending sites Mitullah (2003). The Urban Councils Act of 1995 stipulates that it is under the jurisdiction of the city council to provide sanity to the streets and re-establish order. It is against this background that the government passed an eviction notice to the Harare CBD street vendors in June 2015 (Herald 2015). The government wanted the vendors to clean up and take their products or otherwise they register and pay rent and license fees for designated zones. The government argued that the goal was to return order in the CBD as they blamed vendors for making the city dirty and also blocked traffic and therefore an annoyance and needed to go to designated places outside of the CBD (Mitullah 2003). According to Mbiriri (2009), policies sought after by the Zimbabwe government have not been helpful to the informal sector. The policies rather have been acting against the expansion of the informal sector as it made life a living hell for the informal traders

Harare street vendors have kept on operating in the streets of the CBD, working against the Hawkers and Street Vendors By-law 4(1) which obliges them to work in stated areas (Herald 2013). Many of the street vendors have continued to operate without licenses as they argued that, the reason why they do not pay for operating licenses is that the license disc are expensive they cost \$140 to be allocated a space for selling where no one comes (Herald 2013). The street vendors had been given the deadline of June 26 2015 was the deadline that had been given to vendors to relocate to corner Seke and Cripps road or they risked eviction by the police and soldiers. However the street vendors have moved back into the CBD as they argue that their newly legal markets attracts no one and hence causing them losses. To add on the new arrangement by the city municipal proved to have failed to work effectively as they were clashes by the vendors over who had been allocated which space.

Furthermore the government argues that the street vendors are violating the Food and Hygiene by-laws of 1975 and the Hawkers and Street Vendors by-laws of 1978. The Herald

(2013) reports that food that is traded to the public is positioned on unclean plastic vessels or on pieces of cardboard on the ground, irrespective of the Food and Hygiene By-laws Section k (II) which stipulates that

“(the public should) not place any food lower than 500 millimetres from the ground on any pavement or in or about any forecourt or yard... ensure that open food, while displayed or exposed for sale or during delivery, is kept covered or is otherwise effectively screened so as to prevent any infection or contamination.”

Njaya (2014) notes that the Public Healthy Act has its roots in colonization and was intended to safeguard established businesses whilst subjecting smaller businesses to harassment for inability to meet recommended standards and these businesses were for the most part owned by blacks, while at the same time food and foods standards act was designed with severe circumstances for registration and excluded blacks. The majority of the street vendors have no knowledge of this law but then the council regard them as violating the laws that they have no knowledge of and hence subject to constant harassment and almost always at loggerhead with the police.

According to Njaya (2014), the principles of the Hawkers By-laws (2013) specifies that no vendor should continue being stationery whilst conducting his or her business for more than 15minutes, furthermore goes ahead to give the control of renewing or not renewing of permit of the vendor where it feels there is danger. The working permit costs \$120, per annum, which means \$10 every month. However this has led to most women operating without the licenses as they cannot afford to the prices which are needed at a single goal.

Goods traded by vendors in Harare CBD

Nyaya (2014), notes that Harare has encountered a massive progression in street vending with vendors vending everything from fresh food and medical drugs to mobile recharge cards and

so forth. Street vendors are divided into a range of groups, and this is done in accordance with the kind of goods that they sell, vendors are grouped beginning from fruit vendors, flea market vendors. Women traders trade goods that range from fresh fruits and vegetables, traditional herbs, fabrics, cosmetic, newspapers, groceries, clothes and fabrics, recharge cards, cigarettes and sweets amongst others. Goods such as fruits and vegetables are subject to seasonality and demand hence experience unstable incomes.

Operation areas for Harare CBD street vendors

Most of the street vendors pinpoint themselves on tactical points and on spaces of heavy human traffic Mitullah (2003). They fill up the majority of the pavements and sidewalks in the CBD, especially on the Copacabana area, Ruzende area, Market square area, Charge office area and Fourth street area. These are the main bus terminuses and vendors prefer operating in these areas because of the high market opportunities and the opportunities that the locations offer as they attract different people who will be commuting to and from work. Njaya (2014) notes that the majority of the hawkers were found on pavements, sidewalks, open spaces and almost along every street of the Harare Central business district. These vendors in pavements and sidewalks have no official allocation. Street vendors in Harare CBD are operating on the street pavements due to the fact that their income is not sufficient to rent a built up shop. In an interview with Herald News on December 13 (2013), Mai Chipo a street vendor who sells on the pavements of Harare CBD alluded that she could not afford to meet the high rates needed for renting a grocery store and henceforth opted for the pavements of the CBD and this has enabled her to earn a decent living (Herald 2013).

Street vendors in Harare CBD use both designated and undesignated vending areas. Marunda (2014) notes that for Harare market square they were both designated and undesignated vending sites, and for the city council designated vending sites they were no supporting infrastructure to supplement SMES business operations. Whilst for the undesignated places

vendors sell along the street and would always run for cover if the police appeared. Street vendor's use of undesignated places such as sidewalks is due to the fact that they cannot afford to rent stores because the rents are too high and so they see it better for them to use the streets as they can also attract more customers using different skills whilst in the streets.

Harare street vendors alludes that their time of operating is usually the peak hours in which they know that's when they make the most money because people will be now coming from workplaces and therefore need to shop for the kids or groceries to prepare the evening meals. Mollin Siyanda a 46 year old Harare women expressed that she gets into the Harare CBD at around 4pm so as to sell her vegetables and clothes to people coming from work as these are the rush hours.

Conclusion

The participation of women in street vending has been largely caused by the economic crisis that hit the country since the 1990s followed with a series of poor decisions made by the government which were detrimental to the economy. Women are selling all kind of good in the streets and they are operating haphazardly with no specific areas in the central business district. The government of Zimbabweans use of colonial regime laws has further hardened the lives of women as the laws are repressive and largely violates the operations of women in the informal sector

Chapter 2

The sustainability of street vending as livelihood strategy for Harare CBD women.

Introduction

This chapter seeks to explore the sustainability of street vending as a livelihood strategy by women by looking at the socio-economic status of women before and after participating in street vending. The livelihood indicators will be used and that includes, access to education, health facilities, acquisition of assets, access to income and household food security. It will also highlight the challenges that are faced by women that are hindering their active participation such as the corrupt city council, lack of permanent trading sites, poor infrastructure, and absence of operating licenses, harassment from municipality officers and lack of access to services such as finance and credit institutions.

The economic and social status of women before street vending.

The livelihood indicators to measure women's participation include, health, education, food security, income, shelter, property, clothes and rentals. However due to widespread poverty many woman could not afford to meet these requirements even thou most of the needs are basic.

Before women engaged into street vending they could not afford education for their children. Of the interviewed women 90% of them highlighted that they each had at least one or more dependent that were still in school and with the majority of them telling that these children were still in primary school. Most women could not afford to send their kids to school because they had no income to do so and some of them had too much responsibility yet there was no source of income. A 52 year old women narrated

“I could not afford to send all of my three grandchildren to school as their mother died because of cancer and the father abandoned them with me therefore I had to get into the streets to give them a decent life”.

Therefore before these women began practising street vending they could not afford to pay fees for their children.

Access to health facilities was another key aspect that was highlighted by many women to have been lacking. Most of the interviewed women expressed that due to poverty and the retrenchments of their male counter parts, access to health facilities has reduced as they no longer had medical covers and neither did they have means of paying for medical assistance because of the absence of an income. Most of the interviewed women expressed that they could not afford basic medical attention before they became vendors, whilst very few said they could afford only the basic health facility but could not afford paying for further attention for example in large hospitals. One responded highlighted that accessing medical facilities was really difficult for her and her family members and it was the death of her one year baby that pushed her to find a means of an income as both her and the husband and failed to buy the blood that was needed for the son to survive. Hence women could not afford to meet the basic need of accessing health facilities before they engaged into street vending.

Poverty for women especially affected their food security which is one of the fundamental aspects of human development. Due to high economic challenges that caused the fall of the male breadwinner status, women were left with the burden of having to find means to survive. Women interviewed in the Harare CBD expressed that due to poverty their families could not afford to have normal meals and lived on less than a dollar per day. 80% of the responded expressed that they could not afford to have three meals per day. Whilst 15% expressed that they could survive with only one proper meal per day. One of the respondents

expressed that at one point or the other at least one member of their family had suffered from malnutrition, or other nutritional related diseases. This therefore shows that before women became involved in vending, they could hardly feed for their families and their dependants.

One of the key basic needs that women could not afford before they became vendors was buying clothes for both themselves and for the children. Most of the responded articulated that clothes were really the least of their worries as they were other important needs like school fees for the children.

“Clothes were an unnecessary expense, my children knew that we could not afford buying clothes and they had accepted that, so I had no problem with them, here and there I would buy at Christmas because that was what I could afford,”

One of the divorced women responds as she was being interviewed. These women were comparing their lives before and after they began practising street vending and how it had changed their lives.

Furthermore, paying for rentals was a major challenge experienced by women before they started practising street vending. Most of the interviewed women who were renting expressed that they could not afford to pay rentals because they had no income. The increase in the costs of living due to economic meltdown saw most of the women together with their families relocating to their rural homes. Some women highlighted that at one point in time they were thrown out or almost thrown out by their landlords because of not paying rent. Others highlighted that they had to negotiate with the landlords every month end so that they would be given more time to look for the money to pay up. One woman articulated that she had moved back to her rural home in Domboshava because her landlord couldn't take anymore of her excuses. She went on to say life was now easier for her as she now just

needed US\$2 for transport from her new home to come to the CBD to sell her vegetables which is giving her more profit as she no longer incurs rental costs.

Ownership of assets is another constraint that was upon women before they became street vendors. Due to the high dependence they heard on the male breadwinner most women had no means to acquire property and also lacked ownership rights. Most women expressed that before they began operating in the informal sector they had no assets that belonged to them entirely. The only properties that they claimed ownership to were those acquired through marriage rights. But however after becoming vendors they expressed that they can also contribute into decision makings and now able to acquire their own assets such as home property.

Income was another livelihood indicator that women could not afford before being involved into vending. Most of the interviewed women expressed that before they became street vendors they had no means of earning an income at all because of their lack of education background. Due to the fact that most women didn't have an income they were unable to provide the basic needs needed by the family. 75% of interviewed women highlighted that before they became vendors they had no means of accessing incomes whilst 10% expressed that they had lost formal employment.

Women's participation and its effects on livelihoods

Education

The participation of women in street vending helped change women's livelihoods. Street vending provided an income for women and therefore worked hard every day to make sure that they give their children decent education. 88 percent of the respondents could now afford to pay school fees from their children in different grades. 90% of the respondents mentioned that their children who were in primary level were all in school. 73% of the respondents

shared that they could now afford to take their children through to high school. Only 8% highlighted that they had children that were in tertiary level, but however they were receiving help from either their husbands, their siblings who were now also working, or other relatives who were helping them.

However only a 10 % expressed that their dependants were not in school. Some expressed ignorance over the importance of taking children to school whilst others still could not afford education for the children as they could only get enough to feed the family and if there was extra it could only cater for one child. Most of the respondents highlighted that their children were attending local schools because that's where they were staying and it also minimized costs for them. It is of importance to note that before women's participation in street vending most of their school aged children were out of school and the participation of women in street vending greatly improved the status quo of women. However on the other hand, because very few women expressed the capability to take children up to tertiary level, it therefore shows that street vending was not giving them enough income. Only 8% of the respondents could afford tertiary education for their children through the help of either their spouses or siblings. Hence indicating that street vending cannot be sustainable.

Health facilities

The interviewed respondents acknowledged that their health facilities had greatly improved than it was before they engaged in street vending. More than 50 percent shared that they could now afford to acquire medical attention in case any family member fell sick. Only a few expressed that getting medical attention for the members of her family was still difficulty as she had an extended family to also cater for. However of the women who expressed capability in acquiring medical attention, most of them expressed that they could only access local clinics and not able to access big hospitals like Harare Hospital because of its large consultation fees. Most of the respondents also expressed that they had no medical aid covers

and hence had to use cash. Those who had medical aid covers expressed that it was only for them as they were being paid for by their employed children and others expressed that their husbands had covered them but due to economic hardships the medical aid societies could no longer help them as they had to pay cash in some circumstances. This therefore shows the change in the healthy status due to the participation of women in street vending and how their families could now afford medical attention. However street vending sustainability is challenged as women capabilities have now improved by only for basic health facilities but further health assistance they cannot access it because of limited income.

Food security

Food is an important aspect to a person's life and access to food is an important aspect of each and every household. Women bear the greater burden of having to source around for food as they carry the reproductive role burden of having to take care of the children and the entire family. Access to food at household level improved greatly because of the participation of women in street vending. Most women expressed that because they now had a source of income, they were now able to provide sufficient meals for their children.

Three quarters of the respondents expressed that they could now afford three meals per day. The one quarter expressed that even though they were having two meals per day they felt that the amount of consumption had improved greatly unlike before they had a source of income. Fruit and vegetable respondents highlighted that their children and families were consuming balanced diets as they had to give them the left over burnt fruits from the remains of the day so that tomorrow morning they restock . One woman highlighted that

“I only give my children my left over fruits if I discover that tomorrow they cannot be sellable “

This therefore shows that the food security for families had improved greatly as compared to before where food at house-hold level was not enough.

Acquisition of assets

Acquisition of assets is one of the key indicators used to measure sustainable livelihoods. Assets are an important aspect of development and hence need to take note of the capability to acquire both tangible and intangible assets. Through the participation of women in street vending the acquisition of assets and properties greatly improved and this is largely because their power in decision making within the family changed. Women expressed that they could now also make decisions in the family on what is to and what is not to be bought because they were also now contributing an income. Most of the participants expressed that they had managed to acquire properties such as residential stands fridges, microwaves, stoves and many other small properties such as kitchen wares and plates. Women acknowledged that their status quo had greatly changed because of their participation in street vending.

91 % of the respondents expressed that they had managed to purchase furniture as a result of the income that they were getting from their practise in street vending. Each one of them had bought at least one big item such as stove, fridge or television. These women articulated that before they got engaged into street vending they could not afford to purchase all this furniture because they had no source of income.

2% of the respondents also highlighted that they had managed to acquire residential stands from the income they got from street vending in CBD. These stands were in Domboshava, and Seke Dema the cheaper suburbs around Harare that, but however this shows that women had managed to make servings from their income. One lady who was specializing in grocery trading expressed that her income was big because she was purchasing her goods at

wholesale price and therefore selling them at affordable costs such that she had now established customers loyal to her.

More over 7% of the interviewed women expressed that they still could not afford to acquire assets. Some of them expressed that acquisition of assets was not a priority for their families, they had extended families to take care of and they were still struggling to get food and give education for the children. However it was noted that the majority of these women were still new in the streets and therefore their income was still small. Also some of them said it was because the profits they were getting were small. One woman specializing in selling recharge cards and sweet expressed that she relied on 10cents profit for every airtime hence difficult to save it. Hence it can be noted that the participation of women in street vending enabled them to acquire both movable and immovable assets.

House-hold Income

The need for an income was the major contributory factor of why women engaged into street vending. The economic hardships in the country pressed the burden on women as they play the reproductive role burden of having to take care of the family and the children. High unemployment rates saw the shift in the role of the male bread winner to the women also carrying the burden of having to bring income to the table

Most of the respondents explained that they were widows or divorces and hence they were the bread winners of their families with some having to take care of extended families and therefore had to look for a source of income other than formal employment because there were no jobs. Others expressed that they were left with the burden of having to source for income after their husbands got retrenched. However most women joined the informal sector particularly street vending due to the need of an income and they confirmed that not only had street vending improved their social status but it had also changed their well-being.

Income generation for women improved greatly comparing with the time before they had joined the streets. It is because of the new source of income that women's lives began to change. Household income has great impact on food security, education health and the acquisition of assets. Household's livelihoods changed after the participation of women in street vending. However it is of paramount importance to highlight that the income differed with the type of commodities that were under trade. Some women were trading commodities that bring in fast money for example fruits and vegetables as customers purchase these on a daily bases, whilst other were selling newspapers, and sweets which are goods that customers can choose not to or to buy.

However the sustainability of street vending as a livelihood strategy can be challenged. Although women now had access to an income their incomes were very low and also differed from one person to the other due to the type of goods that were on sale. Sweet vendors had very low profits as compared to those who were selling groceries'. And also the small incomes were carrying too much reliance from food, education to health.

Challenges faced by women in street vending in Harare CBD

Harassment from town council officials.

Women operating in Harare CBD shared that, their major challenge was the amount of harassment that they get from town council officers. Most of the trading sites that women are using in Harare CBD are illegal, the pavements and the sidewalks and hence they suffer from council police raids every now and then. Women complained because of the way that male officers handle them. They expressed that although it is wrong for them to operate without licenses they also deserved respect as most of them were married women. They accused council officers of harassing them and dragging them all over town therefore leading to their loss of dignity. One responded said that

“They dragged me into their car on foot, my wrapper was falling and my skirt’s zipper had opened because I had tried escaping from them but I was unlucky that day. I felt so ashamed as people stood at a distance watching the whole drama and with today’s technology who knows maybe there are pictures of me circulating somewhere somehow“

They complained that this has also caused them not to be respected even in society as they are now regarded as women without good behaviour and some expressed the tension that was now amongst the family especially the husbands because of the harassment they receive from male city council officers

Stiff competition

Women in Harare CBD shared that the major challenge that they faced whilst vending in the CBD was that they faced stiff competition. Street vending is one area in the informal sector that has attracted both women and men because of its different advantages. However women shared that they were facing stiff competition due to the flooding of the same commodities on the market. This forced them to reduce their prices especially during the peak hours of the day, and always have presentable goods so that they attract customers. Most female vendors were selling the same goods and therefore they had to use different strategies so as to attract customers to your side and this has caused a lot of arguments and even fights with their core traders and losses as they are forced to reduce prices to attract customers.

To add on women also expressed that they were receiving stiff competition from their male counter parts. Most female vendors expressed that because they had to bring children and also because of other reasons they were mobile and sell at one point whilst their male counter parts moved from one selling point to the other hence making more profits. Also their lack of

movement left them confined to areas which attracted very few customers and also made them an easy target of city council raids. One lady shared that

“I cannot move every day from charge office to Copacabana or fourth street because my baby needs attention and besides I stay in Dema so it’s easier for me here because I just drop here and board here, so I cannot be moving around changing selling points”

Thus competition has posed as a challenge to female vendors and this has contributed significantly in reducing their income.

Lack of operating licenses and corrupt council officials

Lack or not having operating license is another challenge that was highlighted by women. Women expressed that they lived each and every day on the streets with fear of being arrested. Most of the women vending in the streets of Harare CBD are operating illegally with no license. This has caused them to be always in quarrel with the city council officials. Women expressed that in as much as they were aware of the illegality of operating without licenses life’s challenges had left them with no option as they could not afford to pay for the operating licenses disc because the costs were unreasonably high.

To add on the lack of operating license disks, the city council officials were highly corrupt. Women expressed that they were facing challenges from the city fathers as they demanded money for bribes from them each and every day so as to let them operate and failure to compile or give that money would lead to your goods being impounded. Women expressed that it would seem cheaper but they are days when they have no money to pay the bribe and this is a problem to the city council officials. One woman shared that

“ they come here every day asking for one dollar per each person so as to let us sell because they say we are illegal we have no option but to give them because if you don't when they come for raids you will lose even more ”

Therefore the operating of women in the CBD will continue to be regarded as illegal and risk stiff penalties if they don't pay the bribes and getting their goods back after they have been impounded is difficult as the officers take the goods for themselves or take it to their own houses or markets. Thereby showing how corrupt the town officials are.

Lack of permanent sites.

Most vendors operating in the Harare CBD are considered to be doing so illegally. However it should be noted that there are very few legal vending sites in the city and these have been occupied by people who are politically connected. Most of the women expressed that the city council had made designated sites for them outside of the city. These selling points attract very few customers as they are located at the outskirts of town where they face high competition from each other because of lack of customers. This forces female vendors back into the streets during the peak hours of the day because they know the council officials will no longer be at work and they can also make money during the peak hour.

The interviewed women expressed that the council should do something about their newly allocated trading sites because this has made life difficult for them. Some expressed that the council should consider releasing legal sites in the CBD other than the ones they made for them outside the city because they were not going to risk relocating to an area where there are no customers and also risk their goods going bad. The vendors pleaded highlighting that they were not in the streets by choice but it is because of the difficult economic situations and therefore selling in areas without customers would not help them in any way.

Lack of proper infrastructure.

The interviewed women share that they were also experiencing the problem of lack of proper infrastructure. They expressed that they were experiencing terrible times especially during the rainy season because they were operating in open spaces. Though the places are considered illegal but they pay \$2-\$3 taxes money every day to the municipality police which they claim to be for the maintenance of the city therefore they also expected to receive temporary coverings so that they can be protected from the harsh weather conditions.

Women also expressed that the council should increase the number of toilets in the CBD especially on specific areas such as Copacabana, Market square and Fourth Street. The toilets are there but they are few to cater for both the public and also for the vendors who spend all their days using these facilities. Also sometimes the toilets have no running water causing the vendors to use the toilet and not wash hands then handle food after putting both them and the customers in great risk with diseases. One lady also shared

“The city council should do something with the public toilets, they have no bins for sanitary disposal. We are women and each and every day there is one of us who needs to make use of such facility how then are we supposed to cope. These are the pertinent issues that the council should address and stop harassing us for making the CBD dirty”

This lack of proper sanitation is further worsened with the rains leading to diseases such as cholera and typhoid affecting both the customers and the vendors themselves.

Lack of access to financial services such as credit and savings

Most female street vendors expressed that they also experienced lack of finance as a major constraint to their operations. They expressed that it is difficult to obtain credit from the formal financial sector such as banks due to the lack of collateral. Also it is because the street

vendors are not registered which makes it difficult to trace them. Even for those banks that offer those loans the interests are highly unreasonable and they cannot afford them. Women also explained that due to the failure to get credits from formal financial institutions most of them have resorted to money lenders also known as loan sharks. These also charge unreasonable interests which in most cases presses burden on women as they cannot afford to pay back. One women explained that she has been paying a loan shark for over six months now because she borrowed \$50 after all her vegetables had gone bad when she attended a funeral, it was to be paid back at an interest rate of 25% per month and because her sales were not good that month she has not been able to pay the debt which is now more than \$200 dollars. This shows that female street vendors are suffering from lack of access to financial services.

Limited goods to sell

Women operating in Harare CBD expressed the limited goods to sell as one of their challenges. Women and men compete for the same kind of goods, and even amongst fellow women they were selling the same kind of goods. Groceries, vegetables and airtime were the main commodities sold by women. This was because the goods require low capital and hence was not too much of a problem to them. Women also had limited goods to sell because of the law of supply which demands that you only give what your customers want, and for the street vendors buyers usually goods such as vegetables and fruits is what they required. However due to the limited goods to sell , women had a small income as they lacked diversification in the things they sold and this was also further worsened by the high competition that they faced from their fellow women and male counter parts.

Cheap and low quality goods on offer

Furthermore another challenge faced by women in Harare CBD was that of cheap and low quality of goods on offer. Women because of lack of capital found themselves selling goods that are cheap and gives them very little profits. Some of the interviewed women were selling sweets and recharge cards. For every recharge card sold there was 10cents profit and for sweets in order to be able to calculate the profit it will be after days. One a good day the vendors of the cheap commodities expressed they would get \$3-\$5 whilst on a bad day their profits might be even less than a dollar. This however presented a problem for the female vendors to sustain their livelihood as the profits they were generating could not even sustain their families. Also the low quality of good on offer by women is another challenge for women. The goods that women sell are sub-standard and usually they purchase their goods from china shops for example those who were selling clothing's and also those who were getting their goods from Mbare such as vegetables would go for the cheap quality vegetables and fruits so as to maximise their profits as they buy the goods at cheap quality and sell them with a normal prize. However this affected their income as most customers would go for the ones with high quality goods and hence lessening the profits for others.

Conclusion

Women participation in street vending over the years has greatly changed the household status of women and their families despite the challenges that they face each and every day. Their households levels were enhanced through their participation as they were now able to provide food, education receive health facilities, although it was not standard facilities. However in as much as the household standards of women have improved the sustainability of street vending still remains a dream. The income generated is hardly enough to cater for all the needs of the household and this further hardened by the challenges that street vending itself is exposed to. The challenges faced include, cheap and low quality good for sale,

corrupt town council officials, stiff competition, lack of proper infrastructure and harassment from municipal police.

Chapter 3

Strategies to improve the livelihoods of women

Chapter summary

This chapter seeks to offer strategies that can be adopted by the state so as to help women move out of street vending since it is not a sustainable avenue by women the strategies

include creation of employment, putting in place designated vending spaces that are conducive for business, policy formulation and implementation and also educating the female entrepreneurs. Women vendors can also consider going to technical schools, economic diversification, women saving schemes. These will help them improve street vending whilst at the same time looking for alternatives to move out of it.

Strategies that the state can adopt to improve women's livelihood

Employment creation

In order to improve women livelihoods, the government of Zimbabwe should work towards creation of employment especially in the formal sector and this can be done through industrialization. Revival of industries can help and assist women to move out of street vending into formal employment. Most women have indicated that street vending is not a choice for them it is just but a mere survival strategy for them and in order to assist these women to sustain their livelihood the government should work towards the revival of industries. Industries used to be largest employer in Zimbabwe until their collapse leading to many people being unemployment and therefore finding refuge in the informal sector. Therefore the creation of decent employment for women will help them move out of street vending and begin a new life outside of the streets.

Designated places that are conducive

One of the major challenges faced by women who are practising street vending is that of poor infrastructure. Therefore the government of Zimbabwe should consider providing proper infrastructure for women such as proper toilets and even provide access to safe and clean running water especially for those that sell fresh food such as vegetables and fruits. The provision of proper infrastructure by the government can also help curb the problem of

diseases such as cholera and typhoid for both the street vendors and for the consumers of their produce.

To add on the issue of proper infrastructure availing designated places for the vendors can also help to curb the issue of hygiene in the CBD which is the area accommodating most of the street vendors. Street vendors have been using illegal places in the CBD and to improve their well-being the government should consider creating designated places for the vendors not only designated places but designated places that are conducive and viable for both the street vendor herself and also the consumer. Recently the government had allocated vending spaces for vendors outside the CBD but the area was not easy to access especially for the customer and hence there is need to reconsider on the part of the government so as to able to maintain order in the city whilst at the same time not compromising the livelihood of female street vendors. There is need also to work closely in consultation with the different representatives of vendors such as NAVUS so as to ensure that the relocation works towards addressing the need of the street vendors.

Policy formulation and implementation

The government should formulate policies that seek to empower women and help them with sustainable ways of generating incomes for themselves. The formulated policies should be implemented with the intention of meeting the objectives. The formulation of policies and their implementation should be done in a profound manner. Monitoring and evaluation during implementation should be continuous so as to ensure the success of the projects. An example is the indigenization policy which was meant to empower women and youths and had it been done in a more profound manner would have managed through its projects to help women out of street vending and given them better income generating strategies.

Provision of financial services to women

The government of Zimbabwe can consider offering loans to women who are practising street vending so as to deal with the problem of capital shortages. One of the biggest challenges for women who are practising street vending is lack of access to financial services such as credits and saving. The government of Zimbabwe should consider providing access of loans to women so that they can be able to be financially stable. The government should charge very low interest rates for women's loans or no interest at all so as to be able to make women from all backgrounds be able to access these loans without worry of high unpayable interest rates that will end up crippling their business

Educating female entrepreneurs

Another strategy that the government of Zimbabwe can adopt in order to improve the livelihood of women, is to offer further education to women about entrepreneurship and providing trainings women about business. Most women lack the basic knowledge of how to manage business and their finances. The government can do this through the ministry of Small to Medium Enterprises and the ministry of women affairs which can provide women with trainings in business management, bookkeeping, as well as marketing. The government can also consider training women into other technical skills such as poultry and candle making. Providing such education to women will help them diversify and not only will they depend on street vending but they will adopt other strategies that will help them generate income whilst at the same time possessing the skills of how to manage their funds and make their business grow.

Policy and legislation review

As an effort to empower female street vendors, the government should review some of the policies and legislations. It has been noted that most of the legislations that are in use in Zimbabwe are those that were used by the colonial masters. These were directed towards

suppressing the growth of the informal sector which was an avenue adopted by blacks. However the government has continued using the same by-laws such as the Hawkers-Vendors by-laws of (1973) which work against street vending. Therefore the government need to review these pieces of legislation considering the current context where unemployment has pushed people into the informal economy. This will help improve the operations of women and foster empowerment.

Foreign direct investment

Foreign direct investment is one of the key needs to stabilizing the economy. The government should create a conducive environment that will attract foreign direct investors. The coming in of foreign investors will help stabilize the economy through the creation of jobs and hence taking in the larger number of those operating in the informal sector and hence will reduce the burden of being street vendors for women. One way in which the government can consider so as to attract foreign direct investors is by reducing the foreign tax. That is reducing the 51%-49% threshold made by the government into something that both parties can benefit and hence jobs are created. Also foreign direct investors inject a lot of capital in the economy which is capital needed for the resuscitation of the economy and hence reducing poverty.

Economic diversification

Through partnership with other women ministries and other organizations that support women, the government can consider economic diversification for women. For women's livelihood strategies to be sustainable they have to be diversified. Women can be trained in other activities such as poultry and piggery, fish farming and bee farming. This not only does it help women to move out of the streets i.e. (street vending) but it provides women with other avenues of earning a living

To add on economic diversification by women, the government can work towards empowering women in terms of agriculture. During the land reform program women were less empowered than their man counter parts and this led to women lacking economic independence. Therefore as a way to empower women and help reduce their dependence on street vending as an economic livelihood strategy the government can allocate farming areas for women in the urban area. Urban agriculture can ensure women's food security and hence in able them to reduce their reliance on street vending as a livelihood strategy.

Dedication of the budget to SMEs

Furthermore another strategy that the state can adapt in order to empower women is to make budgetary commitments towards supporting women operating in the informal sector. One of the reasons why street vending by women has not improved much is due to the lack of funds. The government should commit a budget for the ministry of small to medium enterprises so as to be able to run and support the activities of women. The ministry was created with a clear mandate and motivated to begin operation but however lack of funding has hindered the function of the ministry.

Strategies that women can adopt to improve their livelihoods

Women saving schemes and cooperation's

As a strategy by women to move out of street vending and also as means to economic liberation women can create saving schemes such as round tables. In which a group of women can be saving money periodically. It is argued that one of the key aspects of financially including women is through their ability to save. The round schemes will ensure women's ability to save whilst at the same time continuing with their everyday sustainable livelihoods.

Vending cooperation's can be another way that can be adopted by street vendors so as to be able to move out of street vending. Women can organize themselves into smaller groups in which they can work together towards generation of idea on how to improve their livelihoods. This will help with provision of ideas to those with no ideas on how to do things and also working together brings an impact to what they would have committed themselves to doing.

Livelihood diversification

Women practising street vending in Harare can consider economic diversification. This entails that rather than depending solely on street vending can also consider getting into other livelihood strategies such as poultry and piggery, weaving and basket making, cross boarder trading amongst other livelihood strategies. Livelihood diversification will help women move out of street vending as it is an activity that is not sustainable and bound to fail to with stand the test of time.

Technical courses

Getting technical and vocational skills training can be another strategy that women can adopt as a means to empower themselves and be able to move out of street vending. Vocational skills training will empower women not only to fit into other informal sector areas but also to venture into other formal work spheres. Women are provided with life skills that will help them fit into the current economy, and also will help them in their choices of diversifying because they will now be capable to do many other things.

Conclusion

Street vending for women in the Harare central business district has proved not sustainable because of the various challenges that are associated with the activity and also because it is an option of a last resort were women are seeking survival means. However the state can adopt

several strategies to help women improve street vending whilst at the same time preparing them to move out of street vending such as formulating policies that empower women. Creating employment for women, dedication of the budget towards empowering women economically and providing financial services to women. Also women should empower themselves so as to move out of street vending and improving street vending by establishing female saving schemes, consider livelihood diversification, taking technical courses and consider being organized.

Conclusion

The participation of women in street vending has proved to be a panacea to poverty amongst many households especially amongst the urban poor. Women's participation in street vending came about not as a viable sector but as a solution of last resort following a series of economic crisis in the country which crippled down the formal employment sector. Therefore women had to harbour in street vending.

As have been revealed by this research before street vending life was a hustle for most of the urban poor as they could not afford basic amenities such as food to eat, clothes for themselves and also for their dependants, accommodation, education for the children and even access to health facilities for both themselves and for their families. It was this vulnerability and the need to sustain their families that led women into street vending.

The participation of women in street vending led to the improvement in their household income, education, food security, capacity to acquire assets and also able to access health facilities. However, despite all these upgrades on the part of female street vendor's livelihood, street vending has proved to be an unsustainable livelihood strategy and this is because it came about as a means of last resort and came in the presence of no other options. Different challenges associated with the activity has made it a more risk and unviable area and these include, harassment by town officials, low quality of good sold by women, lack of operating licenses and lack of permanent structures lack of financial credits

It is therefore important for the government to empower women through providing them with other means to a livelihoods and this can be through, providing loans to women, providing technical and vocational skills training, creating formal employment and formulating policies that are pro-women and also women can consider diversifying the economy and doing technical courses and women cooperation's so as to empower women to move out of street vending.

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APPENDICES

Questioner guide for women participating in street vending

My name is Primrose Mutize. I am a student at the Midlands State University studying Bachelor of Arts in Development Studies Honours Degree. As part of the programme requirement, I am carrying out a research on the sustainability of street vending as a livelihood strategy by women in Harare central business district (CBD).

Appendix 1

Section A: questionnaire for the women

Instructions: please answer all questions if possible

: indicate your answer with a tick in a given box or explanation where necessary

1. Age range 20-35 [] 36-50 [] 50 and over []
2. Marital status Single [] married [] widowed []
3. If married is your husband working? Yes [] No []
4. How many children do you take care of? []
5. How many of your children are of school going age? []
6. What are the goods you sell for a living?

- 7 Where do u buy your goods for resell?
- 8 How much profit do you get per day? Approximately
- 9 How much profit do you get per month? Approximately

- 10 How many meals do you have per day 1meal [] 2meals[] 3meals[]
- 11 Are your children going to school? Yes[] No[]
- 12 If yes how many are in school? [] and level []
- 13 Do you manage to take yourself or children for medical assistance? Yes [] No []
- 14 If yes show level Clinic [] Hospital [] Private doctor []
- 15 What properties have you managed to buy or acquire through street vending?

Appendix 2

Interview guide

1. What made you choose street vending and no other areas such as cross boarder?
2. What was your life like before getting involved in street vending?
3. What has changed with your engagement in street vending?
4. What are the challenges that you face in operating in the streets?
5. Can street vending survive these shocks and become sustainable?
6. What other strategies can you adapt in order to sustain yourselves?
7. What can the government/ state do to assist in addressing your plight?