



MIDLANDS STATE UNIVERSITY

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**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND INTERNATIONAL
STUDIES**

**YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES IN MUTASA, c.
2010-2018.**

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**DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
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DECLARATION

I declare that the work with the topic, **Youth Empowerment and Development Strategies in Mutasa, c. 2010-2018** is my own work. It has not been submitted before for any degree or examination in any other university. I declare that all sources I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged as a complete reference. I authorise the Midlands State University to lend this dissertation to any other institutions or individuals for purposes of scholarly research only.

Chesa Wonder Tatenda

Signature.....Date.....

APPROVAL FORM

The signatories do certify that they have supervised Chesa Wonder Tatenda in the preparation and production of the dissertation entitled, **Youth Empowerment and Development Strategies in Mutasa, c. 2010-2018**. This dissertation has been submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in History and International Studies at Midlands State University.

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External examiner

Signature.....

Date...../...../.....

DEDICATION

This research is dedicated to my parents, Wonder and Irene Chesa who worked tirelessly to send me to school. It was their dream for me to go to university. It was going to be valueless without their support. I would like to say that enjoy the product of your son.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ACRONYMS

CABS	Central African Building Society
DA	District Administrator
DDF	District Development Fund
ESAP	Economic Structural Adjustment Programme
FACT	Family Aid Caring Trust
FVCO	Fruit and Vegetable Company
IRC	International Rescue Committee
MRDC	Mutasa Rural District Council
MYIEE	Ministry of Youth Indigenization and Economic Empowerment
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
RBZ	Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe
NYP	National Youth Policy
NYS	National Youth service
YBZ	Youth Build Zimbabwe
YO	Youth Officer

ABSTRACT

This study explores and examines development and empowerment strategies initiated on promoting youths in Mutasa District from 2010 to 2018. The investigation aimed on youths in Mutasa District identifying and evaluating the political, economic and social changes brought through youth programmes. Interviews and questionnaires were mostly used during the investigation. The findings indicated that youths were promoted and empowered through donations, funds, awareness campaigns, technical skills from VTCs, business and mining leases, trainings and workshops. Those schemes had achieved its goals to develop and empower the youths in all dimensions. The programme created peaceful political environment in the district than before, provided access to credit facilities, stable market, self-employment creation, inputs accessibility, funding, succeeded in upgrading youth livelihoods through life skills and computing skills. However, personalization of the projects, corruption, lack of unity among youths, unexpected climate changes, poor communication and road networks negatively affected youth programmes in some areas within the district.

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INTRODUCTION

Zimbabwe has been facing economic, political and social challenges which resulted to youth poverty. In Zimbabwe, the youth age ranges between 15 and 35 years as revealed by the constitution.¹ In order to eradicate youth hardships the government in partnership with non-governmental organizations and financial institutions came out with development ideas to sweep away the difficulties faced by youths. Youth empowerment and development strategies have been introduced to improve youths' warfare. This was done through meeting their social, physical, and developmental needs by identifying their competencies need to become successful adults.

After independence, the Government of Zimbabwe created the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Recreation which was charged to address youth development issues through meeting their demands.² Thus, the Government introduced various programmes to advance the interests and welfare of youth in social and economic spheres. In recognition of the demographic, socio-economic and political significance of youths and to demonstrate its commitment to addressing their development and empowerment needs, the government of Zimbabwe in 2000 introduced the National Youth Policy.³ Furthermore, the policy seeks to empower the youth in a comprehensive, coordinated multi-sectorial manner. The Zimbabwe National Youth Policy was noticeable on the role of skills support and development to youth empowerment and development. The National Youth Policy focused on creating an enabling environment and marshaling the resources necessary for undertaking programmes to fully develop the youths' mental, moral, social, economic, political, cultural and physical potential in order to improve youths' quality of life.

¹ Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment, Chapter 2: no.20, 2013, p20.

² ministry of youth, sports arts and recreation, accessed November 5, 2018. <http://www.zim.gov.zw/government-ministries>.

³ World Bank, *Human Development Report*, 2014.

In trying to eradicate poverty among youths, in 2006 government established a Youth Development Fund (YDF) which was a revolving micro-loan facility for the youths to benefit all Zimbabwean youth. The YDF was merged with the Employment Creation Fund (ECF) that was established in the late 90s. The facility was known as the Youth Development and Employment Creation Fund and has a constitution approved by treasury.⁴ This facility supported youth entrepreneurship development. It provided loans at a concessionary rate of ten percent per annum for tenure of up to thirty six months depending on the nature of the project. It was co-administered by the Ministry of Youth and financial institutions such as CABS, AGRI-BANK and Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe.

Nevertheless, youth development and empowerment programmes have been sponsored by both government and independent organizations. Youth development and empowerment was part of government schemes in order to equip the youth with life skills through vocational and technical education in order to produce artisans for both industries and commerce. Hence government grants mainly for youth development and empowerment were allocated to all ten provinces to foster for development and empowerment programmes. These programmes were under the supervision of Zimbabwe Youth Council (ZYC) and Ministry of Youth Indigenization and Economic Empowerment. Also non-governmental organizations and financial organisations have been linked in order to complement their efforts. In light of this, this study explores and examines the impact of these programmes in Mutasa District from 2010 to 2018.

AIM

- The study explores programmes initiated to promote and empower youths in Mutasa District from 2010 to 2018.

⁴ “Youth Development Fund, Way Forward,” *The Herald*, 26 May, 2017, accessed August 4, 2018. <https://www.herald.co.zw/youth-development-fund-way-forward>.

OBJECTIVES

- To explore factors which led to the implementation of youth empowerment and development programmes in Mutasa district.
- To identify strategies initiated to promote youths in the district.
- To examine the effectiveness of youth empowerment strategies on youth development in Mutasa District.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Which youth empowerment and development programmes initiated in Mutasa District.
- Who were responsible in supporting youth development and empowerment programmes in the district?
- What challenges faced in fostering youth development and programmes in Mutasa?
- How did the youths benefit from development and empowerment programmes?
- What challenges are still faced by youths in Mutasa?

JUSTIFICATION

Issues to do with youth development and empowerment are important on nation building since youths occupy the largest percent of the total population of Zimbabwe. They also regarded as economically active group. This study will be of interest to the district and nation. It is of great importance since it explores the efforts made on youth development and empowerment in Mutasa. Policy makers will hear the voices of the beneficiaries towards youth empowerment and development programmes. The research leads to a deep understanding between the beneficiaries and sponsors with primary evidence for the success of projects. It showcase the effectiveness and need of enough youth empowerment and

development programmes which would be a great contribution to the national development from house level to national level. It will provide vital information which will support effective national development. Some areas which still need some amendments to increase the efficiency of those youth development and empowerment strategies are going to be indicated. Hence this research will serve as essential material to several stakeholders like NGOs, government, community and youths who may want to do further research work in this regard.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This research is guided by the empowerment theory which supports young people to take charge of their lives. The empowerment theory provides a special conceptual framework for developing programmes to come out with positive youth development because it incorporates the notion that health promotion requires not only that youth develop specific skills and positive assets, but also they become motivated to actively apply these skills and knowledge to become agents of positive change for themselves and in their communities.⁵ Thus programmes based on Empowerment Theory focus on building positive assets, connecting youth with local resources and adult role models, and engaging youth in community service activities.

Furthermore, the theory became vital to the study since it support progressive development on youths. The empowerment theory uses intervention approach to portray the importance of positive youth development by engaging youth in relevant ecological settings where they can learn skills, practice those skills, establish the social resources to effectively navigate the social contexts in which they find themselves, and develop into healthy adults. This becomes

⁵ M. A. Zimmerman, "Empowerment Theory: Psychological, Organizational and Community Levels of Analysis," *Handbook of Community Psychology*, 2000, p43-63.

essential view on YES program. YES is a program that comprises empowering processes for youths. It helps youths to develop the skills they need to assess their community and it gives them decision-making power in developing and implementing community change projects. Participating in empowering activities prevent youth from social unwanted activities. Hence it becomes essential to the study since it focus on youth development and empowerment programmes.

Rappaport postulates that, empowerment theory is a value orientation for working in the community and a theoretical model for understanding the process and impacts of efforts to exert control and influence over decisions that affect one's life, organizational functioning, and the quality of community life.⁶ A distinction between the values that underlie an empowerment approach to social change and empowerment theory is necessary. The value orientation of empowerment suggests goals, aims, and strategies for implementing change. Empowerment theory provides principles and a framework for organizing knowledge. The development of empowerment theory also helps to advance the construct beyond a passing fad and political manipulation. Thus, it becomes an eye on youth development and empowerment in Zimbabwe.

LITERATURE REVIEW

There are various studies that discuss the issue of youth empowerment and development. Morton and Montgomery suggests that empowerment of youths is worth to investment. They noted that, adolescence is an important period to invest or build on young person's strengths for a positive future. This assertion clearly portrays that issues to do with youths should be seriously considered and dealt with; if ignored, participation and healthy development can

⁶J. Rappaport, "Studies in empowerment: Introduction to the issue," *Prevention in Human Services*, vol. 3, no. 4, 1994, p1-7.

have big social costs which can result from youth challenges.⁷ This is relevant to this study since promoting youths prepares them to become successful adults which can link to empowerment and development strategies employed in Zimbabwe.

The International Youth Foundation noted that empowerment of young women can lead to an excellent future for the nation. This work can only get a credit only by pointing out that young women are important in the patriarchal society. However, this is not enough since that statement already excludes male youths from development programmes. Berg argued that in order to come out with effective results on youth development there should be gender equality, in every project implemented it should consist of both sexes.⁸ That is important since it avoids dependency among youths. This is crucial to this study since the researcher focuses on how both females and males benefited from the youth empowerment and development strategies applied in Mutasa.

Zvobgo reveals the involvement in youth job training in Zimbabwe with the notion “after school, then what?”. He argues that between 1980 and 1999 a large number of young people plus school leavers were trained in a number of vocational and technical educations but they just end there without being employed.⁹ Thus, it becomes vital since the research is going to portray how did empowerment and development policies deal with the issue of unemployed educated youths.

The UNDP notes that youth empowerment programmes will promote both educated and uneducated young persons. In Nigeria, a large number of school leavers benefited from YEP.

Through YEP, there was the introduction of mindset change programmes in the

⁷M. Morton and P. Montgomery, “Youth Empowerment Programs for Improving Self Efficacy and Self Esteem of Adolescents,” *Research on Social Work Practice*, vol. 23, no. 1, 2013, p22-33.

⁸M. Berg, E. Coman, J. Schensul. “Youth action research for prevention: A multi-level intervention designed to increase efficacy and empowerment among urban youth,” *American Journal of Community Psychology*, vol. 43, no. 3, 2009, p345 - 359

⁹R. G. Zvobgo, *The Post Colonial State and Educational Reforms Zimbabwe*, Harare: Zimbabwe Publishing House, 1999.

country. It was targeted to open brains for young people to become entrepreneurs and to attend vocational schools in order to be successful adults.¹⁰ Thus, the above idea suits this study since it is going to reveal the entrepreneurial and vocational training programmes provided to Mutasa youths so that they will get skills to promote self-dependence.

Nevertheless, Furlong raised the issue of youth rights. He noted that, when children are growing up they have to be granted rights according to their age like voting, decision making and also to choose what suits them.¹¹ There are different minimum limits of age at which youths are not free, independent or legally competent to take some decisions or actions. Thus, the view is essential to the study since it helps the researcher to make an assessment on how youth rights are respected in Mutasa District. These include issues on marriage, education, decision making, health treatment and ownership of properties.

More so, Rappaport explores empowerment as a multi-level strategy that addresses people both as individuals and community at large. He notes that individuals who engage in their communities experience a consistent level of empowerment which is positively influenced by participating in a leadership role rather than being isolated. Moreover, he explains that partnership leads to an environment of empowerment. His ideas are focused on group work since it helps to more effective decision making to come out with viable ideas to solve a problem.¹² Hence, the idea is important to this work since it is going to explore how people in Mutasa are managing the idea of group work to eradicate poverty through the youth empowerment and development programmes.

¹⁰UNDP, *Sustainable Development Goals Report*, 2016.

¹¹A. Furlong, D. Woodman and J. Wyn, *Changing times, changing perspectives: reconciling transition and cultural perspectives on youth and young adulthood*, London, Routledge, 2011, p55–70.

¹²J. Rappaport, "Studies in empowerment: Introduction to the issue," *Prevention in Human Services*, vol. 3, no. 4, 1994, p1-7.

Ungerleider explains a dialogue as a vital drug in building a sense of empowerment for youth participants. The idea of peer-to-peer conversation can lead youth to become change-makers in their communities. Elderly people play a key role in creating a youth-centered environment which enables youth to feel free and actively engage in decision making with progressively more authority.¹³ Through that idea youths take a more influential and active role in community service and acquire a greater sense of positive social change. The idea become more important to the study in the sense that the researcher is going to consider do the elderly have time to talk to youths on issues affecting their lives and also do they consider decision made by youths.

METHODOLOGY

A qualitative research design was employed in this study. The approach is interpretive, pragmatic and grounded in the lived experiences of people. In assertion of qualitative research, Best reveals that qualitative method is preferred because it allows verbal description hence the researcher is kept closer to the respondents and their actions during the process of research.¹⁴ He identified that qualitative research is of important relevance to the research of social relation and owing to the pluralism fact of life worlds. This shows that qualitative paradigm is important to this study since it relied on human experience on youth development. Furthermore, data collection was naturalistic because it was from people with natural behavior. The researcher prefer qualitative research method because it enables the participants to provide data in their own way and own words. That was crucial to the study since the technique allows youths in Mutasa to explore their experiences and their views on youth programmes.

¹³J. Ungerleider, "Structured Youth Dialogue to Empower Peace building and Leadership," *Conflict Resolution Quarterly*, vol. 29, no. 4, 2012, p39- 43.

¹⁴J. W. Best, *Research Methods*, London, Routledge, 1999, p53.

Qualitative research design is expressed by the use of various data gathering methods. For the purpose of this study I used a case study of Mutasa district as the sole point of data collection. Robson defines a case study as development of tense knowledge of a particular case or a small number of related cases. He further says the aim is to identify factors that affect the behavior pattern of the unity under study and its relationship with the environment.¹⁵ A case study of Mutasa District was of great importance since it promoted in a depth analyses of the phenomenon under study. It allowed me to use multiple sources of data gathering tools which led to collection of large quantities of data used to write a well detailed study. The investigator preferred to use a case study of Mutasa because it allowed him to discover the problems solved and which still need to be dealt with in the district.

The research targeted youths living in Mutasa District and stakeholders who initiated different programmes to examine how viable were the strategies in changing youths' livelihood. Youths were considered as the right respondents since they were viewed how helpful is the empowerment policies on their everyday life. Also youths were targeted since are the ones who are mostly aimed with empowerment programmes. Hence they managed to explore how the programmes are helpful and the viability of projects. The researcher also targeted non-governmental organizations members who embarked different projects in attempt to promote youths since they had firsthand information on progressiveness of those programmes. Non-governmental organizations' representatives have directly worked with local people so getting information from them was helpful since are the most influential members in monitoring projects and they have data bases of projects in the district.

The non-probability sampling technique applied during the research. Mondau propounds that non-probability sampling is a procedure in which there is no way of assessing the probability

¹⁵ C. Robson, *Real World Resource Social Scientists and Practitioners*, Oxford, Black Publishers, 1993, p31.

of elements of population included in the sample. He further says it is a technique where the samples are gathered in a process that does not give all the individuals in population equal chances of being selected. He says non-probability is not a product of a randomized selection process.¹⁶ This means respondents were selected on the bases of purposive judgment of the researcher. I used non probability sampling as a strategy to overcome limitations that causes it impossible to use probability sampling. The researcher had limited time, so it was impossible to use probability sampling and he then resorted to use non-probability sampling. The researcher visited business centers and other big villages in the district such as Watsimba, Hauna, DC and Tsvingwe since they hold more youthful population doing different activities. It becomes helpful since I managed to get detailed and tangible information from those areas.

Random sampling technique was also used during the investigation in order to minimize subjectivity and bias. Random sampling technique enhances making valid conclusions. Kirby argues that researchers who employed random sampling technique would use information got from the research to estimate the opinion of the population as the whole.¹⁷ In light of the above argument, information obtained by using random sampling was used to represent the opinion of all people in Mutasa District. Best notes that, if a sample of a target population is chosen carefully, it is possible to make real statement about the whole population. The researcher used random sampling because it is economical since it reduced printing and traveling costs and most importantly it was not time consuming. Random sampling is cheap to facilitate and it yields satisfactory results. The random sampling played a major role in bringing about true results since it is not selective. Through it I managed to interview a large number of youths both those who are under empowerment programmes and those who are

¹⁶ B. Mondau, *Social Science Research Methods*, New Dehli, Prentice Hall, 2006, p17.

¹⁷ K. Kirby and V. Johnson, *Sociology in Perspective*, Portsmouth, Heinmann, 2000, p24.

not. Hence I managed to get information from all angles since others were biased and some seemed like liars.

Purposive sampling technique was also used during the study when interviewing and distributing questionnaires. Purposive sampling method was used to select a sample of respondents who worked on youth development and empowerment programmes such as youth officers and other youth project monitors in the district. I managed to visit DA, MRDC, MY and ZANU PF offices. Most of them were found at Mutasa Central growth point since it is where more offices are located. They were purposively selected because they had special knowledge on youth issues. Mondau notes that purposive sampling depends on the ability of the researcher to know what is typical.¹⁸ Basing on above argument, purposive sampling technique was important to this study because it enabled the researcher to obtain data from knowledgeable people.

Apart from that, two methods of data gathering techniques namely interviews and questionnaires used during the field research. Questionnaire is for research purposes, and is regarded as a series of questions each one providing a number of alternative answers from which the respondent can choose. It makes it possible to measure what a person knows, what a person dislike and like, values and preference, and what a person thinks, attitudes and benefits. This is further highlighted by Leedy when he explains that “a common place instrument for observing data beyond the physical research of the observer is a questionnaire.”¹⁹ The researcher designed thirty questionnaires aiming soliciting information on what the respondents view youth empowerment and development strategies from their own perspectives

¹⁸ B. Mondau, *Social Science Research Methods*, New Dehli, Prentice Hall, 2006, p21.

¹⁹ P. Leedy, *Practical Research Planning and Design*, New York, Macmillan Publishing Company, 1980, p31.

Questionnaires were distributed in person to respondents. Respondents were given an upper limit of five days to fill in questionnaires before the researcher collected them back. The researcher decided to use questionnaires because they allow greater anonymity since respondents wanted their names not to be known. They were not time consuming since a large number of them were distributed and answered in short time. It is important to note that reliability was improved as questions were asked in exactly the same way to each respondent. Questionnaires were distributed to the respondents who were able to read and write. The questionnaires were written in a language understood by the respondents both literate and illiterate for convenient answers.

More so, the second method used in data collection was interviews. It is a discussion between an interviewer and interviewee with the purpose of draw out certain information. Interviews were used to get information required from youth officers of Ministry of Youth and other youths. Youth development officers from Mutasa MY officers were also interviewed such that they would provide information that was needed for the reason of compiling a dissertation. Krathwohl notes that interviews are direct methods of collecting data in face to face interaction. He further says the benefits of using interviews are that they are useful in obtaining in-depth information on research study.²⁰ For the purpose of this research, I used free interviews since they yielded data in quantity. Questions were open ended, hence encouraging free expression of ideas on the part of the interviewee and an interview with open questions offers a rich source of descriptive information.

Furthermore, I used interviews because they facilitate a discussion and provide a platform for the researcher to spell out issues were the interviewee failed to understand. Interviews allow face to face conversation where the interviewee would give explanation of points on concepts

²⁰ D. R. Krathwol, *Methods of Education and Social Science Research*, London, Longman, 1997, p16.

which are difficult to be understood by interviewee. Apart from that, interviews were used because they yielded data in quantity. This means that interviews gives the interviewee stage to supply complete information pertaining a subject under study. Therefore, I used interviews because of above mentioned effective points.

CHAPTER BREAKDOWN

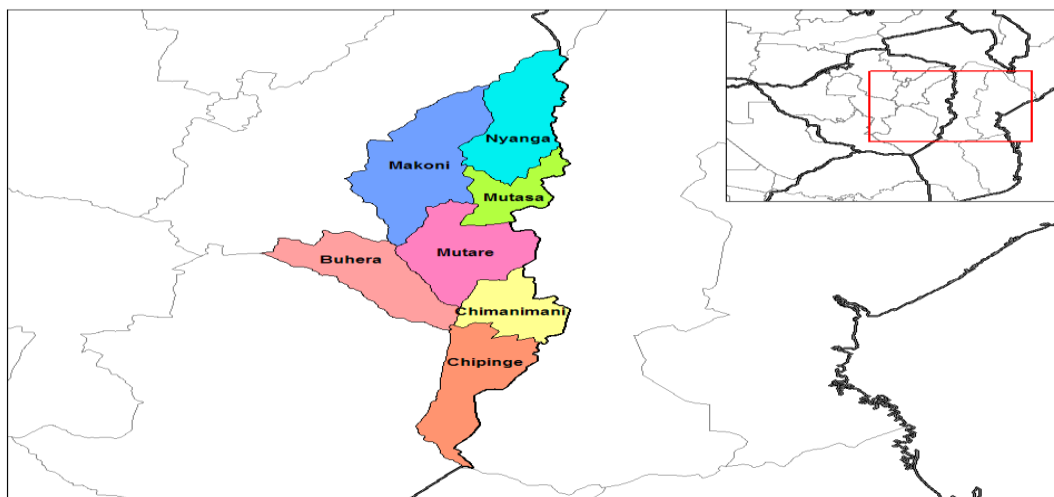
The research is structured into four chapters. The introductory section sets out the background to the study, problem statement, justification, aim, objectives, literature review, methodology, research questions and theoretical framework. The first chapter explores history on youth development and empowerment since colonial era up to 1989 in Mutasa and giving some changes made by the government after colonial rule. The second chapter provides youth affairs in Mutasa since 1990 to 2009. The third chapter reveals youth development and empowerment programmes employed in Mutasa, 2010 to 2018. The fourth chapter gives an analysis on programmes implemented.

CHAPTER ONE: HISTORY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS IN MUTASA, c.1950 -1989

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides a study setting, a brief history of youth affairs in Mutasa before independence and youths reactions towards colonial rule. Resuming from 1980, it will further explore the efforts made in promoting youths' livelihood are to be revealed up 1990 portraying transformation from colonial rule.

Mutasa District is one of seven districts in the Manicaland Province of Zimbabwe. It is located thirty kilometers from Mutare and stretches up to the Honde Valley, which is about one hundred kilometers northeast of Mutare along a tarred road that branches off the Nyanga road. It borders on Nyanga district in the North, Mozambique in the East, Mutare district in the south and Makoni district in the west.²¹ As shown in the map below (Map 1), the district is built-up with three constituencies namely Mutasa Central, Mutasa North and Mutasa South. It also comprises of thirty-one wards. Its total population was one hundred and sixty-nine thousand of which almost fifty percent are youths.²²



²¹ <https://everipedia.org/langen/Mutasa/ManicalandProvince>

²² what is the population of mutasa, zimbabwe, accessed June 12, 2018, http://www.wolframalpha.com/entities/cities_population.

(MAP 1)Source: Central Statistical Office, Zimbabwe, Provincial profile, Census, 2013.

YOUTH DURING COLONIAL ERA, 1950-1979

Zimbabwe was one of the British colonies in Africa where the whites implemented oppressive policies which were abusive to the black majority.²³ Mutasa District has good climatic conditions to sustain agriculture which invited whites to locate their farms in the district. Jeffry Muparutsa, a War Veteran from Nyakatsapa asserts that in Mutasa North whites were interested in doing horticulture activities growing agro-plant such as wheat, beans and soya beans. There were two popular farms namely Firikis and Jeni farms which occupies large piece of land. Also in the area there was the practice of domestic animal rearing such as pigs, dairy cattle and sheep.²⁴ He notes that those white farm owners depended on youthful labour from rural areas since it was cheap and affordable. Almost seventy percent of youths had migrated to white farms searching for employment.²⁵

In addition, Muparutsa went on exploring that those youths who were selected to work in farms they were given very low wages. The payments which they received were inadequate to buy clothes or to send themselves to school. In those farms, blacks were only to do work such as weeding and harvesting which cannot give them experience on farming. Some were shepherds and cattle herders. At their homes they suffer from hunger since they had no farming experience, of which they worked in farms. Those who misbehaved at white owned farms were punished, beaten by shambok.²⁶ In 1960s a large number of youths who worked in white farms became disabled due to brutal punishment from whites.²⁷ The white farm

²³R. Weitzer, *Transforming Settler States: Communal Conflict and Internal Security in Northern Ireland and Zimbabwe*, California, University of California, 2006, p1–9.

²⁴ Interview with J. Muparutsa (71), War Veteran, Mutasa Central, Watsomba, July 13, 2018.

²⁵Ibid.

²⁶Ibid.

²⁷Ibid.

owners did not want youths to get experience since they knew that if they get that experience they will become a threat to their activities.

More so, whites were only interested in exploiting black labour. Trymore Rhino, a banana farmer notes that in Mutasa South there was the production of coffee in the eastern highlands. Due to that production, the area was called Tea. Youths in Honde valley were employed in that estate.²⁸ They were also the ones who did hard and harsh work in the estate. They work for long working hours in order to reach target (*mugwazo*).²⁹ During harvesting time most of youths suffered from backbone illness. He identifies that it was not easy to spend the whole day carrying a hundred kilogram bell picking coffee. This mostly affected youths since they wanted food and money to sustain their needs which explores hard times faced by Mutasa youths during the colonial rule.

Apart from that, during colonial rule youths in Mutasa faced hard treatments in mines. Irene Marijeni, a village member reveals that youths who were employed at Penhalonga Mine in Tsvingwe were heavily exploited in all angles. They worked with unprotected clothes and they also received low wages. Most of people who were employed during white rule passed away due to tuberculosis.³⁰ Since they worked with no protective clothes they had affected with dust and unsafe water which was produced during the mineral processing. She also notes that some lost their lives through resistance. Those who resisted from whites were thrown in boilers and some were shot to death worse most of them were youths.

Nevertheless, the education policy introduced by the whites was unfavorable to blacks, it negatively affected youths. Morris Munzara, Headmaster at Pafiwa Mutasa High School explores that schools found in the district during colonial rule favored whites' children only.³¹

²⁸Interview with T. Rhino (68), Banana Farmer, Mutasa North, Tea, July 29, 2018.

²⁹Ibid.

³⁰Interview with I. Marijeni (59), Village Member, Mutasa Central, Vumbunu, June 21, 2018.

³¹Interview with M. Munzara (56), Headmaster, Pafiwa High School, Mutasa Central, August 15, 2018.

There was the existence of mission schools such as Hartzell, St Augustine, St David and Christian Mambo. For blacks who attended those schools, they had to be baptized first and they were subjects which blacks were not to take such as science subjects.³² This reveals that the white education system was much focused on exploiting blacks since they were only taught subjects such as Religious Studies and English so that they will remain under the shoes of whites.

Furthermore, Munzara went on airing that youth hardships increased during the Smith regime. In 1960s, Ian Smith had strengthened the idea of migrant and property ownerships law.³³ In Mutasa, there was no any youth who owned important properties such as cattle, house and even land. For those who had given property after death of their parents, they changed the name of owner to such of an elderly person since the law prohibited youths to own large properties.³⁴ More so, during colonial rule the district was overcrowded by youths due to discriminatory migration law which was implemented by the white government. Munzara notes that only few youths had migrated out of the district to towns. For someone to go to urban area such as Mutare City there was a need of permit from DA's office which was in Mutasa Central.³⁵ The permit was to be supported with the purpose why he or she is going to town. At Nyanga Turnoff, there was an everyday road block where the buses were chased to check permits for everyone worse during the period of Chimurenga from 1966.³⁶

It is of the paramount importance to note that, though youths were most vulnerable group during colonial rule it opened the doors for their freedom. Luke Mukanganwa, a War Veteran aired that due to abusive situations which they faced, they were mentally convinced by the situation to fight away the discriminatory policies implemented by whites. This

³² Interview with Munzara.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Ibid.

explains why most of the populations played a role in Second Chimurenga were youths.³⁷ The oppressive policies and treatments towards blacks had created an atmosphere of unity among youths in Mutasa district to fight against oppressive rule.

From 1960 to 1965 youths had resisted to white farm owners and policies implemented peacefully. In mines such as at Penhalonga and Redwin Mine there were endless strikes between 1960 and 1969.³⁸ In 1967, youths marked high record of absenteeism at Redwin and Penhalonga mine. They were trying to express that they were not willing the way they were treated. Also those who attended work at those mines, they put sugar in processing machines so that it will crumple.³⁹ All these were forms of resistance employed by youths in mining industry so that whites change their minds towards the blacks. More so, in white farms like those who were responsible in domestic animal rearing poisoned some the animals which show another form of resistant employed towards the whites. Mukanganwa asserts that in 1968, Firikisi lost more than twenty cattle which were poisoned by his workers.⁴⁰

Lucas Mutimba, a War Veteran asserts that starting from 1966 youths regarded violence as only way which will serve them from hell. Youths left their homes to join the liberation struggle. Large numbers of youths in the district mostly those who were above twenty years joined freedom fighters known as Magandanga to fight Rhodesian army.⁴¹ Chimurenga was not a war against people of an opposite colour, but a war was against the wider inequality and oppression caused by what the guerrillas assumed as capitalism and imperialism. Youths were not fighting the war so that the whites will become second-class citizens or against the colour but were against capitalism and colonialism which harms their livelihoods.⁴²

³⁷Interview with L. Mukanganwa (68), War Veteran, Mutasa South, Grange, June 26, 2018.

³⁸Ibid.

³⁹Ibid.

⁴⁰Ibid.

⁴¹Interview with S. Mutimba (70), War Veteran, Mutasa South, Grange, June 26, 2018.

⁴² P. Reynolds, "Children of Tribulations: The Need to Heal and the Means to Heal War Trauma," *Africa Journal of the International Institute*, vol. 60, no. 1, 1990, p67-84.



Youths during the Second Chimurenga

Source: N. J. Kriger, *Zimbabwe's Guerrilla War: Peasant Voices*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1992.

Furthermore, Mutimba asserts that during the Second Chimurenga youths played a pivotal role even in the battle field. For instance Oppah Muchinguri who is now ZANU PF Chairperson was one of the recognized female who joined the liberation struggle under the ZANLA forces whilst she was young. She marked unforgettable action when she shot down the Rhodesian helicopter in Nyakatsapa. Some youths contributed through organizing pungwes, collecting clothes and food for the freedom fighters. In Vumbunu, youths were very crucial in informing the freedom fighters about the whereabouts of the Rhodesian army.⁴³ This reveals that youths managed express their reaction towards colonial rule in both peaceful and violent manners which contribute to the independence of Zimbabwe.

⁴³ Interview with Mutimba.

YOUTH REFORMS, 1980 – 1989

Unlike in other parts of the nation, like Matebeleland where the Gukurahundi took place in 1980s, in Mutasa it was a time for development. The government had played a very crucial role in the district so that youths will become the fulcrum of the society. Since youths played a pivotal role during the Second Chimurenga, the government saw it as necessary to put youths in safe hands because they showed that they have a strong say in state affairs.

Norah Manangatira, a War Veteran argues that after the liberation struggle people who fought during the liberation struggle had been awarded through money.⁴⁴ In 1981, they were given that money by the government to appreciate the role they played during the war. A large number of people in Mutasa who get that money were youths including her. That was a compensation fee and also a way of appreciation to the contribution made by those who participated towards the defeat the whites and it was over one thousand dollars per each member.⁴⁵ It brought development to youths in the district since some people like Kanjanda and Kapungu managed to start their grocery businesses. Manangatira noted that she bought land for farming in Nyamazi through that money. In Mutasa Central most youths who get that money continued with their education. Terrence Manhiri, a primary teacher at Newengo Primary School asserts that soon after receiving one thousand five hundred dollars he sent himself to Mutare Teacher's College and up to now he is a primary school teacher.⁴⁶

In 1980, the government had introduced the Ministry of Youth. It was responsible to serve the problems faced by youth in different aspects. Robin Mashingaidze, a manager at Mutasa Ministry of Roads and Transport explores that in Mutasa, the MY offices were located at the

⁴⁴Interviewed with N. Manangatira (61years), War Veteran, Mutasa North, Gwiriri, June 26, 2018.

⁴⁵Ibid.

⁴⁶Interview with T. Manhiri (57), Teacher, Mutasa Central, Sarupinda, July 29, 2018.

centre of the district in order to serve everyone.⁴⁷ The Ministry becomes an agent between youths and the government in dealing with issues affecting them. In 1986, the Ministry helped youths who had grade seven certificates to get employed in different sectors which include health sector, at Wattle Company.⁴⁸ It also made some arrangements so that uneducated youths will get employed in estates such as Tanganda and Chingamwe and more than two thousand youths get employed in 1983.⁴⁹

Nevertheless, the new government had implemented laws to protect her citizens in different working sectors. Since youths were the most vulnerable population in different working sectors, labour act helped so much. Through the employment and labour act, youths were now working in favorable conditions. For instance at Wattle Company workers were now given protective clothes, better salaries and work for reasonable hours. Farai Chagaka, a radio repair explored that in 1980s, employed young people started to do visible developments in different areas.⁵⁰ Youths from families such as Chagaka, Maonya and Dhliwayo were now building houses, buying cattle. This explains that the government reforms on youth affair were effective in 1980s which shows a transformed atmosphere from colonial rule.

In addition, the government managed to promote youth through wiping away the Rhodesian policies which restricts youths to own property. Mashingaidze asserts that the ministry in partnership with village heads had preached out the gospel which supports the elderly people to give young children rights to own property.⁵¹ In partnership with Mutasa Registrar Office, the Ministry also supported youths who had no national identity cards to obtain them for free. In 1981 long queues of youths who want to collect national I.Ds were discovered at registrar-office. It shows that a large number of youths had no identity cards during the

⁴⁷Interview with R. Mashingaidze (63), Manager, Mutasa North, Hauna, June 19, 2018.

⁴⁸Ibid.

⁴⁹Ibid.

⁵⁰Interview with F. Chagaka (49), Electronic Technician, Mutasa Central, Chadzingwa Business Center, August 16, 2018.

⁵¹Interview with Mashingaidze.

colonial era. Some had reached the age of twenty-eight without national identity cards since the colonial regime was very coward towards the black people.⁵²

More so, the revision of the education policy had benefited youths in Mutasa. Unlike before, the percentage of youths who were attending education steeply increased with a large percent by 1985. Nhamo Garapo, a District Education Inspector notes that the 1980 elected government was more concerned on the education system which was to promote blacks.⁵³ It dismissed all colonial abusive education policies which used to harass the blacks. During the colonial rule a large number of youths in the district ended at grade seven without continuing to other level. The new government had opened education opportunities for everyone who was willing. In 1986, secondary schools were numbered unlike before. For instance Pafiwa, Nyakatsapa, Moyoweshumba and Sagambe schools emerged in 1980s when the government made a move to develop youths through education since the curriculum was favorable to blacks and the subjects offered were for every student unlike before.⁵⁴

CONCLUSION

This chapter has demonstrated how youths were the most vulnerable group during the colonial era of Zimbabwe through the events that happened in Mutasa. It has shown that youths faced untold challenges such as low wages, restriction on property ownership, working under harsh conditions and abusive education policies. It has also shown that all these led them to resist towards oppressive rule through both violent and peaceful strategies. They played a pivotal role during Second Chimurenga fighting against oppressive policies. It has demonstrated that the new elected government of 1980 played a crucial responsibility in

⁵²Interview with Mashingaidze.

⁵³Interview with N. Garapo (51), Education Inspector, Mutasa Central, Watsomba, Education Offices, September 4, 2018.

⁵⁴Ibid.

developing youths than before through the Ministry of Youth which was responsible to serve youths interests.

CHAPTER TWO: POVERTY AMONG YOUTHS IN MUTASA, c.1990– 2009

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides a history of youth poverty in the district, 1990 – 2009. It will argue that from independence up to 1989 the atmosphere was better as compared from 1990 and afterwards. It posits that from 1980 to 1989, the government did not introduce reforms which visibly harmed the social, political and economic system of the nation and that the 1990s marked a turning point of another era of economic hardship which Zimbabweans since independence. It caused untold suffering to every citizen including youths. Hence 2009 became a boundary to that era due to the existence of unity government between ZANU PF and MDC which softens some hardships which were faced though it was not a hundred percent alternate.

YOUTHS AND POVERTY, 1990 - 2009

Although there were challenges affecting youths prior to 1990, these were to worsen in the ensuing years after the adoption of the Economic Structural Adjustment Programmes (ESAP) by the government in 1990s, National Youth Service of 2000 and Land Reform Programme of 2000. The ESAP programme was adopted between 1991 and 1995 in Zimbabwe and was meant to revamp, redirect and to spur economic growth and development. Kadenge explores how the programmes caused havoc in different sectors including agriculture, manufacturing, trade and education sectors.⁵⁵ In the education sector, the programme resulted in an extraordinary increase of school fees. In Mutasa, the increase of school fees affected a large number of youths who left school due to shortage of money mostly in Sherukuru, Moyoweshumba, Honde and Dziva as noted by Edward Mutasa, a teacher at Mutasa

⁵⁵ P. G. Kadenge, *Zimbabwe Structural Adjustment Programme*, Harare, SAPES Books, 1992, p4.

Secondary School.⁵⁶ This marked the high rate of school dropouts in Mutasa which was caused by ESAP since a parents failed to afford those rates.

More so, Smith cites that ESAP's launch hit the business sector and ordinary Zimbabweans very hard. The impact of these measures was greatly exacerbated by the severe drought of the early 1990s. In 1992, after two poor rainy seasons, the economy contracted by almost seven percent.⁵⁷ All segments in Zimbabwe's agro-based productive sector were affected. At the same point, price control relaxation saw inflation blast and consumer demand shrink by thirty percent. It resulted to the sharp turn down of wages.⁵⁸ In Mutasa, youths who were employed in different sectors were affected since they were now receiving salaries which were not enough to meet life demands due to inflation according to Mutasa. He mentioned that in 1992 people were seen on long ques at Hauna and Watsomba growth points waiting for food such as maize and bread and most of them were youths.⁵⁹ Thus reveals that though ESAP caused hardships, drought of 1992 had fueled the situation since it affected the agriculture sector which led to shortage of agro-products in the district.

More so, the ESAPs negatively affected the health sector which fueled hardships to youths. Due to economic hardships caused by ESAP a large number of parents had passed away which left some youths without parents to protect and beef them through advice or even sending them to school. Pamela Mademutsa aired that from 1996 many elderly people from her ward died due to shortage of medicines in hospitals and money to purchase it from pharmacies.⁶⁰ Those who went to Hauna and Bonda hospital returned home with no medication since nurses told them that the state had no foreign currency to import medicines.

⁵⁶Interview with E. Mutasa (42), Teacher, Mutasa Central, Mutasa High School, August 15, 2018.

⁵⁷J. H. Smith, "Unpacking the Zimbabwean crisis," *A Situation Report, Institute for Security Studies*, September 10, 2009.

⁵⁸Ibid.

⁵⁹ Interview with Mutasa.

⁶⁰Interview with P. Mademutsa (41), Businesswoman, Mutasa Central, D.C Growth Point, August 14, 2018.

She notes that even her mother passed away in 1998 due to malaria. She only gets an inscription from the doctor at Bonda hospital without any medicine. A large number of youths in the district were now depending on themselves and other relatives which show a form of hardship faced by youths. Orphans were used by their relatives to do domestic jobs and they were only paid by sadza and sometimes they slept without taking-in any food.⁶¹

Nonetheless, while people were struggling from the results of ESAP, the government added more salt by introducing the Fast Track Land Reform Programme (FTLFP) in 2000 known as the Third Chimurenga which also led to youth hardships. That was a forceful and violent step taken by the government of Zimbabwe. It was aimed to chase away the white minority from their farms. Human Rights Watch notes that the pro-Mugabe War Veterans Association organized like-minded people, not necessarily for other war veterans, many of them were their children and grandchildren who march on white-owned farmlands, initially with drums, song and dance. The usually white owners were forced off the land, often together with their farm workers.⁶²

In Mutasa, in some areas like Old Mutare, Nyamazi and Grange white farm owners and farm workers were killed. This happened often violently and with no compensation. Brighton Mukupe, a Head of Department at Ministry of Lands in Mutasa reveals that a large number of youths who worked in white farms lost jobs due to FTLFP. More than five hundred youths from Mutasa Central became jobless due to the move made since they depend on working in white farms.⁶³ He went on saying that the move created hostility among youths since those who lost jobs started to blame ZANU PF youths who helped the war veterans to fire whites

⁶¹Interview with Mademutsa.

⁶²Human Rights Watch, "The regional crisis and human rights abuses in Southern Africa," *A briefing paper to the U.N. Security Council*, New York, HRW, 2004.

⁶³Interview with B. Mukupe (33), Land Officer, Mutasa North, Hauna Growth Point, April 18, 2018.

from land which created a war like mood in the district.⁶⁴This evidently shows that the move resulted to unemployment of youths who worked in white owned farms in the district which becomes an important factor behind youth poverty in Mutasa. For example Sean Mwanati and Reason Moyowachena explained to the researcher that they lost jobs from Jones plot which was in Nyamazi due to the above mentioned move.

Nevertheless, the misuse National Youth Services (NYS) of 2000 can explain causes of youth suffering in Mutasa. The state used the NYS programme as rite of passage for youth access to tertiary education, jobs in the civil service and state funded youth economic empowerment programmes.⁶⁵ However the idea became a dream since those youths were used to as political tools. In Mutasa most of the war veterans' children who were above eighteen years were taken for training in Vumba under NYS.⁶⁶ Timothy Tsogodo, former Border Gezi youth notes that the training was like such a military training. Youths were trained to protect the nation; ironically the idea was misused since those youths were used by ZANU PF to protect their interest rather to protect the nation.⁶⁷In 2002 and 2008, Border Gezi youths were used to intimidate people so that they will vote for ZANU PF in presidential and parliamentary elections.

In Mutasa, the idea of NYS created tension among youths since those who supported MDC violently reacted to the Green Bombers (Border Gezi Youths). In 2005, MDC youths and Border Gezi youths clashed at DC grounds which injured more than ten youths. Also youths lost political freedom since they always feared brutal treatments from Green Bombers who caused political anarchies in the district. In 2008, at GMB Mutasa, Border Gezi youths had clashed with MDC youths over the distribution of maize which ended up to ZANU PF youths

⁶⁴Interview with Mukupe.

⁶⁵ J. Gallagher, *Zimbabwe International Relation*, London, University of London, 2017, p11.

⁶⁶Ministry of Youth, "Annual Report," Mutasa, 2002.

⁶⁷Interview with T. Tsogodo (38), Security Officer, Mutasa Central, Mandeya Village, August 15, 2018.

injured which led MDC youths such Moses Matombo and Rhinos Gwidza to desert the area fearing police arrest and revenge from ZANU PF youths.⁶⁸



Border Gezi Youths in their uniforms

Source: border gezi youths, accessed July 23, 2018, aaronufumeli@www.newsday.co.zw

To keep the ball in motion, the economic sanctions imposed by the West in early 21st Century harmfully affected the Zimbabweans. Britain and America had imposed economic sanctions on Zimbabwe so that she was to improve her political and economic affairs. The sanctions caused high prices of commodities, shortage of groceries in shops and also shortage of agricultural inputs.⁶⁹ Trevor Saruwaka, MP of Mutasa Central identified that youths became more vulnerable since most of the elderly were no-longer active due since most of them lost

⁶⁸Interview with Tsogodo.

⁶⁹ Zimbabwe ALL GOV, 2009, <http://www.afrikanews.co.zw>.

jobs due to ESAPs.⁷⁰ Youths were to look for food of which the prices were very high and there was also the shortage of resources in the area. Youths in Watsomba were seen doing illegal boarder jumping through Shibha going to Mozambique.⁷¹ They carried heavy products such as fifty kilograms of rice, sugar and salt in order to feed their families. That marked unforgettable poverty era of youths in Mutasa.⁷² There was no even bread in shops which forced youths to buy bread from Mozambique which reveals untold suffering of youths in Mutasa.⁷³

Furthermore, economic sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe harmfully affected factories in the District. Brighton Mukayenga, a former worker at Wattle Company identified that a decline in timber production at Nyanga Timber Industry or Wattle Company due to economic crises became a problem on young persons of Mutasa.⁷⁴ Due to economic anarchy, in 2005 the management board of Wattle Company made a move on retrenching its workers since it was no longer capable to sustain a large number of workers.⁷⁵ By 2006, five hundred youths were retrenched from the company.⁷⁶ Some went home without their payments promised that they were to be given their payments when the company gets money. For those who get paid it contributes nothing since they were given bearer cheques that lost value daily.⁷⁷ He went on revealing that almost two thousand youths lost job due to retrenchment step taken by the company.⁷⁸ Those youths were to remain home every day since they had no economic activity which can bring them income. Thus, the retrenchment programme of Wattle Company which resulted due economic anarchy led to high rate of unemployed youths in Mutasa.

⁷¹Interview with T. Saruwaka (43), MP, Mutasa Central, MP's Office, January 3, 2018.

⁷¹Ibid.

⁷²Ibid.

⁷³Ibid.

⁷⁴Interview with B. Mukayenga (41), Welder, Mutasa Central, Wattle Company, August 14, 2018.

⁷⁵Ibid.

⁷⁶Interview with Mukayenga.

⁷⁷Ibid.

⁷⁸Ibid.

More so, Richard Sauriri, a Youth Development Officer (YDO) revealed that youth suffering was also seen in Mutasa South due to closure of Tanganda Tea Estate in 2007.⁷⁹ Most youths in Honde Valley used to depend on the estate as contractors for picking tea leaves. Due to hyperinflation faced in Zimbabwe the industry had closed its doors since the production was no longer effective. People had no money to buy products produced because it was operating for nothing. He portrays that youths became criminals in Honde Valley mostly at Hauna growth point since there was nowhere to get employed mostly the uneducated youths.⁸⁰ Hence the closure of the Tanganda Tea Estate caused by anarchical political-economy marked the jobless atmosphere of Mutasa youths.

Apart from that, Lillian Nyamujara, a project leader at DAPP explores that the absent of effective vocational and training services in the district explains the history of youth suffering in Mutasa. Since 1990, there was only one vocational training center, DAPP. It was unable to up hold youths since there was no enough blocks and other resources to sustain trainings. This marked untold suffering of youths who failed informal education without considering their talents. Youths who failed their ordinary level were regarded as a form of cheap labour in the district. Before 2005, the Wattle Company and Tanganda Tea Estate were mostly interested in employing uneducated youths since they were the ones who negotiated payments for those youths. This marked poverty among uneducated youths since they were given very low wages which cannot sustain their life.⁸¹ If those youths had knowledge on something to benefit them economically they were to start their own businesses. Thus support the verdict that lack practical knowledge or skills led to youth poverty in Mutasa.

⁷⁹Interview with R. Sauriri (32) Youth Development Officer, Mutasa Central, Government Complex, August 21, 2018.

⁸⁰Ibid.

⁸¹Interview with L. Nyamujara (47), Project Leader, Mutasa Central, DAPP VTC, September 3, 2018.

EFFECTS OF YOUTH CHALLENGES, 2000 - 2009

It is of the paramount importance to note that the difficulties which Mutasa youths faced resulted in social unwanted activities hence they were regarded as enemies of the society as they. Youths were involved in gambling, prostitution, illegal mining, illegal boarder jumping, political violence, illegal abortion, drug abuse and theft. The period 2000 to 2008 marked political violence era caused by youths in Mutasa. Lillian Chadzingwa, a Councilor of Ward 11 revealed that the formation of MDC party in 2000 had marked tragedy in the district.⁸² The ZANU PF and MDC party used youths to succeed their political goes. In Mutasa central youths were discovered causing havoc mostly in Ward 11.

To add on, ex-Border Gezi youths including Philemon Nyamunokora revealed that in 2008 presidential elections, they were paid by political parties so that they will fight for them.⁸³ Re kai Mawoyo, a teacher at Newengo Primary School aired that in 2008 ZANU PF youths came with coffins and guns to intimidate teachers at Newengo primary school so that they will vote for their party.⁸⁴ In respond the MDC youths clashed ZANU PF youths which resulted to political chaos in Ward 11.⁸⁵ More than fifty people were injured due to the works of youths.⁸⁶ Munyebvu, Ngere and Matiza who participated during the political movement of 2008 supporting ZANU PF notes that the absence of economic activities for youths was one of the major contributing factor which forced them to participate in politics since they thought that they will get money to sustain themselves.

More so, the economic hardships faced by Mutasa youths due to shortage of cash resulted to high rate of prostitution. Chadzingwa explores that female youths used prostitution as source

⁸²Interview with L. Chadzingwa (42), Councilor, Mutasa Central, Newengo School, August 25, 2018.

⁸³Interview with P. Nyamunokora (39), Guard, Mutasa Central, D.C Ground, August 24, 2018.

⁸⁴Interview with R. Mawoyo(53), Teacher, Mutasa Central, Newengo School, August 25, 2018.

⁸⁵Ibid.

⁸⁶Ibid.

of income.⁸⁷ A large number of youths between the ages of sixteen to twenty five were discovered doing such an evil activity in Mutasa. She notes that in Watsomba most marriages had been destructed since a large number of men were found prostituting with girls who were after money.⁸⁸ Most divorce cases reported at Mutasa court were caused by female youths. In Watsomba, Mutasa and Hauna there were designed areas where prostitutes stayed. They were known as night workers since they operated during the nights only. Margret Mandeya, a bar lady asserts that from 1990s to 2009 a large number of people found in beer halls were female youths who used their bodies to get money since they had no any other activity which will bring them money except prostituting.⁸⁹ In 2007, in Mutasa Central there was a police officer who was left with no clothes after failed to pay a youthful prostitute who was Ruth's (pseudo name), ex-sex worker.⁹⁰ This reveals that youths were now commercializing that evil doing in order to get money for self-sustenance without considering its negative effects which shows the negativity of economic difficulties in the district.

In addition, prostitution caused unwanted pregnancy and spread of STIs to youthful persons in Mutasa. Raymond Maonya, a teacher at Tsonzo high school revealed that in high schools like Tsonzo, Nyakatsapa, Pafiwa and St Columbus Honde, a large number of students mostly advanced level students marked unforgotten rate of abortion.⁹¹ Due to shortage of money, female students were discovered accepting unprotected married man who came and pick them with expensive cars so that they will find money to purchase their lunch and sanitary pads.⁹² In 2008 when the economic hardship reaches its climax almost forty percent of youth students tested for HIV in the district were infected. It had been noted that lack of awareness led to the spread of STIs among youths. Some youths had no knowledge on how to have safe

⁸⁷ Interview with Chadzingwa

⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹ Interview with M. Mandeya (33), Bar Lady, Mutasa Central, Big Five Bar, August 25, 2018.

⁹⁰ Interview with Ruth (32), Vendor, D.C Growth Point, August 25, 2018.

⁹¹ Interview with R. Maonya (34), Teacher, Mutasa Central, Tsonzo, August 16, 2018.

⁹² Ibid.

sex so that they will save their health. Melody Duru, a teacher and also a Senior Lady at Pafiwa Mutasa High School identified that pre-mature children were found in blair toilets pits after being aborted by their mothers at Pafiwa Mutasa High School mostly in 2008.⁹³

Apart from that, youth difficulties led to high rate of theft in the district. Due to unemployment a large number of male youths were found marking a high rate of theft record from 2006 to 2009. Charles Matare, a Police Officer argued that it was not their will to steal but it was caused by the force of economy which was upside down.⁹⁴ In Hauna, almost ninety percent of youths who were arrested due to the case of theft explores that hunger was the major driving factor to such unwanted behavior.⁹⁵ In Manica-Bridge, Govhingo, Sagambe and Sherukuru shops were plundered by youthful smugglers who end up arrested. When they were asked in courts they explain that they were looking for money and groceries to sustain their life.⁹⁶ Hence the verdict that youth poverty resulted to unwanted social behaviors holds more water since youths were now stealing goods from shops and other houses to feed themselves.

Challenges faced by youths also resulted to illegal mining which destructed the environment. Edward Matandarike, gold-panner explores that in 2003 a large number of youths had left the district to Mai Musanditeera (Chimanini) and Magamu (Mozambique) for illegal gold panning.⁹⁷ Also in 2007 a large number of youths leaved their homes to Chiyadzwa for diamond mining.⁹⁸ Though some of those illegal mining activities took place out the district, it remains important to note. Mutasa were also found harming other peoples' environment

⁹³Interview with M. Duru (46), Teacher, Mutasa Central, Pafiwa, August 15, 2018.

⁹⁴Interview with C. Matare (42), Police Officer, Mutasa Central, Mutasa Police Station, August 23, 2018.

⁹⁵Ibid.

⁹⁶ Ibid.

⁹⁷Interview with E. Matandarike (34), Gold-panner, Mutasa North, Sagambe, July 25, 2017.

⁹⁸Ibid.

though they were outside their district. It was negative to both environment and human life. It was not technological since they used ordinary tools.

Almost fifty percent of youths who went for illegal mining they did not return home since some died fighting with soldiers to be given permission to mine and some died underground due to the collapse of those illegal mines. He managed to identify his three friends who lost life through the collapse of those mines namely; T. Zengeni, O. Nyachega and S. Sithole.⁹⁹ Richmond Nyamhindu, a village head identified that most gauges which still exist were caused by youths who used to mine quarts in 2006 which were not even beneficial mostly in Ward 11.¹⁰⁰ Due to starvation youths tried everything thought that it will sustain their life. Hence they were seen destructing the environment through their illegal mining activities. Also through that activity, some return home suffering with different diseases such as diarrhea and malaria since the conditions were not favorable to human health.

Nonetheless, due to economic hardships youths were seen doing gambling. Fungai Mandeya, ex-gambler explores that gambling was seen in different places in the district which he described as *makasi*.¹⁰¹ This can explored through soccer matches, playing cards and mini soccer table (*silagi*).¹⁰² In Mandeya and Newengo Villages, youths were found hiding themselves in grave yards playing cards to make money. He notes that the activity was another way of getting money since there was no any other economic activity which will bring them money. Through gambling they were trying to invest a dollar in their pocket so that they will increase money to buy food and clothes.¹⁰³ He notes that gambling was socially unacceptable since it resulted in tragedy or bloodshed and some had crippled due to that unaccepted activity. According to Mutasa Police report, two people were stabbed dead at

⁹⁹Interview with Matandarike.

¹⁰⁰Interview with R. Nyamhindu (64), Village Head, Nyamhindu Village, Meeting Place, July 24, 2018.

¹⁰¹Interview with F. Mandeya (32), Builder, Mutasa Central, Mandeya Village, September 2, 2018.

¹⁰²Ibid.

¹⁰³Ibid.

Watsomba Growth Point in 2008 due to gambling.¹⁰⁴ Hence it supports the verdict that problems faced by youths in Mutasa resulted to social unwanted behaviors.

Youths also abused illegal drugs in the district. According to this investigation a large number of participants asserted that drugs were source of cheap entertainment since they had no any other activity to do mostly in 2008. Gerald Nyamangodo, Anglican Reverend says that most youths were found abusing drugs such as bronclear and marijuana (mbanje).¹⁰⁵ Most of them were school dropouts and unemployed youths since they were always found in their villages from six to six doing nothing. They lost respect due to influence of drugs. Some were always in conflicts with their parents and some committed crimes due drugs. In Honde Valley, other secondary school students mostly from Sahumani and Sagambe school were found joining drug abusers from surrounding villages abusing drugs such as marijuana which shows the influence of drug abusers on school children which was not tolerated by the society.¹⁰⁶ Thus reveals that challenges faced by youths resulted to unwanted social behavior in the district.

CONCLUSION

This chapter has shown the long history of marginalization that youths in Mutasa faced from 1990 due to the implementation and adoption of destructive policies which plundered the economy. Political, social and economic factors contributed to difficulties faced by Mutasa youths. This can be explored through economic sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe, the adoption of Economic Structural Adjustment Programmes in 1990s, the existence of NYS introduced in 2000 and FTLFP of 2000. These harmfully affected youths as it caused untold sufferings through unemployment, shortage of cash, corruption, political violence and school

¹⁰⁴ZRP, *Annual Report*, Mutasa, 2008

¹⁰⁵Interview with L. Nyamangodo (40), Reverend, Mutasa Central, DC, August 3, 2018.

¹⁰⁶Ibid.

dropouts. Its results negatively affected to the society. Youths were found doing unacceptable habits which include gambling, prostitution, illegal mining, illegal boarder jumping, political violence, illegal abortion, drug abuse and theft.

CHAPTER THREE: YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN MUTASA DISTRICT, c. 2010 - 2018

INTRODUCTION

This chapter focuses on different strategies employed by the government of Zimbabwe in partnership with NGOs and financial institutes to empower and promote youths in Mutasa, 2010 -2018. Youth Empowerment and development ideas emerged due to a combination of factors which include social, political and economic reasons. As this chapter show, the government of Zimbabwe enforced various measures in empowering the youths economically, politically and socially. Several measures have been introduced by the state through the Ministry of Youth in line with NGOs and financial institutions in order to promote youths' livelihoods. The government has discovered that youths occupied a big percentage of the total population but they are the most disadvantaged and exploitative people. The government of Zimbabwe launched projects and programmes which targeted development and empowerment among the youths.¹⁰⁷ Hence the investigator is going to note and explain the techniques applied to empower and develop youths in Mutasa.

STRATEGIES EMPLOYED

The year 2010 marked a great change towards youths in Mutasa District after the government ended the Border Gezi youths movement. Those youths were at the centre of political violence throughout the nation from 2000 to 2009 hence the government decided to dissolve it first in order to come out with effective youth empowerment and development strategies.¹⁰⁸ In Mutasa, Border Gezi youths were employed in different sectors of the government. Most of them were employed as youth officers under the MYIEE. He notes that ninety three Border

¹⁰⁷ Ministry of Youth, Indigenization and Economic Empowerment, *Statutory Instrument 21 of 2010: General Regulations*, Veritas, Harare, 2010.

¹⁰⁸ Interview with R. Mwatsina (46), District Development Officer, Mutasa Central, Government Complex, August 17, 2018.

Gezi members were employed as youth officers throughout the district, three per ward which shows a great move made on formal employment of youths rather being used as political tools.¹⁰⁹

Nevertheless, since youths had no capital to start up projects, the government in partnership with different banks amended the Youth Development Fund Programme.¹¹⁰ Funding strategy becomes a pivot on youth development and empowerment programmes in Mutasa. For a project to become effective there is need of funds. Richard Sauriri, Youth Development Officer asserts that in 2010 youths were funded through Youth Empowerment Fund for the first time in the district through the Ministry of Youth.¹¹¹ Ten million was contributed by different banks to fund youths in the whole country. That money was to be shared among all Zimbabwean Districts so that every youth who was willing to start a project will get access to the money.¹¹² The programme was facilitated by Ministry of Youth through proposal making and recommendation of funding. At the end of 2011 above fifty youths had managed to get the funds start income generating projects and most of them were agro-projects which include poultry, banana production, coffee production and sugarcane production.¹¹³

In 2013, the government partnering with CABS and Kurera Fund provided eighty million dollars for youth empowerment.¹¹⁴ One million was meant for training before funding. Also it was set to start income generating programmes for youths. For those who got it, they were to refund with an interest of fifteen percent.¹¹⁵ He notes that, three thousand five hundred and

¹⁰⁹Interview with Mwatsina.

¹¹⁰Ministry of Youth, *Report on the Performance of Youth Empowerment and Youth Development Fund for the Period, 2009- 2013*.

¹¹¹ Interview with R, Sauriri (32), Youth Development Officer, Mutasa Central, Government Complex, August 21, 2018.

¹¹²Ibid.

¹¹³Ibid.

¹¹⁴youth articles, youth-empowerment and development fund, January 08, 2014, accessed August 31, 2018, <http://www.myiee.gov.zw>.

¹¹⁵Interview with Sauriri.

five youths in Mutasa had been loaned. Most of them were from Honde valley who wanted to start banana and coffee production.¹¹⁶

More so, Sauriri notes that in 2015 the government in partnership with Agri-bank introduced the LEAF programme. Youths were funded through cash so that they engage in entrepreneurial activities and start sustainable projects. In Mutasa, few youths got that fund since it had a very high return percentage.¹¹⁷ In 2017, there was an introduction of Youth Empower Bank funded by the government emerged under the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe Act of 1964, Chapter 22: 15.¹¹⁸ At the end of 2017 two million five hundred was already deposited in the youth empower bank account.¹¹⁹ In Mutasa, over hundred youths had already opened Youth Empower Bank accounts at the end of 2017 so that they could easily acquire funds from that bank.¹²⁰

Through the (MY) different types of donations were also provided targeting youths to start income generating projects. From 2011, the ministry in partnership with NGOs beefed youths with project startup materials in form of donations. These projects were targeted to benefit every young person in the district disregarding which political part he or she supports since the (MY) was designed to meet the demands of every youth.¹²¹ Those projects were provided considering the location environmental and climatic conditions in the district. Mwatsina explored that most of the projects granted were agricultural projects since the district has favorable climatic conditions to sustain agriculture.¹²² In Mutasa North, a large number of youths had been beefed with horticultural projects due to plenty of water supply which

¹¹⁶Interview with Sauriri.

¹¹⁷Ibid.

¹¹⁸Ibid.

¹¹⁹Ibid.

¹²⁰Ibid.

¹²¹ Interview with T. Magocha (33), Famer, Mutasa South, Chitombo, August 21, 2018.

¹²²Interview with Mwatsina.

supports irrigation system throughout the year.¹²³ In 2011, youths in Gwiriri down to Zindi area were provided with nursery from World Vision and FACT to start horticultural farming.¹²⁴ They were given onion, banana, tomato, vegetable and flower nurseries to grow up produces to sell so that they will get income.

Access to affordable agriculture inputs has been a threat faced by youths. To counter this challenge, the World Vision employed a project called Revitalization of Small Holder Agricultural Production, 2010-2012 partnering with SNV.¹²⁵ They donated inputs to youths in coffee farming in Honde Valley. ZIMAIED in partnership with FAVCO offered tissue refined bananas and fertilizers to youths in Mutasa North to start well banana projects.¹²⁶ Bio technology was established in the district. This includes the use of tissue refined banana seedlings since out-dated method of growing banana proved to be vulnerable to diseases.¹²⁷

Apart from that, youths in Mutasa Central and South were supported with animal rearing projects. In 2012; youths had been given dairy cows by the government for milk production as explored by Archieford Mukumba, Youth Officer of Ward 19. Two cows were distributed per every ward and these cows were under groups of ten most disadvantaged people.¹²⁸ Youths were to sell milk produced so that they will get money to sustain themselves and their project. He noted that these two constituencies have favorable conditions to domestic animal growth since its climatic conditions is balanced unlike of Mutasa North which is hot throughout the year disregarding its plenty of water supply.

¹²³ Interview with Mwatsina

¹²⁴ Ministry of Youth, *Annual Report*, Mutasa, 2012

¹²⁵ World Vision, *Annual Report*, 2013.

¹²⁶ Interview with E. Ndiamba (32), Secretary, Mutasa Central, Government Complex, August 17, 2018.

¹²⁷ Ibid

¹²⁸ Interview with A. Mukumba (38), Youth Officer, Mutasa Central, Government Complex, August 17, 2018.



Pigs distributed to Youths in Dziva

Source: Mutasa Ministry of Youth, Photo Gallery, Mutasa, 2016.

Furthermore, Mwatsina noted that in 2012 Minister Oppah Muchinguri and Mandi Chimene donated three thousand chickens and 60 pigs so that youths can start projects.¹²⁹ More so, they were also given food for those chickens and pigs. More than ninety chickens and two pigs were given per ward to most disadvantaged youths in the districts.¹³⁰ The Ministers' aims were to develop youths through projects of poultry and piggery since it was on high demand during that period. Also their main aim was to start up projects for youths and after that youths were to boost the projects on their own and continue buying other chickens so that the project will not fall. For instance, in Dziva there was Guta and Gwata Youth Forums which was formed through Ministers' donations.

¹²⁹Interview with Mwatsina.

¹³⁰Ibid.



Layers Donated to Youths in Sanyamandwe Village
Source: Mutasa Ministry of Youth, Photo Gallery, Mutasa, 2014.

In 2013, World Vision through the Ministry of Youth Indigenization and Economic Empowerment donated one hundred layers in Sanyamandwe Village.¹³¹ Those layers were given to orphans who were between the age of fifteen and twenty so that they can have something which will bring them money.¹³² Ten youths were picked from the whole village and twenty chicks were distributed per every two children so that they will keep them together for egg production.¹³³

Furthermore, in 2014 Zhuwao, a former minister of Ministry of Youth donated three hundred bee-hives in Mutasa.¹³⁴ Since youths had no money to start that project, the minister played a crucial role in purchasing bee-hives with full kits for bee-keeping agriculture. Those bee-

¹³¹ Interview with S. Makomva (69), Headman, Mutasa Central, Makomva Village, July 30, 2018.

¹³² Ibid.

¹³³ Ibid.

¹³⁴ Interview with Sauriri.

hives were distributed per-ward. Each ward managed to get thirty-one bee-hives for free.¹³⁵ That move became crucial in the district since it was the first time for that project to take place in the district.



Goats distributed by Practical Action
Source: Mutasa Ministry of Youth, Photo Gallery, 2018

Practical Action which was an NGO based of agro- activities donated fish and goats in Mutasa.¹³⁶ Youths were to start goat and fish farming.¹³⁷ In Manica Bridge, Honde Valley and Osborn Dam youths were donated small fish to start fish farming in 2015.¹³⁸ That project aimed to come-up with adequate supply of breams in the district through the works of youths. In 2017, Practical Action introduced another new form of commercial agriculture specializing on goat farming at Watsomba.¹³⁹ In Mutasa Central, youths who participated during the

¹³⁵Interview with Sauriri.

¹³⁶ Practitcal Action, *Annual Report*, Mutasa, 2016.

¹³⁷Interview with P. Shumba (23), Intern, Mutasa Central, Government Complex, August 17, 2018.

¹³⁸Ministry of Youth, *Annual Report*, Mutasa, 2016.

¹³⁹ Ibid.

launching day were provided with two goats a male and a female per village.¹⁴⁰ The project aims the production of high-breed goats which can be sold in butchers.

Apart from agrarian donations, World Vision, ARISE and Plan International donated computers to different secondary schools to deliver computer lessons on basic computing skills concepts like MsWord, Excel, Power Point and Publisher.¹⁴¹ Programmes on networking were also available in both schools and different sites chosen by youths where there was electricity.¹⁴² During the investigation, the informants from Samaringa mentioned that there were six computers on their place which were donated to them by ARISE” in 2013.¹⁴³ However, the student-computer ratio is high specifically on weekends each computer saves four to five youths. The provision of computing skills by NGOs like World Vision, ARISE and Plan International helped majority of the youths in the district to be knowledgeable on ICT.

Apart from that, the Ministry of Youth in partnership with other NGOs had played a very important role in capacitating youths in Mutasa through trainings and workshops. Trainings were to give knowledge, skills and techniques on project, business, financial management and other skills on solving problems affecting youths. Those trainings were carried at village, ward and district level. Mwatsina notes that Jekesa Pfungwa was at the forefront in funding and fostering those trainings targeting youths in the district.¹⁴⁴

NGOs such as PLAN, FACT, DOMMCAP, Practical Action, World Vision, Chiedza and Jekesa Pfungwa have been granted permission through D.A’s office to have some training programmes in the district.¹⁴⁵ Youths managed to get skills and knowledge from those

¹⁴⁰Practical Action, Progress Report, Mutasa, 2015.

¹⁴¹Interview with B. Tarumbwa(36), Headmaster, Hauna Growth Point, June 19, 2018.

¹⁴²Ibid.

¹⁴³Interview with F. Mangunda (17), Secondary Student, Hauna Growth Point, June 19, 2018.

¹⁴⁴Interview with Mwatsina.

¹⁴⁵Interview with Kashiri, Assistant Registrar, Mutasa Central, August 30, 2018.

trainings to boost their agriculture, manufacturing and retailing sectors. For example, in August 2016 Jekesa Pfungwa invited Mutasa youths at Hauna growth point to taught them on how to dry vegetable products using solar driers and also they were taught on how to manufacture it.¹⁴⁶ Thus reveal another strategy introduced to promote youths' in the district.



Youths on Solar Dry Training at Hauna Growth Point
Source: Mutasa Ministry of Youth, Photo Gallery, 2018.

In 2017, Practical Action introduced a three year financial management training programme. Starting from August 2017 training were carried in different wards of the district giving knowledge to youths on how to save money.¹⁴⁷ Techniques to make huge profits were taught. For example in Bonda most youths started small businesses through the knowledge they get from Practical Action financial trainings.

¹⁴⁶ Interview with Kashiri.
¹⁴⁷ Ibid.

The DDF through Ministry Youth implemented borehole repairing and drilling trainings for youths for free. From 2012 to 2017 more than fifty youths were trained on borehole construction.¹⁴⁸ In Mutasa Central, there is a group of youths who are being hired by different people in the district for borehole drilling. This became viable through the knowledge they got from DDF trainings. This becomes vital since youths are managing to get money feed themselves and also their families.

Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Career and Technical Education (CTE) have been amended in Mutasa in order develop youths' livelihood. The district has only one vocational training centre which is DAPP which was ineffective before. From 2010, the MY in partnership with DAPP helped youths in the district through introducing practical training to give youth skills and knowledge. Also four blocks were added and nine teachers were employed in 2011 to accommodate a large number of youths.¹⁴⁹ The centre became a server to youths who were not successful on formal education and also school dropouts.

Ndiamba reveals that from 2010 the ministry had tightened its relationship with DAPP so that youths from Mutasa community would get trained at a low cost. The vocational training centre did not demand any academic qualification.¹⁵⁰ Trainings offered at DAPP Kukwanisa include motor mechanics, welding, agriculture, carpentry and sewing. Tafadzwa Necharingwa, former DAPP student asserts trainings offered through VTP were crucial on youth development since youths managed to open businesses through the knowledge they get from vocational training centre.¹⁵¹ At Watsomba, almost every youth who is doing practical work reveals that it was through the knowledge they got from DAPP. 2018 marks a high rate

¹⁴⁸DDF, *Annual Report*, Mutasa, 2016.

¹⁴⁹Interview with S. Chatowa (41), Project Leader, DC Grounds, August 14, 2018.

¹⁵⁰ Interview with Ndiamba.

¹⁵¹Interview with T. Necharingwa (22), Carpenter, Mutasa South, Tsvingwe, July 01, 2018.

of youth intake on the institution since people are recognizing the importance of VTP programmes.



Day of the African Child, Honde Valley, Chitombo, August 2017.
Source: Mutasa Ministry of Youth, Photo Gallery, 2017.

Awareness campaigns have been employed in the district for youth development. The idea became more visible from 2010 when challenges caused and faced by youths reached climax.¹⁵² Unlike before 2010, there was no any awareness campaign done in the district aiming youth development. In reducing crime rates and sexual abuse caused by youths the ministry in partnership with NGOS and Police played a crucial role. That was done through road shows, commemoration of African Child Day and meetings in different places.

¹⁵² Interview with N. Musiiwa (31), Youth Build Zimbabwe Officer, Mutasa Central, Government Complex, August 17, 2018.

In 2011, the police had granted permission to different organizations who also wanted to carry out awareness programmes in the district like PLAN, FACT and World Vision.¹⁵³ The MY partnering with Ministry of Health and Chiedza carried out programmes of awareness on health issues affecting youths in 2013. That was done from village to district level. They were targeting on reducing the spread of STDs among youths. In addition, the awareness programmes also aimed to end early marriages, forced labour and child abuse in different aspect.¹⁵⁴ From 2010, the MYIEE was funded by PLAN and SIMUKAI commemorate a day of girl child and do road shows every year which was designed to end child marriages.¹⁵⁵

Furthermore, through the empowerment policy, youths in Mutasa were permitted to open private schools unlike before. Brain Moyana, Eden Roses College owner revealed that the policy gave him confidence to apply his dreams to open a school which was helping the community of Ward 11 and Hauna known as Eden Roses College which started operating in 2012.¹⁵⁶ He also portrays that the idea created employment for those who have teaching qualifications and other youths since his institution employed youthful teachers and other youths to achieve the institution goals.

The youth entrepreneurial programmes which were implemented in the district brought confidence to uneducated talented youths to start their own income generating activities. For instance, most of the technical businesses in Mutasa are under the control of youths such as welding, sewing, motor mechanics and carpentry. At Tsvingwe Business Center, five Carpentry shops were owned by youths.¹⁵⁷ In order to boost the idea of youth development and empowerment in 2014 the government ordered the Mutasa Rural District Council to offer business licenses to youths at low cost. Aaron Marimbire, secretary at Mutasa Rural Council

¹⁵³ Interview with F. Madhakisi (31), Police Officer, Hauna Policy Station, July 31, 2018.

¹⁵⁴ Ministry of Women Affairs, *Annual Report*, Mutasa, 2013.

¹⁵⁵ Interview with Mwatsina.

¹⁵⁶ Interview with B. Moyana (33), Eden Roses Principal, Mutasa North, Hauna Growth Point, July 6, 2018.

¹⁵⁷ Interview with Necharingwa.

noted that licenses which they offered to youthful businessman are cheaper than to those which granted to elderly businessman.¹⁵⁸ In 2015, the government ordered the Allied Timber Company to offer pine plantation.¹⁵⁹

Apart from that, in 2017 a youth hub was launched in Mutasa, Bonda. The hub was to act as a safe space for adolescents and young women to discuss issues on sexual reproductive health. The project was launched courtesy of the collaborative efforts of Bonda-based Chiedza Community Welfare Trust and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights Africa Trust (SAT).¹⁶⁰ The youth hub in Mutasa was there to create a safe space for adolescents both girls and boys and young women to discuss issues on their sexual reproductive health, leadership and confidence building. The youth hub was open to all youths in the district to interact with each other and share good ideas which brings developments towards their everyday life. It opened development doors for youths in Bonda area since they had no well designed place for their meetings or discussions before the construction of that hub. Youths were now socially developed through sharing social ideas in their numbers.

CONCLUSION

This chapter has discussed strategies employed in Mutasa District in order to promote youths. It has shown that youths were assisted through donations, fundings, awareness campaigns, entrepreneurial programmes and trainings. It was not a one man task since different organizations ventured in order to beef youths. Also the above work reveals that the MYIEE was a middleman on every youth programme employed. These include government ministries, financial institutions and Non-Governmental Organisations. A large number of youths managed to start income generating project through the funding strategy employed.

¹⁵⁸ Interview with A. Marimbire (31), Secretary, MRDC Offices 30 July, 2018.

¹⁵⁹ Ministry of Youth, *Annual Report*, Mutasa, 2015.

¹⁶⁰ S. Mujoma, "Youth Hub Launched in Mutasa," *The Herald*, September 11, 2018, p6.

CHAPTER FOUR: EFFECTS OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES

INTRODUCTION

This chapter explores the effectiveness of youth empowerment and development strategies in Mutasa. It will show that youth empowerment and development initiatives brought some positive changes on youths' livelihoods in Mutasa socially, economically and politically. This can be portrayed through self-employment of youths, skills in different activities, reduction of political violence, reduction of early marriages and anti-social behaviors, advancement of projects through inputs, creation of gender equality atmosphere within youths and participation of youths in public spheres.

POSITIVE EFFECTS

Youth empowerment strategies in Mutasa resulted to self-employment of youths. The majority of youths in the district had reached Ordinary level however due to economic situation in the country few companies and firms were employing people. As Mukumba has argued, with the implementation of youth development and empowerment programmes in Mutasa, youth self-employment had raised in farming, candle and soap making.¹⁶¹ Also youths were now doing other practical jobs through skills they got from vocational schools such sewing and carpentry as sources of income. Mutasa was characterized by high rate of youths only waiting to be employed. Thus, the programme positively impacted through creating youth self-employment atmosphere. It also increased youth's income through soap and candle makers, banana agrarians and coffee production.

¹⁶¹Interview with Mukumba.

Activity	Male	Female	Total
Welding	31	3	34
Carpentry	23	6	29
Sewing	12	45	57
Soap making	18	31	49
Banana production	67	53	120
Coffee production	18	8	26
Poultry	105	96	201
Piggery	44	27	71

Source: Ministry of Youth, *Monthly Report*, February, 2018

Hardlife Mundo, a self-employed youth pointed out a large number of youths who engaged in cross-border trading returned home to join youth programs.¹⁶² He revealed that youths from urban and nearby countries returned home to venture in youth projects such candle and soap making and agrarian projects like dairy farming, poultry, piggery, fish farming, ,coffee and bananas production. He was one of the youths who deserted the district during the period of economic hardship. When he returned home in 2012 he managed to borrow money from CABS through youth programmes and started piggery project.¹⁶³ Casual labour earned five dollars per day whilst persons who were employed near companies like Eastern Highlands

¹⁶²Interview with H. Mundo (31), Self-employed, Mutasa Central, MRDC, July 24, 2018.

¹⁶³Ibid.

Tea Plantation and Wattle Company received less than three dollars per day.¹⁶⁴ More so employment was periodic in such estates which means more people were employed to work during harvesting time once it was over they will be become unemployed. Hence the programme initiated changed system because youths are now self-employed through different projects.

More so, the programme opened doors for input accessibility to youths. Zvirahwa, a youth officer asserts that unlike before youth agriculture activities became a pipe dream due to lack of inputs mostly fertilizers.¹⁶⁵ Through the programme, the MY in partnership with NGOs such as World Vision and Practical Action played unforgettable role mainly in Mutasa North in beefing youths with agrarian inputs. Youths from Honde Valley in agriculture sector such as Mandioma, Bope, Zaranyika and Nemisinde expressed that the inputs had increased the production since they were now producing quality produces which inspires buyers from different places such as Harare to come and buy their produces.

In addition, the inputs contributed much on youths to start well their activities because they made a lot of profits though intensive farming. Tawanda Tombo, banana farmer reveals that Honde valley became a grain basket of Zimbabwe in 2015 since some of the buyers came all the way from Harare, Victoria Falls and Kariba to purchase agrarian products produced in Honde such as bananas, sugarcane and coffee. Other buyers came from big shops such as OK and SPAR to buy agro-produces from youths.¹⁶⁶ Furthermore, farming land had improved from about 0,6ha to 0,8ha. Land which was formerly inactive in the district was brought to use through Iwe Neni Tine Basa programme of 2016 which gave land opportunity to youths.¹⁶⁷ Youths in the agricultural sector benefited from inputs issued by Practical Action. Most respondents powerfully agreed that inputs donations boosted the production.

¹⁶⁴Ibid.

¹⁶⁵Interview with I. Zvirahwa (35), Youth Officer, Mutasa North, Samaringa, August 6, 2018.

¹⁶⁶Interview with T. Tombo (27), Banana Farmer, Mutasa North, Hauna, August 6, 2018.

¹⁶⁷Ibid.

Nonetheless, youth empowerment and development strategies resulted to a peaceful political environment in Mutasa. Most of the elderly people asserted that from 2000 to 2009, youths were actors of political violence in the district. So through the amendments made on Border Gezi system records of political violence in action caused by youths was reduced nearly to zero percent.¹⁶⁸ Through this investigation the 2013 and 2018 elections took place very peaceful. There was no-one injured by youths due to politics, verbal intimidations were only the cases reported.¹⁶⁹ More still, the programme mentally opened youths to recognize that they have to be developed economically rather than causing political violence in the district. This reveals that empowerment and development programmes resulted to political maturity among youths.

The Ministry of Youth in partnership with NGOs has managed to advance the livelihoods of young people in the district. Before this, poverty level was at zenith and bulks of youths were reported to be victims of poverty. Also young people were excluded from different economic activities. Sometimes they may not have reached higher levels of education not because of poor results but by being victims of poverty. Youth livelihoods changed on such that NGOs like PLAN and FACT paid school fees and giving food to youths in the district.¹⁷⁰ In Mutasa Central, at the end of every month young people who were the victims of poverty went to their nearby health centre to get basic food so that they will sustain themselves which shows progressiveness of youth nutrition programmes in the district.¹⁷¹

From 2013, cases of crime rates had decreased. Felix Madhakisi, a Police Officer asserts that in Mutasa North they were now receiving a very few cases caused by youths. He asserts that since youths have economic activities which brought by empowerment and development

¹⁶⁸ ZRP, *Election Report*, Mutasa, 2018.

¹⁶⁹ Ibid.

¹⁷⁰ Interview with S. Rumhungwe (26), Health Officer, Mutasa, Government Complex, August 27, 2018.

¹⁷¹ Ibid.

programmes they had no time to do unwanted activities.¹⁷² They were now spending their time doing different activities which capacitate their life. More so, the awareness campaigns on ending early marriages have played a very crucial role in ending child marriages in the district.¹⁷³ In Honde Valley, cases of child marriages have been reduced since the MY in partnership with NGOs emphasized the importance of law concerning to child marriages.¹⁷⁴ However, the cases were reported somewhere somehow but it was reasonable as compared from 2009 back to 1990s.

Youth empowerment and development strategies had promoted youths in Mutasa through computer literacy ever. Questionnaires returned showed that that a large number of youths were computer literate. This became more supported through youthful owned computer businesses operating in the district. There were five at Watsomba, nine at Hauna and four at D.C Mutasa computer businesses owned by youthful persons. Some of youthful owners of those businesses mentioned that desk top computers which they were using came from the funds they acquire through programme of youth empowerment and development initiated in the district.

COMPUTER LITERACY RATE ACCORDING TO SEX

GENDER	TOTAL	COMPUTER LITERACY	COMPUTER ILLITERACY	LITERACY%	ILLITERACY%
MALES	16	13	3	86.5	13.5
FEMALES	10	9	1	90	1
TOTAL	26	22	3	76	14

Source: Ministry of Youth, Data Base, Mutasa, 2017.

¹⁷²Interview with Madhakisi

¹⁷³Interview with Mwatsina.

¹⁷⁴Ibid.

Apart from that, the youth empowerment and development programmes had promoted youths through creating a gender balanced environment in the district. According to my research, I found that in every programme implemented there was an inclusion of both males and females. Musiiwa asserts that when they were initiating a programme they had to make sure that all sexes benefited in order to destroy patriarchal ideas among youths.¹⁷⁵ This can even be explored through youth officers who worked under the MY. Both males and females were employed on the same post so that that programmes must not be one-sided as shown below.

YOUTH OFFICERS ACCORDING TO THEIR SEX

Constituency	Female youth officers	Male youth officers
Mutasa North	22	25
Mutasa South	7	8
Mutasa Central	14	17
Total	43	50

Source: Ministry of Youth, Data Base, Mutasa, 2017.

The above table supports that project monitoring was done by both sexes without favoring one side. One female youth consulted identifies that their voices were taken into consideration and their complaints are served through the programme than before. More still, this can be supported through youth officers, they consist both female and males showing that youth programmes were gender balanced to a large percent. More so, all youth programmes introduced was to benefit both sexes. In Dziva female youths were seen managing chicken projects.

¹⁷⁵ Interview with Musiiwa.

CHALLENGES AND FAILURES

Despite successes shown above, there were factors which affected the progress of youth development and empowerment programmes in Mutasa. These include politicization and personalization of projects, unexpected climate changes, limited access and shortage of funds to boost projects, financial leakages, corruption, lack of unity among youths, Ministry of Youth lacked resources to facilitate projects which led to half baked projects and elderly influence on youth projects. Also youths scramble for employment is another element shows the failure of the programme.

The Ministry of Youth which was on the forefront of the projects lacks resources to facilitate projects which left some the programmes half-baked. Solomon Manhanga, a Youth Officer aired that starting from 2014; there was the shortage stationery to update the data bases.¹⁷⁶ Also the ministry on its own it did not have a car or motor bike to visit and monitor projects implemented.¹⁷⁷ When they wanted to visit a project they requested a car from NGOs which sometimes delayed them because at sometimes NGOs were using all of their cars.¹⁷⁸ In Dziva, Amini, Nyadzi and Samhiri youth forums had been crumbled due to lack of monitoring. The office mainly depended on reports brought by youth officers and some of the reports were full of lies which negatively affected the progress of youth development programmes in the district. He cited that in 2015 the youth poultry projects in Shamhu area died due to lack of supervision.¹⁷⁹ This reveals that shortage of resources for monitoring projects and to update data bases negatively affected youth programmes in the district since other projects were left half backed.

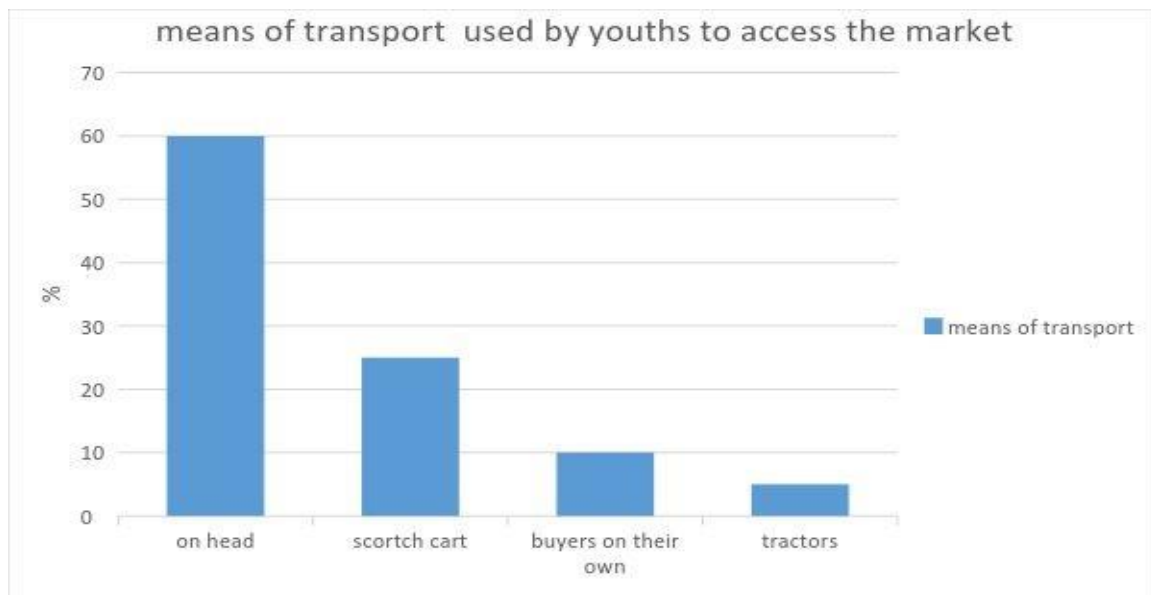
¹⁷⁶Interview with S. Manhanga (31), Youth Officer, Mutasa Central, Government Complex, August 17, 2018.

¹⁷⁷Ibid.

¹⁷⁸Ibid.

¹⁷⁹Ibid.

Poor road networks became a threat on youth development and empowerment programmes in the district. Mageza asserts that due to deprived road networks nearly sixty percent of youths depended on using their heads when transporting their produce to and from the market places such as Watsomba, D.C, Haun and Zindi.¹⁸⁰ About sixteen youths noted out that they used scotch carts when transporting their agro-products.¹⁸¹ Five youths exposed that they used tractors and other youths also cited that other buyers used their foot to reach the area in order to purchase products. Winnet, a vendor portrayed that they used baskets to carry peaches from Rupinda and Moyoweshumba areas on their heads which is unfavorable to human life.¹⁸² In Moyoshemba there was only one commuter omnibus since some hesitated the road which was full of pot-holes.¹⁸³ Thus it disturbed youths in agrarian sectors to sell their products when are fresh and prevent some customers to reach the area. The graph below visualize that sixty percent of youths used their heads to deliver produces and only forty percent used other modes of transport.



Source: Ministry of Youth, *Annual Report*, Mutasa, 2017.

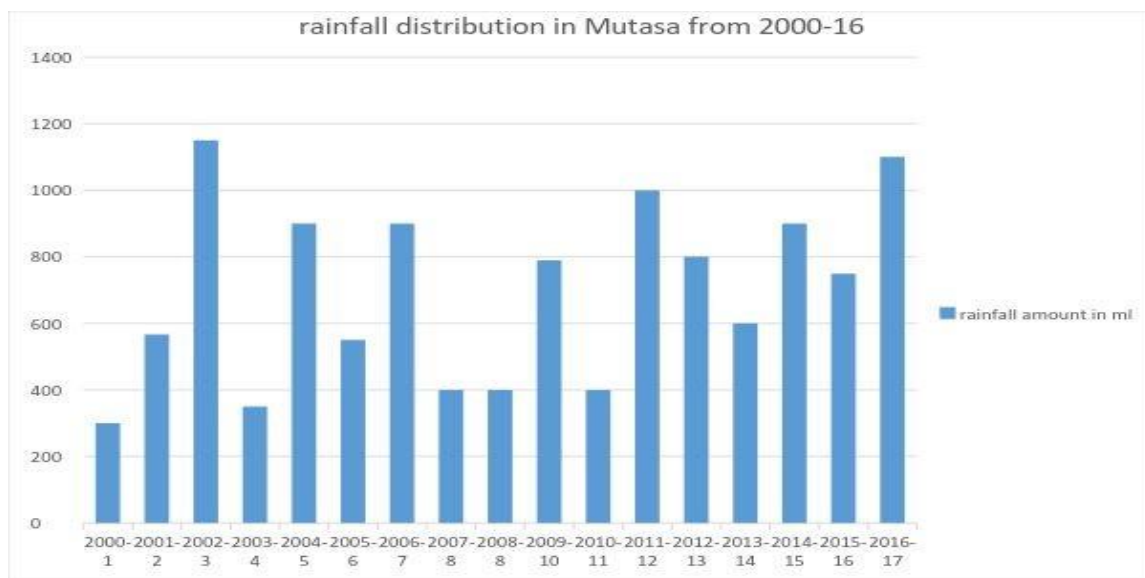
¹⁸⁰ Interview with S. Mageza (33), Youth Officer, Mutasa North, Rupinda Grounds, August 1, 2018.

¹⁸¹ Interviews with youths from Rupinda, Rupinda Grounds, August 1, 2018.

¹⁸² Interview with Winnet (29), Vendor, Mutasa Central, DC, August 4, 2018.

¹⁸³ Ibid.

Apart from that, unexpected climate changes recorded to be a challenge troubled youth projects in Mutasa District. Around fifty four percent of youths in agricultural projects asserts that there were strategies introduced as adoptive measures in order to eradicate the challenge but they did not work in other cases.¹⁸⁴ Those in poultry farming explored the outbreak of new unknown diseases related to extreme temperatures mainly respiratory infections which negatively affected their projects. Young people revealed that climate changed has continued to be a problem threatening production in spite the efforts made by several government agencies and NGOs tried to advance in them. Youths cites that harvest was affected as a result of high temperatures exposed in the rain season of 2013-17. As shown below, the performance of rainfall in the district changes year by year. According to AGRITEX report, tea production and poultry projects were mostly affected due to excess rainfall in 2016.¹⁸⁵



Source: AGRITEX, *Climate Change Report*, Mutasa, 2017.

Apart from that, poor communication networks also negatively affected youth programmes in Mutasa District. Chikumbu that cited there were still other areas such as Domborutinhira, Njerama and some parts of Honde valley which had no cell phone networks due to the

¹⁸⁴ Ministry of Youth, *Annual Report*, Mutasa, 2017.

¹⁸⁵ AGRITEX, *Climate Change Report*, Mutasa, 2017.

absents of boosters.¹⁸⁶ This was a threat to youth development since some will not receive information in time. This lead absents of youths from those areas in important events such as trainings and meetings concerning youth empowerment programmes. Due to poor networks, they will sometimes know about the event when it was already over.

To add more salt, politics was another factor which negatively affected youth programmes in the district. Since most of youth programmes were under the supervision of youth officers were politicized in different aspects. Donald Maisera, one of the Mutasa youth explored that in their village a large number of youths were left out from YBZ and Iwe Neni Tine Basa programmes of 2016 due to the issue of politics.¹⁸⁷ A large number of the participants emphasized that there was shortage of support from the government on land acquirement and Land rights issues. Many youths noted that they were left out from development and empowerment programmes by the MYIEE side-stepped other talented youths in the district on getting land and projects because some programmes were politicized.

In addition, youth officers who were responsible in sending youth names to the district office still had a mentality that only ZANU PF supporters must benefit. For example, in September 2017 only youths who are known in supporting ZANU PF managed to get stands in Tsvingwe and some got stand per each person which also show corruption.¹⁸⁸ This shows the works of politics since the programme was for every youth who was willing to purchase a stand at a low cost at MRDC. However, other youths were left out and some from Chitowa and Mangwiwo village did not even received information.¹⁸⁹ Hence it explores that issue of politics negatively affected the progress of youth empowerment and development programmes in Mutasa District.

¹⁸⁶Interview with T. Chikumbu (23), Internee, Ministry of Youth, Mutasa North, Tsvingwe, July 24, 2018.

¹⁸⁷Interview with D. Maisera (23), Village Member, Mutasa Central, Chitowa Village, August 17, 2018.

¹⁸⁸Ibid.

¹⁸⁹Ibid.

Lack of capital was another difficulty faced by youths in achieving positive youth development and empowerment. Sources of financial capital showed to be complicated for youths to increase production. Capital to keep the continuity of agricultural, candle and soap production was hard to earn.¹⁹⁰ It continued to be a threat for youths to access funds from financial institutions due to lack of collateral security. Financial organizations such as CABS and CBZ charged unreasonable return rates. They ranged above ten percent per month. Young people who gained access to loans in October 2013 were sixty percent and the number had lessened to thirty-five percent in July 2014.¹⁹¹ More still, some youths failed to return the loans had deserted. Not all youths had opportunity for loans since most of them lacked collateral security which depressed others to get funds for their projects. Thus it negatively affected youth empowerment and development programme.

Scramble for employment was one the key element which was still prevailing in the district which shows another failure of the programme. There was serious fight over employment and other opportunities after concluding courses like dress making, building, welding and carpentry offered by vocational school sponsored by the MYIEE according to Chikuni.¹⁹² Though youths were beefed with skills and trainings a large number of them were still jobless. I discovered that large numbers of youths were doing serfdoms and some were informally employed. For instance at D.C Growth Point most unemployed youths spent their time at Bonda Rank selling petrol privately which is totally illegal.¹⁹³ Moreover, those youths are seen abusing drugs as a way of entertainment. One of them revealed that he has a diploma in mechanics so he was saving money to open a garage through illegal fuel business.

¹⁹⁰ Ministry of Youth, *Annual Report*, Mutasa, 2014.

¹⁹¹ Ibid.

¹⁹² Interview with S. Chikuni (26), Fuel Dealer, Mutasa Central, Bonda Rank, July 6, 2018.

¹⁹³ Ibid.

Furthermore, lack of unity among youths becomes a threat to youth development programmes in Mutasa. Most of youth group projects were no-longer functioning. Sauriri mentioned that six Mutasa Central youths who had received two cows in 2014 were always in conflict on who will own those cows.¹⁹⁴ Other two youths shared those cows whilst other four were not aware. Also in Chirarwe all groups of poultry projects broke due to lack of unity.¹⁹⁵ Since they shared duties on feeding chickens some ended up stealing eggs and chickens in the absent of other members. He cited that in 2016 youth disputes over piggery projects were reported to the MY District Office.¹⁹⁶ He explore that the office discovered that those conflicts were mostly caused by the influence of the elderly people who wanted to benefit from youths' programmes. It resulted to the sharing of those pigs among youths hence it reveals the regressive of projects implemented for youth development mostly in Mutasa Central.

Moreover, the government's move on giving young people permission and leases to mine gold becomes a danger to the environment and even to those youths. The researcher visited Penhalonga and Old Mutare area where this action was taking place. He observed that the activity was destructing the environment in all angles. Since they were a doing open cast mining there was the formation of gauges which were not even refilled and also dust produced was affecting the atmosphere which led to unexpected climate changes.¹⁹⁷ They were just digging the land without considering the future. The area was in a dangerous state and the government was not taking any step to dismiss those youths or giving them knowledge whilst it was the one who gave those youths permission to mine. King Master (pseudo name), a gold-miner noted that they were affected with dust since they worked with

¹⁹⁴Interview with Sauriri

¹⁹⁵Ibid.

¹⁹⁶Ibid.

¹⁹⁷EMA, *Environment Report*, Mutasa, 2018.

unprotected clothes and other protective accessories.¹⁹⁸ Also some spent more than a week without bath since the area was not organized. There were no bathrooms and even toilets; they used bush system which shows the failure of the programme towards youth development.

CONCLUSION

This chapter examined the areas where the youth empowerment and development programmes were successful and challenges which negatively affected the move. Its positive contribution revealed through self-employment of youths, skills in different activities, reduction of political violence and anti-social behaviors, advancement of projects through inputs, creation of gender equality atmosphere and participation of youths in public spheres. However, there were other factors which negatively affected the programmes which include politicization and personalization of projects, unexpected climate changes, limited access and shortage of funds to boost projects and lack of unity among youths.

¹⁹⁸Interview with King Master (26), Gold-miner, Penhalonga, July 24,2018.

CONCLUSION

This work has explored the strategies employed to empower and develop youths in Mutasa. It has shown that the idea was not a one man's tasks since different government organizations, NGOs and financial institutions were recognized playing crucial roles in fostering youth programmes in the district. Various strategies have been enforced in empowering and promoting youths economically, politically and socially. That was through donations, funding of projects, trainings, awareness campaigns and business leases were granted. Those initiatives brought notable positive changes on youths' livelihoods in Mutasa. This can be portrayed through self-employment of youths, skills in different activities, reduction of political violence, reduction of early marriages and anti-social behaviour, advancement of projects through inputs, creation of gender equality atmosphere within youths and participation of youths in public spheres. Despite successes shown, there were factors which affected the progress of youth development and empowerment programmes in Mutasa. These include politicization and personalization of projects, unexpected climate changes, limited access and shortage of funds to boost projects, corruption, lack of unity among youths, Ministry of Youth lacked resources to facilitate projects which led to half baked projects and elderly influence on youth programmes.

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APPANDICES

APPENDIX 1

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR RESPONDENTS IN MUTASA DISTRICT

My name is Chesa Wonder Tatenda, a student at Midlands State University pursuing a degree in History and international studies. The purpose of this study is to explore and examine youth development and empowerment strategies initiated in Mutasa District from 2010 to 2018. I am kindly asking you to fill up questions in this questionnaire so as to assist the investigator to get information needed in this study. Your information and views are significantly important in this study. Information you will provide will be confidential and used for academic purpose only. Your co-operation will greatly be appreciated.

Please respond by ticking in appropriate box or by writing your views in the space provided:

PART A

1. Sex.....Male Female

2. Age...15-20 20-30 30-36 36 and above

3. Maritalstatus.....Single Married

4. Level of education.... ZJC O'level A'level Tertiary

Others specify.....

5. Employment position..... Employed Not Employed

6. For how long have you stayed in Mutasa District?

0-5 5-10 10-15 15- 20 20+

7. Do you know anything about youth development and empowerment? Yes NO

If yes list any category you are in.....

8. How long have you been in youth development and empowerment programmes?

(Indicate the number of months or years in the box below)

Years Months

9.Are you able to use a computer? YES NO

10.Please specify your opinion by a tick where appropriate in the table below:

Disagreement(D), Neutral(N), Agreement(A) and Strongly Agree(SA)

Statement	D	N	A	S.A
Are the programs implemented important in developing and empowering youths?				

Is there need to educate more youths on development schemes?				
Is there need to add more empowerment and development programs for theyouths?				
Are the programmes presented brought skills to youths?				

Please fill in your suggestions in the blank space given:

11. What are the youth programmes you are active in Mutasa?

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12. What kind of support do you get from youth development and empowerment programmes?

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13. How regular do you carry out workshops or visited and how significant are they?

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14. State at least of four things that you have benefited through youths programmes?

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15. What are challenges do you encounter as young people in relation to
development and empowerment programmes?

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16. What are potential solutions do you propose in order to sustain youth development and
empowerment?

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17. Propose some recommendations and additional remarks on the concept of youth development and empowerment schemes in Mutasa district.

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APPENDIX 2

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS FOR YOUTH OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES

I greet you in the name of our Almighty. I am Wonder T Chesa, a student at Midlands State University doing a Bachelor of Arts in History and International Studies. As part of my degree requirements, I am carrying my research on youth development and empowerment strategies in Mutasa District. You are sympathetically asked to answer all the following questions. Your responses will remain confidential and anonymous. Your support is greatly valued.

Will I continue with this interview? Yes/ No

QUESTIONS

1. How many youth members do you have in your cluster?
2. In your programs, do you apply gender balance to guarantee widespread participation of youths?
3. What are the projects you are undertaking for youth empowerment and development?
4. How sustainable are these programmes and prove its impacts on the youths?
5. Do these schemes provide for both in and out of school youths?
6. What is your view on computer literacy of the youths?
7. How regular do you carry out youth development and empowerment capacity building trainings or workshops?

8. In your own examination do you think the development and empowerment projects have enhanced the youth in all dimensions (livelihoods, socially, politically, culturally and economically).

9. What are the challenges faced in implementing the youth development and empowerment programmes?

10. What possible solutions do you intend that can be engaged to sustain youth development and empowerment?

11. Do you have any other further comments relating to the issue of youth empowerment and development?