

Challenges and Opportunities Faced by Informal Traders at Murahwa Green Market, Mutare

KUDZAI NYABEZE¹ AND WITNESS CHIKOKO¹

Abstract

The paper problematises socio-economic challenges faced by informal traders in the case of Murahwa Green Market Mutare. The study draws global literature from Africa and Asia in order to show the socio-economic challenges faced by the informal traders beyond the country. The utility of the capability approach was imperative to the study as it revealed the potential and opportunities that informal traders endow if given the leeway to join the mainstream social insurance. The study interrogates the socio-economic challenges faced by the informal traders at Murahwa Green Market in Mutare. The study was conducted in Sakubva because it is where most informal sector activities take place in Mutare. A mixed method approach was used to collect data through interviews and questionnaires. The study reveals that chief among the socio-economic challenges faced by the informal traders include losses due to fluctuating prices, cash crisis and price hikes. These economic challenges have negatively affected the informal sector business to the extent that some form of social security is needed to guarantee their informal sector business as it has become the largest employment sector in Zimbabwe. Social challenges faced by the informal traders include theft which was reported to be the chief among the social challenges. One of the recommendations of this paper is that the informal traders should be given some form of social security to cushion them in the event of socio-economic challenges affecting them. Social security should be in the form of social insurance for this group.

Keywords: informality, markets, policy, urban management, innovations

INTRODUCTION

This paper discusses the socio-economic challenges faced by the informal traders in Zimbabwe. In Zimbabwe the advent of Structural Adjustment Policies in (1991) which was a policy that stemmed from the World Bank and IMF as prescriptions for Zimbabwe to get loans had undesirable socio-

¹Department of Social Work, University of Zimbabwe

economic effects towards the development of the economy as noted by Kanyenze *et al.* (2011). The introduction of structural adjustment policies in Zimbabwe meant deregulation of the economy thus the government left people to find social security in the labour market. These effects of ESAP led to an increased rate of unemployment which was one of the reasons of the growth of the informal economy in Zimbabwe. The informal economy in Zimbabwe has expanded as the formal sector shrinks which has resulted in vendors congesting urban towns resulting in undesirable socio-economic effects.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Previous study has identified a plethora of challenges faced by informal traders in general. Matshidiso and Kole (2015) state that informal traders are frequently harassed by the municipal police. Munyaradzi (2012: 24) concurs when he observed the relationship between the informal sector and the police which is usually strained, because the law enforcement agents are viewed as being hostile to the informal trading sector. In arguments attributed to Chenga (2013), the streets of major cities and towns in South Africa are a typical illustration of the jeopardies of an unbridled informal sector. He expands that the informal sector is not accountable to anyone, it thrives on muddled governance to a point that the speed with which vendors return back to the streets each time they are driven away by the municipal police indicates the extent of South Africa's unemployment rate and how this crisis is taking its toll on ordinary citizens.

However, Munyaradzi (2012) points out that because of the deprived remuneration among some of the employed members they resort to vending. The police service has taken benefit of the circumstances in which the practitioners in the informal economy find themselves in. One of the challenges that affect informal traders are the constant conflicts that they engage in with the municipal police regarding the legal trade area. Municipal police capitalise on those trading on illegal sites through taking bribes. However, though these studies reveal constant conflict between the police and informal traders, this study is unique as it will focus on legal informal traders who operate at designated areas such as those provided by the Council and stipulated in the Council's by-laws. Therefore, their challenges are different from those faced by unregistered traders who bribe the police for them to operate unofficially without contributing taxes to the local authorities. According to Matshidiso and Kole (2015) challenges faced by

informal traders: include harassment by the municipal police, lack of legal frameworks to support the sector, pejorative perceptions by the government, lack of appropriate policies by the responsible authority and gender disparities. Munyaradzi (2012) concurs with Matshidiso and Kole (2015) who both allude to lack of government policies that govern informal markets and harassment by the municipal police. According to Muthusamy and Ibrahim (2016), problems faced by street and market vendors conducted in India also corroborate with findings from Third World countries as they include the fear of harassment by the local authorities, bribes, low incomes, poor working conditions, waste pickers and child labour. All these challenges threaten informal traders who operate at illegal sites. However, these challenges are not similar to those experienced by the legal traders who trade at legally approved workplaces which are the focus of this research.

One of the most daunting among the problems from the findings is child labour. Children at market places work as waste pickers at the nearby sites to enable them to get money for food and to be able to get income despite the health hazards they are exposed to. According to Midgley and Tung (2008) citing the case of South Africa which has a universal coverage, provision of social allowances in the form of grants could have been the remedy for ending child labour as children need protection by the government. An evaluative analysis of the challenges faced by informal traders' prevalence of harassment by the municipal police, poor working conditions and lack of consistent policies that govern the informal sector. This shows that despite academic literature found across the globe still little has been done to address the plight of the informal sector which makes one to concur with Matchidiso (2015) conclusions that informal traders occur due to lack of organised structures or union to represent them just like any other professional bodies.

Studies have also been done in Zimbabwe by Mupambireyi *et al.* (2014) on the problems faced by the informal traders although they mainly related to business than social implications, revealing procurement challenges, market constraints and infrastructure issues. This shows that studies have been done from a business orientation mostly since they had some implications on economic development policies that directly showers down to social development. However, an important quotation can be drawn from (Mupambireyi, 2014:81) study on procurement challenges is as follows:

“If your travel document expires, then you are in deep trouble..., what else can one do if that is our only source of livelihood (selling second hand clothes)? It is worth taking the risk; otherwise your kids will die of hunger.”

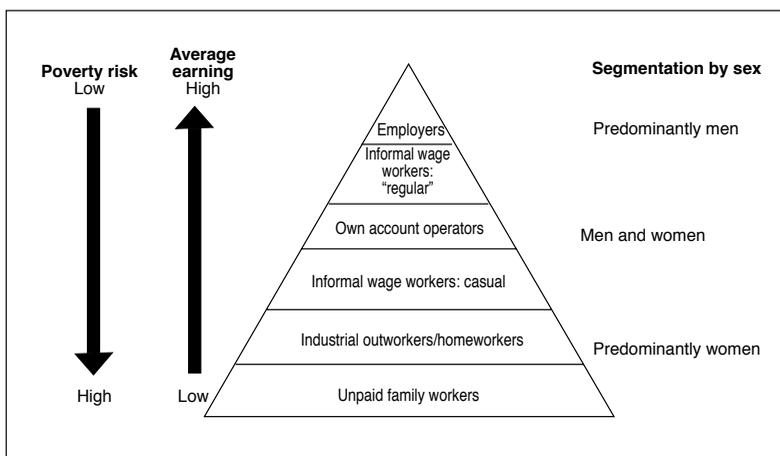
From the above expert, one can observe that the study focused on economic challenges but the gist of the problem directly translates to problems of social insurance. The problem is that children needed food at home or else they would die of hunger. This had now coerced traders to take risks because apart from their trade they have no other means of livelihood to sustain their families. This has compelled this study to dwell much on the social insurance related challenges in order to close that gap left by economic studies.

INEQUALITIES IN SOCIAL INSURANCE SCHEMES

In a case study made in Brazil titled, “Extending social insurance to informal workers” (Homes and Scott, 2017) state that, informal workers face high levels of risks yet the majority are not covered by social insurance. They further reviewed that, women informal traders face specific and delicate risks in the labour market and across the life cycle, yet more women than men are excluded from insurance schemes. Increasingly a number of countries are extending social insurance to informal workers, but with only some exceptions since most policies remain gender-blind. However, gender responsive reforms can ensure increased coverage of women informal traders to address the risks they face. These include legislation in the labour market, recognition of the care economy, innovative policy design in payment options and simplified administrative processes and investment in gender-sensitive delivery capacity. In the case of Brazil, it can be observed that there is still marginalisation of women in the informal economy as their inclusion leaves a lot to be desired. On the contrary, similar studies done in South Africa also confirm the issue of policies that aligns and protects those in the informal sector but most challenges were attributed to poor working environment, sanitation and lack of appropriate legal statutes to support the informal traders (Matshidiso and Kole, 2015).

According to Holmes and Scott’s (2016) study on the need to extend social insurance to the informal sector, the problem of gender disparity was identified as women are the ones who dominate the informal sector and yet coverage is rarely extended to them. Although both men and women face challenges the study also brought significant insights to some gender disparities which have highlighted some gaps in African literature on the informal traders. The study provides the following illustration of gender inequalities in the informal sector as presented in Figure 1:

Figure 1: WIEGO Model of Informal Employment – Hierarchy of Earnings and



Poverty Risk (ILO and WIEGO, 2013)

Table 1: Extending Social Insurance to Informal Workers (Chen et al. 2005; ILO and WIEGO, 2013)

Street vendors

- In many countries, especially in Africa, the majority of street vendors are women: 63% in Kenya, 68% in South Africa and 88% in Ghana. In Buenos Aires, by contrast, only 29% of street vendors are women.
 - Street vendors constitute a significant proportion of urban employment in Africa, including South Africa (15%), but less so in India (11%) and even less so in Latin America (3% in Brazil).
-

Smallholder farmers

- Half of the world's population works in agriculture: 60% are self-employed as farmers, mainly as small farmers.
 - In most African countries, agriculture accounts for 70% of the labour force. Women often provide much or most of the labour.
 - Unpaid work on family farms accounted for 20% of women's informal employment in Ghana, 34% in India, and 85% in Egypt.
-

The above table and key findings derived from Holmes and Scott (2016) clearly indicate the key results of the study carried out in Brazil. From the

study it is clear that women are the ones who get lowest paid jobs and are exposed to high risks than their male counterparts; which shows the need to extend social insurance coverage for this group. Therefore, a comparison of the two studies shows that the Brazilian research was propelled by the need for equity between men and women; thus, demonstrating gender imbalances. Hence, extending social insurance should therefore be prioritised to women since they dominate lowest paid jobs. Therefore, extending social insurance should be gender based and be a benchmark of the ILO (1952) standards of social security provision.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research adopted a mixed methods research which made the study to come up with a combination of two research designs that corroborate each other (Creswell 2013). The purpose of adopting a mixed methods design was to allow the study to quantify the socio-economic problems faced by the informal traders at Murahwa Green Market. The study was conducted at Sakubva market place which is located in Mutare District Urban area. Sakubva market place is situated in Mutare in the high-density area of Mutare where most informal activities take place. Sakubva is a high-density township in Mutare which constitutes almost one quarter of the Mutare population despite an area of less than four square miles. The study population were the informal traders who were based at Murahwa Green Market. According to the operational definition to be used in this study are informal traders who operate on lease agreement that are renewable every year. These traders mostly trade in hardware, carpentry and timber. They operate in shops which are lent out by the City of Mutare and licenced on a one-year lease agreement. Through the assistance from the City of Mutare, the study took a survey out of a number of 60 informal traders according to the data base of the informal traders.

The study adopted two sampling techniques which included non-probability and probability sampling techniques. The study included a sample of 52 participants and at least 6 respondents. Sampling size for quantitative sampling was determined using the Krejcie and Morgan (1970) table of formulas. Purposive and cluster sampling were utilised. The study adopted a number of data collection methods. Primary data was collected using in-depth interviews and questionnaires. The data instruments that were chosen confirmed that they fit into both quantitative and qualitative research since the study utilised a mixed methods study. Bailey *et al.* (2011) note that in-

depth interviews are used primarily when the study seeks to capture people's thoughts, voices, experiences and stories concerning particular issues. Questionnaires were used to gather information from the informal traders. The use of a questionnaire was a fulfilment of the research approach which adopted a mixed method hence there was need to strike a balance on the research tools to make sure that the findings are equally represented. Data transformation was used in the presentation of findings. Data transformation is a process whereby the research concurrently analyses findings from a quantitative and qualitative. SPSS and thematic content analysis where the two approaches used in the analysis of research findings.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

The study included the demographic information pertaining to the age of the participants, marital status, and number of children, gender and level of education. Table 2 illustrates the age ranges of respondents.

Table 2: The Age Ranges of Respondents (Survey, 2019)

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
18-25	3	10.0	10.0	10.0
26-30	14	46.7	46.7	56.7
30-45	5	16.7	16.7	73.3
above 46	8	26.7	26.7	100.0
Total	30	100.0	100.0	

The demographic data shows that the informal trade sector from the sample drawn was largely dominated by the range from 26-30 which constituted almost 46.7% of the population. The average range is 26-30. The demographic findings of the study also reveal that 10% of the age range of 18-25 is the least involved in the informal trade. The findings also show that 26.7% of the informal traders were involved in informal trade and they are the ageing population in this study. These findings can be linked to the high unemployment rate facing the country which has led the youths to dominate this sector as it has become a source of livelihood among the unemployed people in Zimbabwe. Among them all, it was mentioned that less than 0-5 years' period in service, which showed that most of them started this trade

just after attaining 18 to 20 years which is normally the age of the majority in Zimbabwe.

The research also inquired the marriage status and number of children of the respondents. This knowledge was important in analysing the risks of the need for insuring their informal business. For example, if there is an outbreak of fire at a trade place and it destroys all properties, the implications are that the ones with more responsibility and children at home will suffer most than single people (Table 3):

Table 3: Respondents' Marital Status (Survey, 2019)

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	26	86.7	86.7	86.7
No	4	13.3	13.3	100.0
Total	30	100.0	100.0	

Table 2 reveals that 86.7% are married and they have a family to look after through their informal business. The percentage of the informal traders who are not married is 13.3%. The findings of the Table 4 indicate that 10% respondents have no children, 36% have at least one child, 26.7% have two children, 6.7% have at least three children and 20% have at least four children reaching an accumulative frequency of 100%.

Table 4: Respondents' Number of Children (Survey, 2019)

Do you have children?		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No children	3	10.0	10.0	10.0
	1	11	36.7	36.7	46.7
	2	8	26.7	26.7	73.3
	3	2	6.7	6.7	80.0
	4 and above	6	20.0	20.0	100.0
Total		30	100.0	100.0	

Table 5: Respondents' Level of education (Survey, 2019)

What is your level of education?		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Not attained any education	2	6.7	6.7	6.7
	Ordinary level	24	80.0	80.0	86.7
	Advanced level	2	6.7	6.7	93.3
	Tertiary level	2	6.7	6.7	100.0
	Total	30	100.0	100.0	

The findings from the level of education indicated that 80% have at least attained education up to ordinary level. At least 6.7% are entrepreneurs who have either degree or diploma and this were found to be the owners of the businesses. Also 6.7% had Advanced level as their highest education qualification. Two respondents reported to have not attained either of the types of education mentioned above which means they have never been to school. The demographic findings contributed significantly to the study. It was noted that knowledge on social insurance was popular amongst 13.3 % respondents who knew about the existence of social insurance schemes whilst the rest 86.7 % were unfamiliar with the subject of social insurance which made it difficult for the study to get the actual information that was relevant in answering the research questions.

The information gathered pertaining to the sex of respondents was also important as it reveals that there is a correlation between sex as a variable and informal trade. Gender distributions findings indicate that male informal traders constitute 90% of the market and 10% are women. Thus, twenty-seven against three of the female respondents of the study. The gender distribution was really astonishing as the informal market place was dominated by men and women were not even seen either through observation. Informal trade in terms of mechanics, hardware and timber as an area that is more paying and rewarding is dominated by men. Women dominate vegetable markets and clothes market which have less returns as compared to their counterparts as observed by the research during the market toll and findings from the 30 questionnaires speak to such gender imbalances.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHALLENGES FACED BY INFORMAL TRADERS

The sub-themes included the following: injury at work, theft, meagre profits, price hikes, cash crisis and social implications among others. The socio-economic problems faced by the informal traders are going to be illustrated by means of a table to show the impact of the problem pertaining to the social security of the informal traders. The study questioned the respondents on any encounters of social insurance related challenges before and the results found are illustrated in Table 6.

Table 6: Social Risks Faced by Respondents (Survey, 2019)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Non-social risks	27	90.0	90.0	90.0
	Injury at work	1	3.3	3.3	93.3
	Theft	2	6.7	6.7	100.0
	Total	30	100.0	100.0	

Table 6 illustrates the social challenges related to social insurance that are faced by the informal traders. Quantitative findings indicate that only three respondents have faced social risks which include injury at work (only one respondent thus 3.3%) and 2 respondents have experienced theft which constitutes 6.7%. Findings from an in-depth interview guide from participant (1) reported that injury at work was one of the risks which affect informal traders at work. Injury at work was reported by participant (1). The participant had this to say upon explaining how he got injured at work: “I was once involved in an incident in which I was carrying timber and it suddenly fell on my left foot and sustained a serious injury and took off at work for more than two weeks”

Findings from an in-depth interview guide confirmed with the findings from the study. Findings from another participant during an in-depth interview also revealed that theft was another social risk that informal traders are exposed to. At times they reported losing their items to thieves. One of the participants (2) had this to say,

“One day I lost all my belongings to thieves at our workplace and yet there is market security that is selected by the market committee but my items were stolen which included hardware materials worth thousands of dollars.”

Findings from the survey and in-depth interview revealed social risks that are faced by the informal traders at their workplace.

Table 7: Economic Risks faced by Respondents (Survey, 2019)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Non-economic risks	2	6.7	6.7
	Loss	2	6.7	6.7
	Price hikes	15	50.0	50.0
	Cash crisis	11	36.7	36.7
	Total	30	100.0	100.0

Findings from the questionnaire indicate economic risks that are related to social insurance. Respondents have reported that price hikes being the most pressing economic challenge with 50%, those who incurred loss were 6.7%, cash crisis indicated 36.7% and other were non-economic risks.

The study also asked the participants the economic challenge faced by the informal traders that are related to social insurance. Findings from an in-depth-interview guide revealed that price hikes have really affected the informal traders in terms of their business and welfare. Participant (3) reported that due to increase of prices, they would hold their goods to wait for the exchange rate on the market to stabilise as the economy is now controlled by the black market. The participant had this to say,

“The economy has become difficult for us to operate especially when I wants to hoard goods. I am charging bond notes but the producer where we buy our goods will demand United States dollars so in order for us to survive in the market you end up charging USD”

This made them to incur losses as they would not be able to purchase the same goods; they bought using the previous purchase price. Another participant (4) had this to say,

“We end up charging prices three or four times of the actual price so that we will be able to purchase our next stocks since we will be racing against the USD currency which is rapidly increasing on daily basis. Otherwise we will fail to fend for our families as we are working for hand to mouth.”

Participants reported that price hikes have become rampant and they run the risk of losing their business as the economy has become highly unpredictable. Findings from qualitative instruments therefore complemented findings from quantitative tools.

Losses in profits due to fluctuating prices were confirmed by quantitative findings were also found to be some of the risks that face informal traders according to in-depth interviews conducted. One participant (5) reported that due to price hikes and currency shortages they are now surviving on hand to mouth. The participant had this to say,

“I don’t make much profit as the money I get only helps me to buy food for my family and nothing much as you can see that the economy is not stable hence, we are just working to survive.”

The researcher further probed to ask on the extent of period of time the participant has been in trade and the participant had this to say,

“I have been in service for more than 20 years and the money you get is not just enough to contribute or to make any savings especially in this sector.”

Participant (3) was also asked about the profits that he makes. This trader manufactures grind mills and has got four employees. At times he recruits students on attachment from polytechnic for practical work. When asked about the profits he makes at his work place had this to say,

“I sell grinding mills at least a minimum of ten to twelve per year depending on the demand per year. At the moment, one grinding mill costs \$2700 bond notes and it is not an obvious case that I sale one every month. The moment I sale one I would use that money to pay for my rentals, buy food and pay for my children’s school fees so you would find out that it not too much money that I get due to inconsistency of income.”

The study observed that indeed some were making meagre profits and further asked why they keep on trading while their businesses are not rewarding as they expect. Participant (3) responded,

“I have no other source of income and this is what I survive on so if I quit this trade it means my family will die of hunger so I have no other option rather than to stay in business and work for my family to have food on the table.”

According to in-depth interviews, cash crisis was reported to be affecting many informal traders in terms of their businesses and operations. Participant (2) reported that,

“One of the major risks we are facing is cash shortages and we are charging prices in bond notes and RTGS. The moment you sell your goods and want to hoard again the prices would have inflated double or thrice higher than the purchasing price. As a result, we will not be able to buy the same goods we purchased before so in that case we run risk of losing our businesses cash crisis remains like this.”

Participant (2) reported that cash crisis has become a major stumbling block. The study asked the respondent on the strategies they are doing to ensure for them to stay in business and the participant responded,

“I end up charging in USD or charge two or three times the actual price so that when I want to hoard I won't fail to purchase my goods due to shortage of cash. At times where we buy goods they are now demanding USD as well so it's quite difficult for us to stay in the market.”

Findings from the study reveal complementary socio-economic challenges faced by the informal traders that are related to social insurance. Statistically 50% have been affected due to price hikes which have been confirmed by in-depth interviews conducted with the informal traders. Socio-economic challenges that were identified from both the questionnaire and in-depth interview revealed injury at work, theft, lack of financial backup, meagre profits, price hikes and cash crisis as major problems.

DISCUSSION

The informal sector expansion can be largely attributed to high unemployment in Zimbabwe as observed by ILO (2015) studies which also identified similar trends in South Asia where it has expanded at the expense of the formal sector which was shrinking. Etsubdink Sibhat (2016) however, was of the view that the major influence of the informal sector is shaped by the culture, politics and the economy of that particular context. In Zimbabwe, demographic survey data attribute to the informal sector's rise to the current unemployment rate as it not confirmed 80% of respondents with ordinary level as their minimum qualification. The ILO (1972); Sethuraman (1976); Tokman (1978) also confirms with the notion that the informal sector mushroom in countries in which there is stagnant economic growth mostly.

In Zimbabwe, it was discovered that economic challenges faced by the informal traders differ from those faced in other countries to a larger extend.

Studies by Matshidiso and Kole (2015) conducted in South Africa reveal social problems mostly and no mention is made to economic risks associated with the informal traders. Findings reveal that economic risks are more pressing than social risks due to lack of country's currency which is causing price hikes on a daily basis. This has affected the informal traders' operations. Other countries where informal trade is rampant all do have their own currency and the Zimbabwean case is a unique one. No wonder it is presenting different risks that are more economical rather than socially oriented. Matshidiso and Kole (2015) discovered identified strained relationships between the municipal police and the informal traders in which the latter often bribe the earlier. Such kind of problems cannot be directly compared licensed informal traders to in Zimbabwe with particular reference to this study as the target group operates at officially designated places. However, even though they are expected to pay some lease agreements there was no mention of defaults or any threats by the municipal police.

However, similar studies conducted by Mupambireyi (2014) pertaining to the challenges faced by informal traders in Zimbabwe at Mbare also focused on the economic risks which can identify with the findings of this study. The difference is that when Mupambireyi (2014) conducted his studies, it was during the period of multi-currency regime when the USD and the Zimbabwean bond note were rated one as to one. This period witnessed deflation and the challenges identified by Mupambireyi included lack of travelling documents for informal traders to hoard their stocks outside the country which resulted in them taking risks behaviours in order to fend for their lives. The issues of price hikes clearly present new findings pertaining to the economic risks faced by the informal traders. Therefore, this shows that when the economy is not performing well the negative effects directly cascades down upon the social lives of these traders. This also threatens social insurance of the informal traders even if they engage in informal social insurance schemes mention by Kaseke (2002). Informal social insurance schemes such as social cooperatives would be easily eroded by inflation unless they save in United States Dollars (USD).

According to Matshidiso and Kole (2015) studies of the risks that are faced by the informal traders, the following were identified: harassment by the municipal police, lack of legal frameworks to support the sector, pejorative perceptions by the government, lack of appropriate policies by the authorities and gender disparities. Lack of legal frameworks to support informal traders is a major stumbling block as to why this sector has failed to be recognized

in all its efforts in promoting socio-economic development. The informal traders remain excluded in the mainstream social insurance schemes because of government's failure to recognise the potential of this sector and the need for social insurance protection since they are prone to socio-economic risks similar to those faced by employees in the formal sector.

Basing on the current economic crisis, informal traders are facing risks of losing their business and this might result in poverty as they have no other sources of income. Even if they try to make savings in the current economic crisis, they will lose part if not all of their current savings. Therefore, this means in terms of savings they have to ensure that they covert to foreign currency or buy assets as form of social insurance. Meagre profits were another economic challenge which was reported to be at 6.7% from the study findings. Again, it is another social insurance challenge associated with informal trading. In Zimbabwe the study revealed that informal traders' profits are not as much as they expect as they are only able to buy food, pay fees and rentals for their families. They survive on hand to mouth thus working to survive rather than to live a healthy and decent life. This type of economic challenges was however not identified in the literature review as it was influenced by the current economic status of the country.

Another major challenge associated with informal traders at Murahwa Green Market was reported to be cash crisis. Cash crisis refers to shortage of cash in the market as they are no longer able to charge prices in cash only. The available payment methods at the time of the research included Ecocash, swipe and cash in either USD or bond notes with USD being cheaper than bond notes. According to Muthusamy and Ibrahim (2016) findings in India risks associated with informal traders include fear of harassment by the local authorities, fear of bribes, low incomes, poor working conditions, waste pickers and child labour and these differ from the Zimbabwean context.

Findings from India and South Africa do not mention anything to do with cash crisis which actually shows new emerging problems associated with the current economic crisis in Zimbabwe. Findings of the study revealed that theft was one of the risks associated with informal traders at their workplace. Theft is one of the social risks faced by the informal traders at Murahwa Green Market. The traders reported that at times they lose their goods to thieves despite the presence of security on duty raising many eyebrows. Social challenges affecting the informal traders in other parts of the world exclude theft but relates to other challenges such as lack of representation. According to South African studies conducted by Matchidiso (2015) in South Africa

informal traders lack representation. Theft in Zimbabwe is becoming rampant probably due to higher poverty levels.

CONCLUSION

The research findings divulged emerging economic risks that are associated with social insurance. Some of the economic challenges make savings difficult especially for the informal traders. This has negative implication towards social insurance schemes that are administered to the formal sector. The discussion above has indicated that informal traders face a plethora of socio-economic challenges which put their informal trade at stake. In as much as the informal traders face a lot of socio-economic challenges, this does not stop them from doing their daily business as they have no other source of income. Their lives are entirely dependent upon their businesses. The harsh socio-economic environment does not deter them from conducting their businesses. The findings of the study reveal that economic risks are more visible than the social risks that they face. The respondents reported that they run the risk of losing their businesses due to cash crisis, meagre profits and price hikes. These are the major risks that are faced by the informal traders which also translate down to social problems. However social risks also include theft and injury at work. Findings of the study reveal a strong correlation between social and economic development. Although the risks that are faced by the informal traders relate more to economic problems their implications directly translate to social insecurity since these businesses are their only sources of income. Due to these risks, there is therefore need to ensure social insurance schemes are put in place for the informal traders in the event of socio-economic risks befalling them such as theft, injury at work and economic upheavals currently facing the country. One of the policy recommendations of the study is that the National Social Security Authority (NSSA) should consider including the informal traders in their mainstream social insurance schemes which offers pension and other benefits schemes. This can be done through introducing policies that ensure rationality of contributions in terms of income and consider some market forces that limit consistence of income among the informal traders.

REFERENCES

- Adams, L. S. (2013). *The Student's Guide to Research Ethics*. Maidenhead: Open University Press.
- Bradshaw, Y. and North, N. (1997). *Perspectives in Health Care*. London: Macmillan Press.

- Bhosale, B.V. (2014). *Issues of Work and Livelihood: Challenges*. India: University of Mumbai
- Creswell, J. (2013). *Research Design Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Method Approach*. London: Sage Publications
- Groove, S. K. Nancy, J. R. & Burns, N. (2015). *Understanding Nursing Research: Building an Evidence-Based Practice*. Texas: University of Texas at Arlington.
- Holmes, R and Scott, L. (2016). *Extending Social Insurance to The Informal Workers: A Gender Analysis*. Brazil: Ord.organization.
- Lewis, W. A. (1954). 'Economic Development with Unlimited Supplies of Labor', *The Manchester School*, Vol. 22, pp. 139–191.
- ILO (2014) *World Social Protection Report*. Geneva: International Labour office.
- ILO (2014) *World Social Protection Report*. Seoul, Korea.
- Kamat. W. (2006). *Ethical Consideration in Qualitative Research*. Sage: London.
- Zimbabwe. School of Social Work, University of Zimbabwe, Harare.
- Kole, L. and Matshidiso, K. (2015). *The Challenges Faced by the Informal Traders in Greater Letaba Municipality in Limpopo Province, South Africa*. South Africa: Africa's Public Service and Performance Review.
- Krejcie, R. V. & Morgan, D. W. (1970). *Determining Sample Size for Research Activities*. Texas: Texas University.
- Midgley J. and Tang K. (2010). *Social Policy and Poverty in East Asia: The Role of Social Security*. London: Routledge.
- Midgley, J. and Manohar, P (2017) *Future Directions in Social Development*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Parahoo, K. (1997) *Nursing Research: Principles, Process, Issues*. London: Macmillan.
- Polit, D. F. & Hungler, B. P. (2003). *Essentials of Nursing Research*: Retrieved from www.ablebrooks.co.uk 12 September 2016.
- Saunders, M., Lewis: and Thornhill, A. (2009). *Research Methods for Business Students*. Essex: Pearson Education Limited.
- Saunders, M, Lewis: And Thornhill, A. (2012) *Research Methods for Business Students* (Sixth Edition). London: Pearson Education Limited.
- World Bank (2001) *World Development Report 2000/2001: Attacking Poverty*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Zhou, G. and Zvoushe, H (2012). Public Policy Making in Zimbabwe: A Three Decade Perspective. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 2(8), pp.212-222.