

**MIDLANDS STATE UNIVERSITY**

**FACULTY OF ARTS**

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**



**The Youth Revolving Funds in alleviating poverty in Zimbabwe: A case of Youth  
Agenda Trust in Zengeza Suburbs**

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## APPROVAL FORM

The undersigned certify that they have read and recommended to Midlands State University for acceptance of the dissertation entitled “Effectiveness of the Youth Revolving Fund in alleviating poverty in Zimbabwe. A case of the Youth Agenda Trust in Zengeza Suburbs” submitted by Tariro Mawoyo R111594P in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in Development Studies.

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## DECLARATION

I Tariro Mawoyo, Registration Number R111594P do hereby declare that this entire research is a product of my own work. It is being submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for Honours Degree in Development Studies, in the Faculty of Arts at Midlands State University.

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Tariro Mawoyo

...../...../.....

Date

## **DEDICATION**

This Dissertation is dedicated to my parents Mr and Mrs Mawoyo and my sisters Tatenda and Tafara.

## **ABSTRACT**

The study investigates the effectiveness of the youth revolving fund in alleviating poverty in Zimbabwe. This will be brought about through using a case study of the Youth Agenda Trust's involvement in Zengeza Suburbs from the period 2007-2014. The researcher made use of the questionnaires and interviews to collect data. A purposeful sample was used in choosing the beneficiaries of the youth revolving fund. Interviews were also conducted with the beneficiaries of the youth revolving fund from Zengeza. The organisation also contributed on these interviews. The study reveals that there is lack of transparency in issuing these funds, moreover the youths who would have benefited from the revolving fund are not being honest enough to return the funds as expected. However, some of these youths have benefited a lot from these youth revolving funds which has helped eradicate poverty in Zimbabwe. The study also reveals the indicators of effectiveness which are: percentage of people below the Total Consumption Poverty Line, Human Poverty Index and employment to population increase. The study also looks at the numbers of the youths who have been assisted by the youth revolving fund and the income generating projects that they have engaged in so as to eradicate poverty amongst the youths.

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May the Lord God bless you all abundantly.

Tariro Loraine Mawoyo

## **List of Acronyms**

ALMPs- Active Labour Market Programmes

ASM- Artisanal and Small Mining

ESAP- Economic Structural Adjustment Programme

GEEPP- Graduate Entrepreneurship and Employment Promotion Programme

GPA- Global Political Agreement

ILO- International Labour Organisation

IMF- International Monetary Fund

PAAP- Poverty Alleviation Action Plan

PRFT- Poverty Reduction Forum Trust

SDF- Social Dimensions Fund

SIDA- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

TCPL- Total Consumption Poverty Line

UNDP- United Nations Development Programme

YAT- Youth Agenda Trust

YETT- Youth Empowerment and Transformation Trust

# ZIMASSET- Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Economic Transformation

ZIMSTAT- Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency

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# INTRODUCTION

## **Introduction**

This chapter is intended to let the reader have insight of the background of the study, problem statement, significance of the study, research objectives and questions. It will also go on to highlight delimitation of the study, limitations of the study and assumptions and the definition of terms. This study is focused mainly on analysing how the revolving funds have been of help to the youths of Zimbabwe in eradicating poverty.

## **Background of the Study**

In Zimbabwe, unemployment is one challenge faced by the youths due to socio-economic and political collapse. Lack of funds, short or not enough time, lack of cooperation from the people are some of the reasons why the unemployment rate has increased. Due to this high increase of unemployment, different organisations have been formulated so as to empower the youths thus eradicating poverty as the standards of living would have improved. The Youth Agenda Trust (YAT) in 2007 was formulated so as to help increase youth participation. This organisation was formulated with its main aim being to reduce social inequality and advocate for the increase of access to basic social services among youths and children. The organisation helps the youths through youth revolving funds that would help boost the economy. With these funds, the youths are supposed to start up businesses and should create employment both for themselves and the other generations to come. The youths are in great numbers thus their empowerment will lead to economic growth of the country.

The YAT organisation works with young people (15-35) from rural, farming, mining and peri-urban communities around the country. One of the major focus areas of the organisation is to promote youth empowerment and socio-economic justice. If the youths are empowered there will be increase in economic growth thus poverty will be alleviated. The vision of the organisation, “A Zimbabwe where young people enjoy sustainable livelihoods and are able to effectively participate in the formulation and implementation of national policies and decisions regardless of their socio-economic and political backgrounds.” In this vision the government is bringing out the major of youths being empowered and after they are empowered they should also empower other youths so that unemployment rate decreases. According to the former Minister of Youth Development, Indigenisation and Empowerment Hon. S. Kasukuwere at the National Conference on Youth Skills for Employment, Entrepreneurship and Industry Growth he noted that the youths of Zimbabwe are lacking socio-economic opportunities. Zimbabwe has a larger female population and unemployment is more prevalent among young women.

According to the Vice President Mai Mujuru at the Conference for the youths, she noted that the Ministry of youth should spearhead the training of young people in vocational training centres to start up their businesses and create employment for their peers. Moreover, the youths should make use of the resources available in the country so as to enhance food security and maximise land use. In Zimbabwe, approximately 14 500 students are graduating from Universities, colleges and poly technics. Not all of these graduates obtain work. About 15% of these graduates get formal employment afterwards and the rest are left unemployed hence there is need for the government to encourage the youths to create employment thus eradicating poverty. Different organisations are working towards implementing this idea to the youths.

The government need to implement policies that would lead to the creation of employment for the youths. For example at the National Conference on Youth Skills for Employment, Entrepreneurship and Industry Growth, creation of employment was to be done through assisting the graduates to have entrepreneurial skills, providing job skills through internship mostly at public institutions, providing resources to the graduates so they showcase their skills. According to Mr Museka (permanent secretary Ministry of Labour and Social Services) he argues that for the youth to be economically empowered they should acquire skills that would guarantee them jobs in the formal sector.

The major aim of the government is to better the living standards of the youths in Zimbabwe. According to the UNDP for one to be called poor they will be living on less than a \$1 per day. If poverty is not eradicated there will be high dropout rates of these youths from school so they can illegally earn a living. For example in the mining sector, the only way the youths can earn a living through the mining sector is through the illegal artisanal and small mining (ASM) which is mainly referred to as “makorokoza.” If the government recognises these small businesses then the youths will be empowered because most of these youths are engaging in this line of business.

Agriculture is another way of economically empowering the youths through promoting youth participation in agricultural production and marketing. Agriculture is one of the top income generating projects that a country can depend on for economic growth. If the youths venture into agriculture they will eradicate poverty as they would be food secure thus they can create employment for themselves and their peers. The government has put in place different initiatives so as to improve the standard of living of the youths in eradicating poverty. The

YAT has helped more than 20000 youths in 23 Districts of Zimbabwe. Zengeza is one of the districts where youths have been helped improve their standard of living. Thus the youth revolving fund is relevant as it will help improve the standards of living for the youths thus poverty will be alleviated and there would be economic growth. Most of the youths are appreciating the work of these organisations and the government is helping the future leaders of tomorrow to be business minded all the time thus the implementation of the ZIMASSET.

### **Conceptual Framework**

The term youth refers to the freshness and vitality characteristic of a young person. In Zimbabwe the age restriction for the youths is 15-35 years of age. This study is looking at how the youths have been improving their lives through the use of youth revolving funds. The word effectiveness which is used in this study means the quality of being able to bring about an effect. In this study the researcher is looking at the effectiveness of the Youth Revolving Fund in alleviating poverty in Zimbabwe.

The research will bring about the indicators of effectiveness for example there has to be change for one strategy to be regarded as effective. This change is seen through evaluating what the youths were before the revolving fund was brought and what they are now after the implementation of the fund. Moreover, indicators of poverty alleviation include; increase in the percentage of the people below the TCPL, Human Poverty Index as well as employment to population increase. There should also be changes in the way people are earning a living especially the youths. The income generating projects carried out by the youths through the revolving funds should have a positive impact on the economy of the country.

## **Theoretical Framework**

According to the youth empowerment theory it advocates for the participation of youths in the economic processes as well as the social aspect of development. Youths should be involved in the day to day running of the activities in their respective communities.

According to Kim 1998, the youth development and empowerment was meant to address the issues that the youths are facing in trying to deal with the economic meltdown faced by the country. The youths should learn life skills that will enhance their standard of living.

Indicators of empowerment include: creation of employment, the increase in income generating projects, human development index should also increase, there should be technical skills training, self employment, poverty line should improve, skill development, economic growth and the youths should be involved in the formulation of policies as well as decision making process. This theory is relevant to the study as the youth revolving funds are meant to improve the standard of living for the youths in Zengeza. The youths have to be economically empowered since the economic system is no longer favourable.

## **Problem Statement**

In Zimbabwe about 70% of the unemployed are the youths. This unemployment has led to the economic meltdown of the country. Some of these youths have dropped out of schools because they can not afford the fees or because they are engaging in shady deals for survival. Hence, this has led to the idea of economically empowering the youths of Zimbabwe so as to raise their standard of living. Youths should participate in the day today running of the country as they are the next leaders of this country. Thus the study will analyse how the revolving funds have contributed to poverty eradication. It will also investigate how the youth empowerment has helped in boosting the economy of the country.

## **Purpose of the Study**

The study is important in that the researcher as well as the readers will be able to evaluate if the youth revolving fund has been helpful in alleviating poverty within Zimbabwe. The revolving funds are meant to be used to conduct different projects so as to uplift the standard of living of mainly the youths as they are the future of tomorrow. If the youths are uplifted, the economy of the country will be boosted as the youths will be participating in the running of the country's economy.

## **Research Objectives**

The objectives of the study are:

- ❖ To examine the effectiveness of the youth revolving fund in alleviating poverty among the youths.
- ❖ To investigate how the revolving fund is being rolled out.
- ❖ To analyse how the youth revolving fund has impacted the lives of the youth in Zimbabwe.
- ❖ To explore the challenges involved in the management of the youth revolving fund.

## **Research Questions**

- ❖ What changes have been brought about by the youth revolving funds?
- ❖ What impact has the revolving funds made in eradicating poverty in Zimbabwe?
- ❖ Are the youths fully committed in the idea of eradicating poverty?
- ❖ What are the challenges faced through the revolving funds?

## **Literature Review**

For one to have a clear understanding of the study there is need to look at the review of literature from previous studies on the topic. In this study, the researcher is looking at how the poverty situation has been in Zimbabwe before the implementation of the youth revolving fund as well as after its implementation. This section identifies what other scholars have already contributed the poverty situation in Zimbabwe and how non-governmental organisations are doing to help the youths alleviate poverty in Zimbabwe.

The economic meltdown of Zimbabwe has caused poverty in many parts of the country. Many rural people have migrated to the urban areas in search of better lives but this has been impossible for them because there is limited access to employment opportunities, overpopulation, limited access to health and a clean environment. All these factors have contributed to the poverty in Zimbabwe. According to the survey that was carried out by the Poverty Reduction Forum Trust (PRFT) it was realised that it has become difficult for most of the citizens to attain good education. Poverty has mainly affected the youths as they can not afford to provide basic needs needed for survival to everyone.

According to Muzaale (1986), poverty can be defined as lack of basic commodities like food, health, shelter and clothing. Due to these high increasing rates of poverty in Zimbabwe, the government came up with policies in order to improve the standards of living of the poor. Since independence, policies like Growth with Equity, free education and health care for every citizen, rural development, etc (Balleis 1993). These policies managed to improve the state of the people of Zimbabwe. Poverty alleviation was achieved by these policies. Free education for all helped families that were unable to take their children to school. The girl

child for the first time went to school. Thus poverty alleviation in Zimbabwe has been achieved.

These problems caused by the increasing poverty have led to the introduction of youth revolving funds that are meant to improve the standard of living of the youths in Zimbabwe so as to alleviate poverty. In 1994, the Poverty Alleviation Action Plan (PAAP) was launched so as to help alleviate poverty in the country. According to Hazel Chinake, non-governmental organisations have helped the youths come up with poverty reduction strategies. According to Hweddie (1995), it is better to involve the youths in coming up with these strategies because if they are not involved they will not be able to get involved in the strategies of poverty alleviation.

According to Shumacher 1974, programmes like the land reform were implemented and this helped reduce poverty in Zimbabwe. The blacks were given pieces of land to own and this improved their standard of living. Agriculture production increased thus families could now live above the poverty data line. The voices of the poor should be heard as this will help in the implementation of policies that will be best to the poor. According to Balleis 1993:59, he states that for there to be development, it should be development of the people and by the people meeting their basic needs and also alleviating poverty.

According to Bennell and Mulenga 2000 the unemployed and the disadvantaged youths were not a major problem to the government. The economic crisis that has been faced in many African countries has led to the youth problems that are being faced. According to the World Bank, IMF, UNDP and UNICEF reports, about 40% of the people in Zimbabwe are living in absolute poverty of less than a \$1 per day. Economic reform programmes have been

implemented but this has also worsened the situation since companies have been closed and some sucked out of their jobs.

According to Bennell 2000, this economic crisis has caused the marginalisation of youths in health care systems, education and jobs. Through the economic restructuring programs there has been the decline of social services like education, health, etc. Thus, this has had a great impact on the youths. According to Steady(1994), the economic reform programmes have destroyed whatever safety net was possible through welfare in many countries. According to ILO 1999, the increase in the unemployment of the youths has become the major socio-economic problem in most of African countries. These high rates of unemployed youths led to the introduction of the youth revolving funds. These funds have helped many youths in starting up businesses to help with their standard of living. The youths have ventured into small businesses like poultry farming, cattle rearing, flea markets, tuck-shops, etc.

The non-governmental organisations have helped the youths through vocational trainings, teaching the youths on how to start effective businesses. The NGOs encourage the youths through giving them revolving funds to help them start up businesses. These revolving funds have been working since 2007 according to the Youth Agenda Trust recordings. Entrepreneurship is another strategy that has been used by the non-governmental organisations to help deal with the unemployment problems amongst the youths of Zimbabwe. These strategies have helped eradicate poverty in Zimbabwe. The businesses started by the youths have managed to economically empower the youths.

Many scholars have reviewed on the strategies of poverty alleviation being brought about by the youth revolving fund through NGOs and the banks as well as International Aid. These

funds have managed to help the youths improve their standards of living thus economically empowering themselves. These youth revolving funds have managed to sustain many families being headed by the youths. Hence to a greater extent the youth revolving fund has been effective in alleviating poverty amongst the youths in Zimbabwe.

## **Methodology**

In this study, the main data gathering instrument is questionnaires and interviews. There will be the use of qualitative research. Qualitative-relating to or involving comparisons based on qualities. Qualitative research presents data in explanations and description. It is the best way of collecting data in this study as it will provide the researcher with lived experiences from respondents who have benefited from the revolving funds. According to Chiromo (2009) it is important to give description of the activities that would have been conducted during descriptive survey. First hand information from the participants is very important as the researcher would get information on the challenges that have been faced lately and it would be easy to come up with possible solutions to the challenges. The researcher will be looking at the numbers of people who have been helped by the revolving funds and how many have been empowered. Focus groups, guided interviews, observation and participation are some of the methods used in data collection using qualitative research methodology.

## **Research Design**

In this study the researcher will make use of the descriptive survey research design in which the main instruments used to gather data are questionnaires and interviews. The researcher also uses longitudinal design to carry out the study. Longitudinal design makes use of two or more studies that are compared mainly focusing on a specific phenomenon. The researcher

compares at least two waves of measurement in a longitudinal design. In this case the researcher was looking at the youths before the implementation of the youth revolving fund. It also looks at the youths after the revolving fund was implemented. Thus, the research becomes easy to evaluate if the fund has been effective in eradicating poverty in Zimbabwe.

### **Target Population**

The target population of this research will mainly be the youths and the researcher will focus on the youths in Zengeza Suburbs. The researcher will make use of sampling to carry out this research. Qualitative research focuses on small groups so as to acquire information. The researcher will look at purposive sampling as there would be need to select target people for example 2 members from the Youth Council, 2 members from the YAT organisation who are dealing with the issue of revolving funds. Furthermore, the researcher will select 20 other participants from the focus area i.e. the youth and the people who have benefited from the revolving fund. This way of collecting data saves time and enables the researcher to gather more information.

### **Sampling**

A sample is a smaller, more manageable set of elements a subset of a population selected to represent the population from which it is drawn. Lack of time as well as financial resources has made it impossible to collect data from all elements of the population. In this research there was the use of non-probability sampling. According to Maforo, non-probability sampling refers to sampling derived from a known population and looks at all else, but statistical interferences about the population. In this research, the researcher used purposive sampling technique. Purposive sampling is used to target specific participants with relevant

information for instance in this research the YAT and the youths of Zengeza. The research was focused on the youths of Zengeza and what the YAT has done to improve the standard of living of these youths.

### **Research Instruments**

There are different instruments that would be used to carry out the research. The researcher will make use of questionnaires, interviews and desk research for gathering information.

#### **Questionnaires**

According to Haralambos and Horborn (1990), a questionnaire is a method of collecting data which consist of designed questions given to the participant in the same order so that information can be collected by every member of the sample. They are quick to use and one can get as much information as needed since there will not be need for the researcher to be present when the respondents will be answering the designed questions. They are easy to use but at times the respondent may respond incorrectly as the researcher will not be there to explain or clarify the questions.

#### **Interviews**

Elcheberger (1989), defines interviews as a process whereby the questions are asked directly to the respondent. There is the use of guided interview questions were the researcher asks fixed questions. There i s open ended questions were there are some questions that will not be fixed but come up during the interview as it will be carried out and these help the researcher gather information to enhance her studies.

#### **Desk Research**

Data used in this study will also be sourced from documents, e-journals, e-books, internet, reports from previous studies, library. It is helpful to use primary sources and secondary sources as the researcher will come up with different views of the study.

### **Assumption of the Study**

In carrying out this study, the researcher assumes that:

- Not everyone is aware of the youth revolving fund.
- Most youths do not know about the Youth Agenda Trust
- The Youth Agenda Trust has been able to make its work known to every youth through educating all youths on the revolving fund.
- All the data collected is relevant and its exactly what is happening on the ground

### **Significance of the study**

This study will benefit a lot of people in many ways. Lecturers, researcher, students as well as the youths of Zengeza suburbs are going to be well educated on the youth revolving fund and its benefits. This research can be a basis for another researcher someday who would want to look further into this study. The researcher can also acquire knowledge on how these funds have empowered the youths and if the funds have helped to better the lives of the youths at large. Most of these youths are resorting to drugs and prostitution as a way of earning a living but through this research they can formulate solutions to their lives. This they can do through creating employment for themselves. Also the Youth Agenda Trust will also have an idea of how their organisation is helping in improving the lives of the youths in Zimbabwe so as to boost the country's economy system.

## **Delimitation of the Study**

This study will be carried out in the Zengeza suburbs. The target group is the youths i.e. from 15-35 years of age. The researcher is mainly focused on looking at the impacts of the youth revolving fund on the youths and if the Youth Agenda Trust has contributed anything to these youths. This research will be carried out in a short period of 3 months.

## **Limitations of the study**

Time to carry out the research is limited thus the researcher might not be able to cover the entire area of Zengeza suburbs. There is also lack of funds to carry out the research. i.e. transport costs as well material used to print questionnaires. There are also chances of the people of Zengeza not cooperating with the researcher to disclose information.

## **Definition of terms**

- Youth- this refers to the freshness and vitality characteristic of a young person. It is also an early period of development.
- Revolving funds- a fund which if borrowed or used is intended to be replenished so it maybe loaned or spent repeatedly.
- Poverty alleviation- removing something completely: to eliminate or destroy something harmful.
- Youth Agenda Trust- a youth organisation mainly focusing on empowering the youths (15-35 years) so as to enhance their participation in the political and socio-economic discourse in Zimbabwe.

## **Proposed Chapter Breakdown**

Introduction

Chapter 1

AN OVERVIEW OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS IN ZIMBABWE

Chapter 2

LOOK AT THE REVOLVING FUND AND HOW IT IS BEING IMPLEMENTED

Chapter 3

CURRENT CHALLENGES BEING FACED AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

# **CHAPTER ONE: AN OVERVIEW OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS IN ZIMBABWE**

## **1.0 Introduction**

### **1.1 Economic Crisis in Zimbabwe**

The economy of Zimbabwe since obtaining Independence was desired by many member states. Since 1980-1981 real growth exceeded to 20%. There are several reasons associated with the deterioration of the economy of Zimbabwe. According to Salmon Valley Business & Center (2004), development means the efforts that are put in place meant to change the standard of living of the people in the surrounding communities through job creation and retaining them. Since the imposition of the economic sanctions by the Western countries, Zimbabwe has faced challenges in boosting its economy so as to sustain its citizens. Since the year 2000 it has been difficult for Zimbabwe to significantly define their economic status. This has led to the result of desperate situations for the country, thus leading to poverty and unemployment rate of 80% in Zimbabwe. Economic policy reforms have led to the demise of the employment opportunities. In October 2002, Australia imposed sanctions of Zimbabwean leaders. All the humanitarian aid that was offered to Zimbabwe was cancelled. Defence links were suspended, the banning of arms sales to the Zimbabwean government. Young skilled professionals are seated at home with nothing to do yet they acquired degrees at different universities, poly-technics and colleges. This has led to the decline of the total population of the formerly employed rate. Furthermore, apart from unemployment, poverty has increased. 62% of the people living in Zimbabwe are poor with the majority living in the rural areas. The government of Zimbabwe in pursuit of empowering its people embarked on different economic policies so as to address the economic crisis.

Due to the economic crisis of Zimbabwe, unemployment is the major attribute of this economy. The unemployment rate in Zimbabwe is over 95% and 70% of this are the youths (ILO 2006). The youths are the ones who suffer the consequences as they do not have a way of voicing their concerns. This economic crisis has brought about all sorts of problems for the youths including participation in political violence, spread of diseases mainly HIV & AIDS and the abuse of drugs by the youths. Worldwide there is a total of about 43.7% of the unemployed youths. According to the Zimbabwe Poverty Assessment study, it was revealed that the youths have the highest unemployment rate as compared to other age groups. This youth unemployment peaked in 2000 and this economic crisis has led to the increase of informal sectors and the black markets in which the youths are either the agents or the dealers.

With the signing of the Global Political Agreement, the economy stabilised and this sudden halt worsened the situation for the youths. The GPA was meant to analyse the employment situation of the youths in Zimbabwe, also to examine the effects and impacts of high unemployment rate among the youths of Zimbabwe. The major causes of unemployment for the youths are; graduate skills are not matching with the needs of the communities and the nation at large. With the economy of Zimbabwe, the country can not afford to absorb all the youths and employ them.

## **1.2 THE FOUR BROAD SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY OF ZIMBABWE**

For one to fully understand the economic crisis of Zimbabwe there is need to talk about the broad sectors of the economy of Zimbabwe. These four sectors are: Agriculture, Mining, Tourism and Manufacturing. In the year 2000, one of the Zanu Pfs electioneering refrain was,

“The **economy is land, land is the economy**”, this clearly showed that the country depends on agriculture as its major source of income. *Agriculture* is one way of economically empowering the youths through promoting youth participation in agricultural production and marketing. Agriculture is one of the top income generating projects that a country can depend on for economic growth. If the youths venture into agriculture they will eradicate poverty as they would be food secure thus they can create employment for themselves and their peers. The government has put in place different initiatives so as to improve the standard of living of the youths in eradicating poverty.

Since May 2002 about 2900 farmers have been evicted from their farms according to the CFU. The war vets and some government militias have also embarked on the continuous eviction of the commercial farmers. Most of these farmers that have been evicted have fled away to places like; Zambia, Mozambique, Uganda, New Zealand, Canada, Australia and Botswana. According to the Farm Community Trust of Zimbabwe, about 50% of the total population of the commercial farmers and their workers have been left unemployed since the beginning of the land redistribution programme. Due to this chaos and violence over farm lands agricultural production has decreased in Zimbabwe.

Moreover, the farmers who were given the farms that had been taken from the whites do not have the resources, inputs as well as skills so as to increase the agricultural production. Lack of agricultural expertise has triggered severe export losses and has affected the market. Zimbabwe used to be the bread basket for most countries in Africa especially after obtaining its independence in 1980 but the same can not be said for the past two decades. The country has faced so many challenges lately and it will take years for the economy to be stable again.

Lack of ownership, funding and skills has led to the collapse of the agricultural production. According to the economist John Robertson, this lack of skills and ownership has led to the demise of arable lands as the new farmers will be living on land that is infertile due to years of bad farming techniques. There is no investment of the land so the government or country will not benefit from this farming thus production will decrease. Due to this handling of the land distribution reform, new farmers have faced poverty trap thus the government should introduce the idea of land ownership so as to empower its people thereby providing collateral for development hence the economy will boost according to Robertson.

Industrialised farming used to be the backbone of the domestic Zimbabwean economy and contributed up to 40% of the exported produce. Between 2000-2007 agricultural production decreased by 51%. Lack of democracy is one major cause of the economic meltdown of Zimbabwe. The government has started importing food from other neighbouring countries so as to do away with starvation. The government is still sourcing for funds so they can buy inputs needed for agricultural production. Thus, the claim by the government that agricultural production will be up to its normal levels in a short time is void. According to the CFU for agricultural production to go back to its normal levels it will take more than five years. New farmers should receive training so as to build up the economy of the country from the agriculture sector.

***Mining***-in Zimbabwe there are more than 40 minerals that are produced currently and these include Gold, Platinum, Nickel, Asbestos, Coal, etc. Production has decreased thus the GDP has dropped to 3% from 8% in 1999. Many have lost jobs thus unemployment has increased. Mine closures have contributed to the decline of the GDP in Zimbabwe. Moreover, foreign currency is scarce thus the producers of gold are facing problems as their revenues have

dropped with almost 20%, according to Ian Saunders the chairman of the Chamber of Mines gold producers committee. Gold is the main source of income in the mining sector and its production has dropped since 2000.

Furthermore, platinum contributes about 15% of total mineral production. Zimplats is also contributing to the mineral production. According to a top mining executive said,

*It is difficult to feel sympathy for the government when it is the very reason that the foreign exchange problems exist...And if the government relies on gold to the extent that it does, it should treat gold producers better.*

Moreover, the mining sector has also been affected by corruption of most government officials as they are the ones forcing the closure of some of the mines and they are giving some of these mines to their relatives. They are the ones that are in control of these mines thus mining production has decreased.

The major aim of the government is to better the living standards of the youths in Zimbabwe. According to the UNDP for one to be called poor they will be living on less than a \$1 per day. If poverty is not eradicated there will be high dropout rates of these youths from school so they can illegally earn a living. For example in the mining sector, the only way the youths can earn a living through the mining sector is through the illegal artisanal and small mining (ASM) which is mainly referred to as “makorokoza.” If the government recognises these small businesses then the youths will be empowered because most of these youths are engaging in this line of business.

Furthermore, in the Manicaland Province the government discovered some diamond. The community in Marange established the Zimunya-Marange Community Trust where they were supposed to share the profits of the diamond produce with the government since they are the ones who discovered the diamonds. The President Cde Robert Mugabe in June last year launched the Marange Youth Empowerment Trust at Gomorefu High School. The youths were promised claims in Chiadzwa so as to empower them. Most of the youths in this area dropped out of school so as to illegally mine at Chiadzwa so as to improve their standard of living. This has led to an increase in the total population of the school dropouts in Zimbabwe. Moreover, the diamonds are being accessed by the people outside of the Province yet the Marange Youth Empowerment Trust was meant to benefit the youths of Manicaland. The Indigenisation programme that seeks to empower the youths has proved to be fake as it has failed to improve the standard of living of the youths in Zimbabwe.

The youths are having problems in registering their mining claims, for instance Julia Gurure. The government can not talk of indigenisation of the youths without first empowering them to create job opportunities for themselves and their fellow peers. The trust comprises of local government officials, traditional leaders, community leaders thus the claims from Chiadzwa are benefiting these people and their relatives only. There is lack of transparency, accountability and community participation thus the mining sector is not contributing much to the GDP of the country, thus leading to the current economic crisis of Zimbabwe.

***Tourism-*** is another sector that contributes to the economy of Zimbabwe. It is one way of contributing to the GDP of the country. In the past years, Zimbabwe has been ranked one of the top three foreign currency earners through its tourism. However, the performance has

declined. In the past years tourism was responsible for increase the country's GDP as well as creating employment. With countries like South Africa continuously developing there has been shift of tourist from Harare to Johannesburg and this has caused the decline of business for Zimbabwe in the tourism sector. Zimbabwe has caused some of the problems it's facing in the tourism sector due to its fast track land reform programme which led to the delay in the launch of the Gaza-Kruger-Gonarezhou Transfrontier National Park. With this park there was going to be increase in the tourist cash flow thus increasing the GDP and creation of employment.

During the 2000 elections, the government launched the Tourism Recovery Plan in July but it faced problems because of lack of funding and there was negative international publicity. Moreover, the land redistribution programme also affected the tourism sector because there was the destruction of trees and wild animals were killed thus decreasing production. There has been competition with other countries due to the emerging of other tourist attractions. In Zimbabwe there is only Victoria Falls which is one of the major tourist attractions and lately it has been facing stiff competition from the Livingstone in Zambia. Zimbabwean tariffs are expensive as compared to those of Zambia. Thus, to many tourists it is actually cheaper to visit other nearby countries than visiting Zimbabwe.

In the past two years the tourism sector of Zimbabwe has been facing challenges of the poachers. They have destroyed the wild animals and water sources thus affecting the production of the country. The poachers added toxic chemicals in the water sources where the wild animals like rhinoceros come to drink the water. Their main target were the rhinos so they could take the horns and sell for a good prize, however, small species like the fish were

affected thus decreasing tourism production hence the tourism sector can not afford to increase the GDP. The government has failed to track these poachers thus for now nothing can be done to improve the tourism. Many animals were affected thus leaving the country with small numbers of wild animals hence the tourist have nothing to come and see in Zimbabwe.

In the *Manufacturing* sector, there is so much exporting and this also increases the foreign exchange rates and the GDP also increases. The manufacturing sector has been highly affected by the country's political and economic problems particularly in the exchange rate. Zimbabwe imports its electricity and these bills are paid by the 40% requirement from the exports made by the manufacturing sector. In the year 1998, the manufacturing sector would contribute a minimum of 25.8% but in 2002 it decreased to 15%. In order for companies to be able to cut down on costs they have to retrench their workers as well as shut down their manufacturing companies. Since 1999-2001 there have been a total of more than 600 companies that have liquidated. Most of these companies venture into trading, farming, manufacturing, tourism and construction.

The highest number of companies that have liquidated ventured in motor industry, engineering, iron and steel and printing. The manufacturing sector is greatly affected by the lack of foreign currency, inflation that is too high, price controls as well as the demise of demand for the products. The workers are also a cause as they will be demanding for increase of their wages. This sector has also contributed to the economic crisis of the country because of the lack of locally made inputs to support the manufacturing sector. Most of the companies prefer to use imported inputs unlike making use of the locally produced inputs. The

manufacturing sector alone had created more than 6242 jobs and this increased the country's revenues.

Most of the organisations do not wish to further invest their money in Zimbabwe for now due to the country's lack of good governance and rule of law. Many manufacturing companies have suffered, people have been left unemployed thus the manufacturing sector has contributed a certain percentage to unemployment in Zimbabwe.

### **1.3 ECONOMIC POLICIES THAT HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS THE ECONOMIC CRISIS**

Due to the continuous economic crises that were being faced by the government of Zimbabwe, the government implemented different economic policies so as to boost the country's economy. These policies were meant to change the standard of living of the citizens, create employment, and empower the people mainly the youths. Since 1980 after the country obtained its Independence there have been more than 10 policies that have been put in place. Some of the policies that have been implemented include: Growth with Equity, Education Policy, Health Policy, Agricultural Policy, Economic Structural Adjustment Programme (ESAP), ZIMPREST, Land Policy, Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment, Land Reform Programme, ZIMASSET, etc.

#### **1.3.1 History of the Zimbabwean Economy**

From the year 1980-1981 there was real growth that exceeded 20%. 1982-84 it depressed because there was foreign demand for the country's mineral exports and drought. 1985 the economy increased due to 30% jump in agricultural production. In 1986-87 the economy

dropped as there was a zero growth rate. The country faced drought and foreign exchange crisis. 1980-90 the GDP increased. In the year 1997 a bonus to independence war veterans was granted. This bonus also contributed to the economic meltdown because the government did not have enough funds. In 1998 Zimbabwe was involved in the DRC war. This war was not budgeted for thus it contributed to the economic meltdown. In 1999 there was a drought which weakened the economy more. From the year 2000-2009 there were many policies that were implemented. In 2007 the Empowerment Bill was drafted and it was signed into law on 7 March 2008. The law required all white or foreign owned businesses to hand over 51% of their business to Indigenous Zimbabweans.

**Growth with Equity-** In this policy the main agenda of the government was to develop the country through social and democracy policies to help allocate and distribute resources. Educational and health services were the ones that were mainly promoted by this policy since there was the distribution of resources, improved access to public services as well as the allocation of resources. Due to this policy, the government was changed to be a “distributive and welfarist state” (Zhou and Masunungure 2006). In this policy the government was focusing on the best interest of the people. The government had not allowed the participation of the citizens in policy making thus this contributed to the economic meltdown. This policy was affected by the eruption of wars in neighbouring countries for example in South Africa and Mozambique.

**Education Policy-** During the colonial period the Rhodesia Front 1965 had a motive of pursuing white education rather than black education so as to minimise competition on the job market in all aspects of the economy. Due to this history the government drafted the

education policy. The government was aiming at abolishing racial education establish education for all, abolish sex discrimination in the education system were the boy child is allowed to go to school and the girl child is denied the same opportunity, give opportunities to the adults who did not have access to education, make use of the education system to develop the country. Furthermore the government aimed at making the education system one of the human rights and make sure every child has education opportunities. According to the Marxist-Leninist in the 1980 election manifesto the government was revolting so as to allow equality amongst the whites and the blacks. The education was meant to empower the black population.

This education was going to socially develop the blacks and it would raise their standard of living. The education was free for all the primary and secondary levels. However, this free education led to the collapse of the economy through the financial, material and human resources burden on the government. The government was not financially stable to fund for the free education for both primary and secondary students. The government also had other programmes they were running other than the education system for example; land redistribution, agriculture, wars, health, etc.

**Health Policy (health for all)** - The background of the black marginalisation is the same for education and health. The whites consumed the most when it came to health services delivery. The mortality rate for the whites was 17 over 1000 as compared to that of the blacks which was 220 over 1000 (Agere 1986). According to Sanders 1990, the hospitals were scarce especially in the rural areas as compared to the urban population. There was unequal distribution of resources and this contributed to the economic meltdown. The whites were

medically covered unlike the blacks. According to Razembe (1998), the life expectancy for the Africans was very low as compared. The Ministry of Health adopted a new policy known as the equity in health where resources were to be shifted from the urban areas to rural areas. The government also established clinics, hospitals, health services in urban areas and rural areas. However, according to the Zimbabwe Human Development Report 2003 it was difficult for these goals to be achieved by the government due to the lack of funds.

**Agricultural Policy-** During the colonial period, the white settlers had access to the lands and the black majority were the workers. The agricultural policy was to assist with the equal distribution of resources. However, this policy was not implemented as the land redistribution policy was on a “willing seller- willing buyer basis.”

**Economic Structural Adjustment Programme (ESAP)** - this programme was meant to be a solution to the 1980 economic crises. It was meant to reduce government expenditure through retrenching civil services, withdraw subsidies, companies that belonged to the government were to be personalised and in the education and health services the government would introduce favourable fees. In Zimbabwe, the ESAP was meant to focus mainly on the agriculture, mining and manufacturing. According to Zhou (2000) by the end of the ESAP programme not a single company had been privatised. The policy introduced recovery measures in the cost of education and health this affected the rural poor people as they failed to pay the required fees to access the education system. There was the Social Dimensions Fund (SDF) that were established which were meant to cater for the needs of the people, however, this policy failed because of high levels of poverty in both the urban and rural areas.

**ZIMPREST-** The policy was supposed to have been launched in 1996 but it was delayed due to the failures of the ESAP. The policy was meant to alleviate poverty. One of the strategies to be used by the ZIMPREST was to eradicate poverty and this would be achieved through employment creation. This policy was meant to promote entrepreneurship amongst the citizens as well as involving various stakeholders in this process of empowering the Zimbabweans. Moreover the policy was meant to improve the quality of democracy, good governance, and elimination of corruption. During the ESAP policy employment rate per annum dropped to 9500 and it rose to 43000 during ZIMPREST. However, the ZIMPREST policy faced many challenges because two years after its implementation the GDP remained at 10% and unemployment was at 60%. This policy suffered lack of funding from International organisations. It was also packed with programs for example poverty reduction, land redistribution, employment creation and it had not looked at the financial budgets for all of these objectives.

**Land Policy-** after the country obtained Independence, the government wished to reduce the poverty thus they had to implement strategies to help distribute and allocate land to the citizens and indigenous people. In 1992 the government drafted the Land Acquisition Act so as to help with the cases of land issues. In this Act the land was to be acquired by the government. The land reform and resettlement programme was not implemented because the government objected to the issues of transparency and accountability. In 2000, the government implemented the fast track Land Reform programme. The Land Reform programme was meant to alter the ethnic balance of land ownership. In 1992 the Land Acquisition Act was enacted to speed up the land reform process through removing the

willing seller- willing buyer clause. Through this redistribution of land, the white farm owners were forced off their lands along with their workers thus this caused unemployment of many citizens.

Through this programme land was divided into A1 schemes and commercial farms known as A2 schemes. Land was to be acquired on a transparent, open, just and fair basis. The main objectives of this policy was to give legal title to communal land ownership, to acquire all land that had been corruptly acquired, to put to productive use all land held by the state. Since 2000 the country has redistributed the commercial farms since the occupants were inexperienced and uninterested in farming. The youths did not benefit from the land reform programme as they did not have the collateral and they lacked skills and resources. Moreover, most of those who got land were politically related to the ruling party thus the policy was clouded with corruption.

**Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment-** the main agenda of this policy was to economically empower the Zimbabweans through encouraging them to own companies thus every business with more than \$500000 worth of business assets was supposed to submit documents that would be explaining their kind of businesses so that after five years at least 51% would be given to the Zimbabwe Indigenous. However, this was not authentic because the Minister would choose people on a political basis rather than on merit. Due to this policy, investors are not willing to invest in Zimbabwe because of lack of transparency and corruption.

Youths at the Development Organisation meeting held in Gweru, Cde R. Gumbo challenged the youths in that they should not be spectators in the Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment but they have to be players so they benefit. The youths should benefit from the natural resources and mineral wealth. People should exploit the mining, agriculture, manufacturing and tourism sector so as to be empowered.

**Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA) and Public Order and Security Act (POSA)** - these policies were crafted when the party was in need of political survival. AIPPA was mainly focused on the media. AIPPA governs the operation and general conduct of media in a way that leaves with little breathing space. The policy restricts access to information as public officials can hold information for 30 days. For POSA it restricts freedom of expression and association as it bans political parties from conducting rallies without police notification and failure to do so fine is charged.

**ZIMASSET-Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (ZIMASSET)** mission is to provide an enabling environment for sustainable economic empowerment and social transformation to the people of Zimbabwe by 2018. This policy came to pass in 2013 after the 31 July election which saw Zanu Pf taking the Presidency.

The policy was formulated in pursuit of an accelerated economic growth and wealth creation mainly meant to empower the Zimbabweans. In 2000, Zimbabwe experienced a deteriorating economy and social environment due to the illegal economic sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe by the Western countries after the land reform programme that saw farms being

taken away from the whites and being given to the blacks. This led to the decline of the Growth Domestic product (GDP) in 2008.

After the victory for Zanu Pf in 2013 July elections, the party was given the authority to lead the country in uplifting the country's economy towards sustainable development through the new economic blue print known as ZIMASSET. This policy is a 5 year plan from October 2013- December 2018. ZIMASSET involves the ruling party i.e. Zanu Pf, private sector and other stakeholders. The policy is meant to achieve sustainable development, social equity anchored on indigenization, empowerment and employment creation making use of the abundant human and natural resources.

In the social sector, health and education were also affected with people suffering from cholera and other epidemic diseases, while quality of education also decreases as there was increase in school dropouts. The government does not intend to use the western intervention in any way but will continue with the look East policy. In this process of boosting economic growth of Zimbabwe, the government has embarked on Zimbabwe Accelerated Arrears Clearance Debt as a way of doing away with all the debts that have been encountered by the country in the past years. There is also Zimbabwe Acceleration Re-engagement Economic Programme and Development Strategy which is a plan meant to help boost the economy. The blue print is being led by the Ministry of Finance under the leadership of Minister P. Chinamasa.

The policy also seeks to provide services encompassing construction of housing, schools, hospitals and other social services in the new areas. It is also meant to address economic opportunities for women, youths and the disabled. The policy is based on four clusters: food security and nutrition; infrastructure and utilities; social services and poverty eradication and

value addition and beneficiation. In the social services and poverty eradication sphere, the policy will focus on indigenization and economic empowerment programme for funding in places like schools, hospitals, housing and other social deliveries in order to create employment for the youth and women as they are the vulnerable groups thus improving the standards of living of the Zimbabwean people. Education should start from Early Childhood Development (ECD) to vocational and tertiary levels to increase literacy rates and skills development. The policy also aims on promoting small medium enterprises (SMEs) so as to create opportunities for indigenous businesses especially those run by disadvantaged individuals. The policy is still being implemented since it is a five year plan.

#### **1.4 Chapter Summary**

This chapter was looking at an overview of the Zimbabwean economic crisis. The economy of the country has been unstable for two decades now. Just after the Independence in 1980, Zimbabwe's economy was admired by many neighbouring countries as it was the bread basket. There were several policies that were drafted so as to address the economic meltdown of the country. These policies included: growth with equity, education policy, health policy, agriculture policy, land policy, land reform policy, Economic Structural Adjustment Programme, ZIMPREST, ZIMASSET, Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment, AIPPA & POSA, etc. All these policies were meant to change the standard of living of the Zimbabwean people. However, most of these policies were great failures as they failed to boost the economy of the country. Moreover, some of these policies were corrupt since the government was in total control they would give the opportunities to their relatives first. There was no transparency and there was unfair distribution of natural resources. Some policies are still under implementation for example the ZIMASSET. These policies also created job opportunities for the people especially the youths as they are the future

generation. However, most of these jobs were temporary since the policies did not guarantee one of a life job. Thus, to a greater extent it will take years for the government to be able to deal with the Zimbabwean economic crisis. Thus, this chapter looked at the background of the Zimbabwean economy as well as the policies that have been implemented.

## **CHAPTER TWO: THE YOUTH REVOLVING FUND AND HOW IT IS BEING ROLLED OUT**

### **2.0 Introduction**

In Zimbabwe, unemployment is one challenge faced by the youths due to socio-economic and political collapse. Lack of funds, short or not enough time, lack of cooperation from the people are some of the reasons why the unemployment rate has increased. Due to this high increase of unemployment, different organisations have been formulated so as to empower the youths thus eradicating poverty as the standards of living would have improved. This chapter will look at the youth revolving fund and how it is being implemented. It will also look at the youth agenda trust an organisation that has been working with the youths on the issue of the revolving fund. Moreover, this chapter will look at how the revolving fund has helped the youths eradicate poverty in Zimbabwe thus improving their standard of living. The chapter will also look at how the revolving fund has contributed to the economy of the country as a tool of empowering the youths. It will further go on to look at how the youths have accepted the idea of revolving funds and what projects they have ventured in to as to boost their economy. It will give an analysis of the findings that the researcher got from this study.

### **2.1 The Youth Revolving Fund**

According to the dictionary of Military and Associated Terms US Department of Defence (2005) a revolving fund is a fund that is established to finance a cycle of operations which reimbursements and collections are returned for reuse in a manner such as will maintain the principal. It is also a fund which if borrowed or used is intended to be replenished so it maybe

loaned or spent repeatedly. In Zimbabwe many organisations and institutions through the help of International donors have established these youth revolving funds so as to help the youths alleviate poverty. The revolving funds have been given to the youths and the youths will use the funds for their developmental projects thus helping them be pulled out of poverty (Pearson and Hungwe, 1997). Through these funds unemployment rate has decreased among the youths hence the revolving fund has been an empowering strategy that has been used by the government and the organisation to help empower the youths and encourage the youths to become entrepreneurs. Mainly in Zimbabwe these funds are granted through banks, however, many organisations have established revolving funds to help all the youths and vulnerable people mainly those found in rural areas. According to the UNDP for one to be called poor they will be living on less than a \$1 per day.

## **2.2 The Youth Agenda Trust**

Youth Agenda Trust is a youth organisation mainly focusing on empowering the youths (15-35 years) so as to enhance their participation in the political and socio-economic discourse in Zimbabwe. The Youth Agenda Trust (YAT) in 2007 was formulated so as to help increase youth participation. This organisation was formulated with its main aim being to reduce social inequality and advocate for the increase of access to basic social services among youths and children. The organisation helps the youths through youth revolving funds that would help boost the economy. With these funds, the youths are supposed to start up businesses and should create employment both for themselves and the other generations to come. The youths are in great numbers thus their empowerment will lead to economic growth of the country.

In Zimbabwe, unemployment is one of the most pervasive challenges faced by youths due to the socio-economic and political collapse that characterised the past one and half decades. According to the ILO (2006) youths who are unemployed constitute 70% of the total population of the unemployed. Youth Agenda Trust is a registered organisation that works with young people (15-35years) from rural, farming, mining and peri-urban communities around Zimbabwe. The organisations seeks to enhance the qualitative participation of youths from such backgrounds in the political and socio-economic and political differences and are also able to clearly define the agenda of young people in the national policy and decision making frameworks.

Most countries in Africa are running Active Labour Market Programmes (ALMPs) to reduce unemployment and promote employment for young people. This unemployment has led to the economic meltdown of the country. Some of these youths have dropped out of schools because they can not afford the fees or because they are engaging in shady deals for survival. Hence, this has led to the idea of economically empowering the youths of Zimbabwe so as to raise their standard of living. Youths should participate in the day today running of the country as they are the next leaders of this country.If the youths are empowered there will be increase in economic growth thus poverty will be alleviated.

The vision of the organisation is to have a Zimbabwe with young people who enjoy sustainable livelihoods and can participate in the formulation and implementation of the country's policies and important decisions regardless of the socio-economic backgrounds.In this vision the government is bringing out the major idea of youths being empowered and after they are empowered they should also empower other youths so that unemployment rate

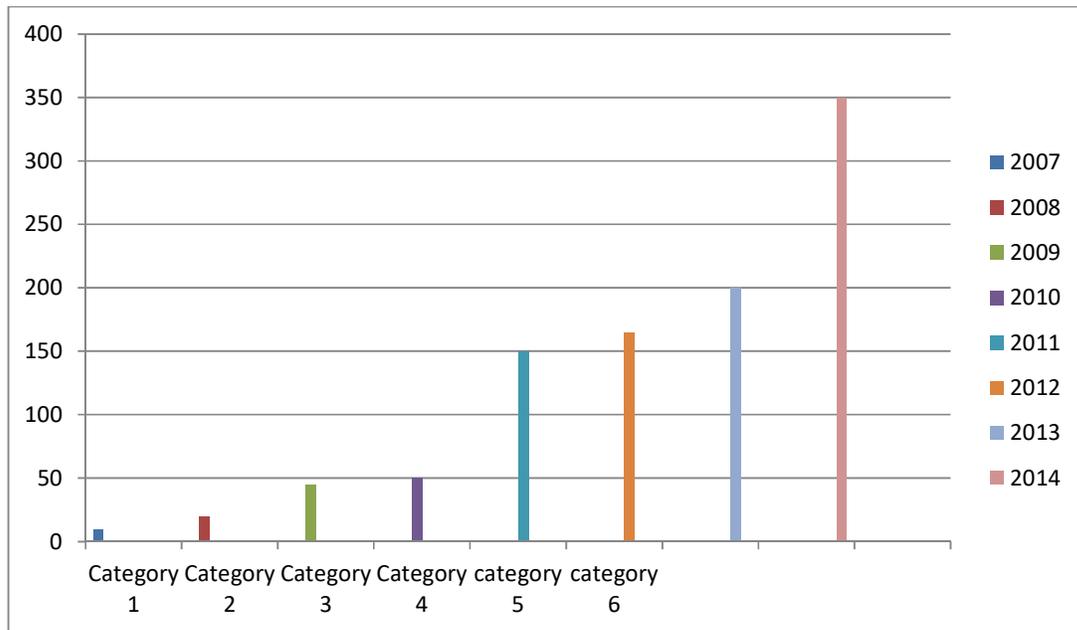
decreases. According to the former Minister of Youth Development, Indigenisation and Empowerment Hon. S. Kasukuwere at the National Conference on Youth Skills for Employment, Entrepreneurship and Industry Growth he noted that the youths of Zimbabwe are lacking socio-economic opportunities. Zimbabwe has a larger female population and unemployment is more prevalent among young women.

If the youths participate in the policy implementation it will help them as they will be able to voice out their concerns. The youths have been greatly affected in their standard of living because the government does not involve them in the decision making thus they are left with their economic crisis questions that can only be voiced out if they are given the chance to. The main agenda of the organisation is to empower the youths so they can be economically empowered. The job industry is flooded with people who are highly qualified thus they can not afford to employ everyone. Hence there is need for the educated to create employment for themselves and their peers.

The YAT has helped more than 20000 youths in 22 Districts of Zimbabwe. These Districts are: Zvimba, Zaka, Uzumba-Maramba Pfungwe, Tsholotsho, Seke, Nkayi, Mutoko, Murewa, Mudzi, Mount Darwin, Masvingo, Marondera, Makonde, Lupane, Kwekwe, Kadoma, Hwedza, Goromonzi, Gokwe, Epworth, Chitungwiza and Chegutu. Zengeza is one of the districts where youths have been helped improve their standard of living. Thus the youth revolving fund is relevant as it will help improve the standards of living for the youths thus poverty will be alleviated and there would be economic growth. Most of the youths are appreciating the work of these organisations and the government is helping the future leaders of tomorrow to be business minded all the time thus the implementation of the ZIMASSET.

The graphs below show the number of youths that have been assisted by the YAT organisation through the youth revolving fund as well as the Districts it has worked in and the youths helped with the fund:

The graphs below show the number of youths that have been assisted by the YAT organisation through the youth revolving fund as well as the Districts it has worked in and the youths helped with the fund:



*Source: Field findings*

The organisation works in partnership with different international organisations which sponsor the revolving fund. Some of the partners of the YAT are: Action aid, EPD, European Commission, NED, SIDA and YET Trust. The YAT works directly in connection with the YETT (Youth Empowerment and Transformation Trust). The YETT is under the sponsorship

of Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and its aim is to look for organisation in which they will provide capacity building mainly in the youth sector.

### **2.2.1 Criteria used by the YAT in selecting the youths**

It is difficult for the organisation to randomly select people to offer the youth revolving fund. Issues to deal with money are difficult. The revolving fund is meant to be returned to the organisation so that it can be used for other youths as the main agenda of the fund is to help eradicate poverty. The YAT usually asks for business plans from the interested youths in need of the fund. The business plan should explain all of the activities carried out by the organisation or the youths in need of assistance. The youth should state their objectives as well as how they wish to return the money. If the Youth Agenda Trust is convinced with the plan they will assist the youth with the revolving fund. This is the criteria they use for selecting youths to offer the revolving fund. This criterion has been effective as it has reduced chances of corruption and lack of transparency.

### **2.2.2 How the YAT has managed to eradicate poverty through the youth revolving fund**

The organisation launched a fund for youths from Chitungwiza and Epworth in Harare aimed at economically empowering the young people. The fund was an initiative of the YAT's project entitled, "Breaking the Culture of Silence" which seeks to help young people engage in income generating projects for their survival. More than 30 youths whose projects such as welding, carpentry and candle making among others were given the nod and they received more than \$1000 each from the fund. According to the Media and Information Officer for

YAT, Mr Francis Rwodzi, he said the fund would ensure that youths engage in lucrative business ventures and they will stop engaging in crime and various other anti-social behaviours. The organisation bought equipment for the youths whose projects included welding and manufacturing products for example peanut butter and candle moulding worth more than \$30000.



**YAT in Zengeza during the Breaking the culture of silence campaign. *Source: YAT Pamphlet***

Furthermore, the organisation believed that the first batch of the youths who received these funds would refund them so the funds would benefit other youths. According to the organisation, more than 200 youths were set to benefit from the fund during the first quarter of the year. By end of this year there should be a total of 500 youths who would have benefited from this fund. The fund is aimed at developing a co-ordinated and conscious youth

movement that is empowered to increase advocacy on key issues that promote participation of young people in moral, social, cultural, economic and political reconstruction of Zimbabwe.

### **2.2.3 Breaking the Culture of Silence Programme**

It is an empowerment and educating project that is meant to equip the youths with leadership skills that will help in developing the country. The main aim of the program by YAT is to economically empower the young people so they can participate in policy formulation. Moreover, the youths will also be empowered so they can take up income generating projects so they can be divorced away of poverty as well as the economic challenges being faced by the country.

In this project the YAT has 4 focus areas:

1. **Youth Leadership development-** youths are expected to know about the political processes that are taking place in Zimbabwe. They are taught to participate as well as to be involved so they can help develop the country.
2. **Life Skills Education and Advocacy-** the youths are taught to be well informed in the social cultural factors, gender, sexuality, HIV & AIDS as well as the current lifestyles. In this the young people should educate themselves on how to survive in this generation with many challenges that are mainly affecting the youths.

3. **Youth Economic Empowerment-** this program is meant to reduce the cases of poverty as well as unemployment which has affected the youths. Poverty reduction is introduced through encouraging the youths to venture into small income generating projects. The youths are being taught to be independent thinkers thus this helps them create jobs for their peers as well. Most youths have been venturing into prostitution, crime, drug abuse, etc, which has led to the decrease of production and hence poverty has been worsening. Thus, economically empowering the youths will reduce these challenges being faced by the youths as they are now able to sustain their livelihood.

According to Fortune Nyamande, YAT's programs coordinator said that, "*the organisation's involvement in helping the youths to uplift themselves plays a major role in boosting the country's economy.*" The organisation should spread their programs even to the rural areas so that their programs even to rural areas so that every youth benefits from these revolving funds. It is not only youths who are in the urban areas that are being affected by the economic crisis that is in our country Zimbabwe. Through the youth's engagement in these projects they have created jobs for their peers and they have also helped in the development of the country.

### **2.3 Demographic Data for Pupils**

In this research, the researcher chose both males and females. A total of 20 youths participated. There were 12 males and 8 females that would be selected. Most of these youths were between the age of 20-25 but the average age of the participants was 25. Most of the youths were 25 years of age because they are the ones who are graduating from universities,

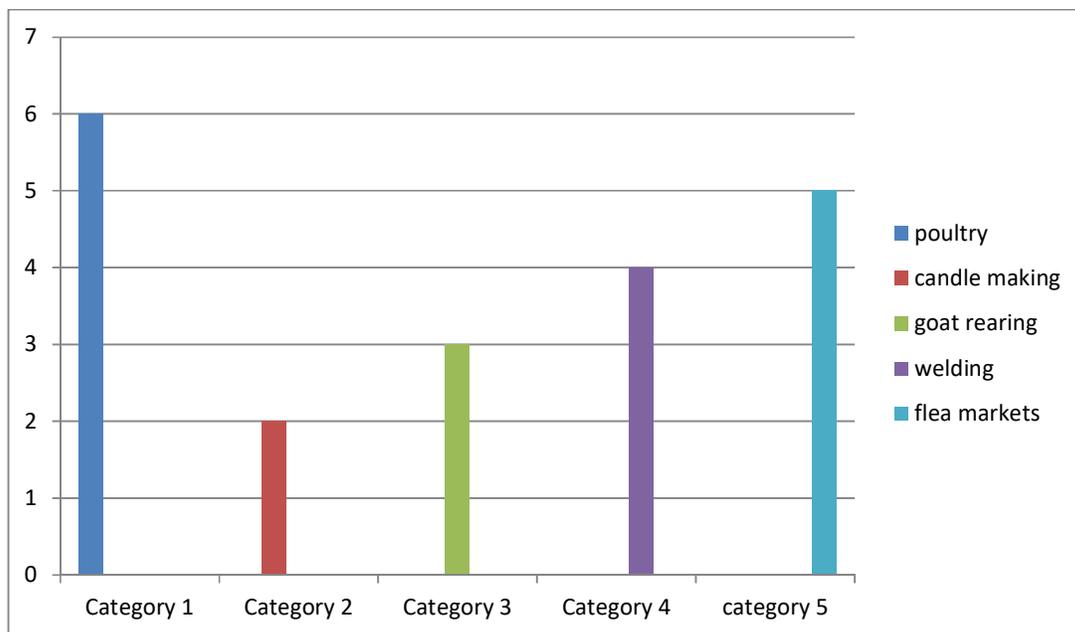
colleges and poly-technics and are not yet employed. They are also the ones who are engaging in income generating projects. Summary of the data is shown below:

Basic information

N= 20

<b>Item</b>	<b>Questionnaires sent</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Females</b>	8	7	40
<b>Males</b>	12	12	60
<b>Total</b>	20	19	95

According to the information gathered, most youths are engaging into economic, political and social activities so as to improve their standard of living. Most of these projects include welding, candle making, poultry, tuck-shops, selling airtime, flea markets, sewing clothes, cattle rearing, goat rearing, etc. The economic situation of Zimbabwe since 2008 has made the youths live school and venture into businesses. Below is a graph showing the projects the youth are venturing: *Source: Field findings*



## 2.4 Economic Activities carried out by the Youths and the Youth Agenda Trust

Women and youth face separate challenges in participating in the productive sectors of the economy. Although women and youth are not a similar group and their circumstances differ according to age, class, education, ethnicity, location and other cultural- and socio-economic characteristics, it is widely acknowledged that women and youth bear a disproportionate problem of global poverty. Large and growing youth unemployment threatens sustainable development and social stability, and women continue to experience obstacles in almost every aspect of economic life. Women suffer from persistent social and cultural discrimination and unequal access to and control over assets and services.

The primary focus of Youth Agenda Trust activities in this area is on the knowledge, skills, technologies and business support services needed to enable women and youth to engage in

productive activities, generate income, and thereby reduce poverty. YAT assists governments to develop policies towards an enabling environment for economic growth that is gender- and age responsive. This is achieved through capacity-building with a focus on women and youth so as to equip them with the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes to seize economic opportunities, gain control of their lives and exert influence in society.

Gender equality is promoted by increasing opportunities for both girls and boys to make life choices that go beyond limiting norms about gender, for example through education and the ability to make vocational choices that combat gender divisions in the labour market. Youth Agenda Trust's activities in this area also concentrate on the creation of an enabling environment for women entrepreneurs; support for youth entrepreneurship; and the promotion of clusters and partnerships to facilitate access to information, technology and markets for women and youth.

Most of these youths venture into these projects because of lack of employment as well as poverty. Poultry is the major income generating project as it has the highest rate of youths. It is an easy project and does not involve buying many things as input. Poultry keeping needs different foods that are given to the birds to grow. Broilers are the most kept birds and also layers also help as the owner will also sell the eggs and the birds thus, it will boost the economy of the country thus increasing the GDP. This also helps in eradicating poverty since the owner will use the money from the projects to acquire the basic needs they require for survival. According to the research there was a total of 6 youths who were venturing in

poultry. Below is a picture of the chickens that were at one house of the beneficiary in Zengeza:



**The broilers at the house of a beneficiary.***Source: YAT Pamphlet*

Goat rearing is another income generating project that the youths of Zengeza are venturing into. According to one of the beneficiaries Mr Brian Mharadzirwa he used the fund he received from the Youth Agenda Trust to engage into goat rearing. He started this project with only a small number of 4 goats. Since May 2014 there is now a total of more than 20 goats at his farm. He sells these goats as well as the goat meat to butcheries and some individuals in the community thus per month he gets a minimum of \$1200 from the goat

sells. This has helped him fund for his siblings' school fees. Thus, to a greater extent he has been able to eradicate poverty in his family since according to the UNDP for one to be labelled as poor they will be failing to live on at least \$1 per day. He has also helped other youths by creating jobs for them. He has a total of 3 employees. From the month of May both his goat production as well as the sales have increased. Below are pictures of the goats at his home:



*Source: YAT Pamphlet*

Candle making is another economic activity the youths are venturing into and the YAT organisation has been able to offer funding concerning this project. During the Breaking the culture of silence program in Zengeza, Tariro Hapazari a beneficiary of this program said that

the continuous unavailability of electricity led her to the idea of candle making. This project was being affected by the lack of funds and resources as well as space to sell her products. However, through the youth revolving fund from the Youth Agenda Trust she has managed to increase her production. She received \$1000 from the organisation and she managed to open a small tuck-shop which now sells candles and many other things that are required for survival. This youth revolving fund has helped Tariro eradicate poverty, thus the revolving fund has been effective in eradicating poverty in Zimbabwe and this has been achieved through the Youth Agenda Trust.

## **2.5 Political activities**

In 1975, the [National Commission on Resources for Youth](#) in the United States defined youth participation as: the involvement of youths in responsible, challenging action that meets genuine needs, with opportunities for planning and be involved in decision making affecting others in an activity whose impact or consequence is extended to others— i.e., outside or beyond the youth participants themselves. Other desirable features of youth participation are provision for critical reflection on the participatory activity and the opportunity for group effort toward a common goal. The platform for youth to get involved has continued to increase in contemporary society; however these opportunities cannot be seen to be amplifying the voice of youth in society.

In the political system through the Youth Agenda Trust youths have been able to participate in the elections as well as in the constitution making process. In the 2013 elections, the youths participated greatly in the campaigns as well as voting. The Youth Agenda Trust

helped the youths register to vote. Most youths have been ignorant when it comes to the stories of participating in the elections. The YAT empowered the youths to be involved in the electoral and constitution making processes. Moreover, in 2013 there was the passing of the New Constitution. The YAT embarked on the project known as the “Constitutional literacy project.” The main agenda of the project is to educate the youths on the new constitution. In this new constitution, the organisation picked issues that deal with the Bill of Rights and the rights of children. The government has been reluctant with the issues of teaching the young people about the constitution thus the YAT took an advantage and has taught the youths. Through this participation of the youths, they have been involved in the policy making thus it has helped in poverty eradication.

The youths were involved in the interrogation of the inclusive government. They participated also in looking at the history of the country’s constitutional crisis and they also encouraged all of these youths to be involved so as to let the country move forward. The Youth Agenda Trust held a workshop for the youths where they were educating these youths on the political situation of the country. The main agenda of the program was to enforce the spirit of constitutionalism amongst the youths. In this workshop the youths came up with reforms to help the country move forward. Some of these reforms include:

1. The government was to ensure that everyone in the country is treated the same and no one should be favoured.
2. The government was to come up with strategies to help empower the young people for instance creating job opportunities.
3. The government should improve the education sector and it should also improve the social service delivery so as to eradicate poverty.

4. The government should involve even the youths in decision making processes so they can also voice out their own concerns. The government can not implement policies for empowering the youths based on what they think about the challenges faced by the youths. The youths should be involved in that way the youths can embrace empowerment.

These reforms were raised by the youths and the Youth Agenda Trust has been able to vow towards the empowerment of the youths. The youths are aware of the current political situations of the country and they are ready to be involved so as to develop the country thus reducing cases of extreme poverty. They are participating in the political situation of Zimbabwe thus showing that they aim at improving the country's situation hence being able to curb poverty which is one of the aims of the Youth Agenda Trust to help the youths in alleviating poverty.

## **2.6 Social Activities**

**Education-** In Africa, Zimbabwe is well known for its high literacy rate. Education is regarded as a basic human right. The government through organisations has been able to maintain the provision of good quality education to everyone. Statistics from the Ministry of Education showed that literacy rate increased from 62% to 80%. In the history of Zimbabwe, the boy child had the right to acquire education yet the girl child was deprived of that privilege. This also caused high levels of school dropouts for the girls as most of them end up pregnant. Increased costs of education also caused these dropouts of the girl child. Poverty reduction is impossible to deal with if the children are not educated. For one to obtain a highly paying job especially women they have to be well educated. Thus, the YAT has

embarked on programs to educate both the girl child and the boy child. Youths have been urged to be educated so as to help develop the country.

The government has been focusing on providing academic training suitable for formal employment when they are supposed to teach the youths on survival skills. Universities, colleges and poly-technics are producing thousands of graduates yearly and the economy can not accommodate all of them. Hence, the YAT organisation has managed to teach the youths not to depend only on their families but to define their talents. This has helped eradicate poverty especially amongst the youths. The economy of the country has not been able to accommodate every graduate, thus, there has been a debate between the government and the non-governmental organisations on whether to teach children academic experiences or vocational experiences tailored to the income generating skills that are required for one to survive in the Zimbabwean economic crisis. Thus, the youths have been empowered through the vocational trainings they have received from the YAT organisation as it has helped them come up with solutions to do away with poverty in Zimbabwe.

### **2.6.1 Health**

**The youth and HIV/AIDS-** According to the National AIDS Co-ordination Programme (NACP), Zimbabwe has the highest rate of the HIV infected people. These rates have been increasing and the youths are at high risk. 60% of the reported cases on HIV are the young people. Most of these are infected at a younger age because of prostitution, unwanted pregnancies, etc. Women are the most vulnerable as it is believed that they can not say no to sexual coercion. Due to poverty, these women will have sexual relations with older men so as to gain financial assistance to earn a living. AIDS has left many families in absolute poverty.

The rates are increasing because for one to survive they believe they have to engage into prostitution. Parents die and they leave children to be heads of houses at tender ages and yet most of these children lack education.

The YAT organisation has managed to hold campaigns on HIV/AIDS awareness mainly to teach the youths not to indulge in sexual relations. Through the youth revolving fund, the youth organisations have held campaigns teaching their fellow mates on how to abstain from sex so as to eradicate poverty. Rape is another problem that has led to the transmission of HIV/AIDS. The Youth Agenda Trust also held campaigns on the issues of rape. Hence, the fund has been effective as it has helped deal with the issues of HIV/AIDS that has been a pandemic that has affected the youths.

### **2.6.2 The Youth and Alcohol and Drug abuse**

The Youth Agenda Trust is an organisation that mainly deals with solving problems that affect the youths. Due to the economic meltdown the youths have been involved in excessive use of alcohol and drugs and many other shady deals for survival. The use of drugs has affected development; it has lowered immunity and resistance to infections. This excessive use of drugs has caused destructions of families. The youths end up stealing so as to purchase these drugs. It is believed that if one takes drugs their lives change as they will not be stressed out due to life problems. Hence, since the Youth Agenda Trust deals with the youths, it has offered funds to youth organisations that are campaigning towards stopping the use of drugs by the youths. The youth fund has been used to carry out campaigns and workshops for drug users. This free education has helped some of the young people. Besides some of the youths have encouraged to start their own income generating projects as these will help them focus

on eradicating poverty and changing their lives for the better. Thus to a greater extent the youth revolving fund has been effective as it has managed to eradicate poverty in Zimbabwe especially amongst the youths.

### **2.6.3 Youth Agenda Trust on 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence**

Most young women have been married at the ages of 15-20 because of their failure to continue with education. The current economic situation of Zimbabwe has seen many young women being involved in sexual relations with older men known as sugar daddies so as to deal with their financial problems and it is also a way of alleviating poverty. After they are married, they are abused by these older men hence the Youth Agenda Trust joined the world in commemorating the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based violence. The Global theme was, **“From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Let’s Challenge Militarism and End Violence against Women”** this goes hand in hand with the vision of the YAT which talks of lack of democracy through violating human rights. This led to the involvement of the Youth Agenda Trust in issues of domestic violence. The women have been affected greatly at the hands of state agents as well as youth militias. The YAT called on to the Global Political Agreement (GPA) to adhere to Article 7 which talks of Promotion of equality, National healing to address the issues of violence as it is violating the right to live for women. Thus, the organisation has offered revolving funds to youth organisations that are campaigning towards the end of gender based violence. Both male and female youths participated in this campaign. Due to violence families live in absolute poverty as the women are not allowed chances to work for themselves. They have to depend on the older men for survival thus, in advocating for the stop of gender based violence the youths are also trying to eradicate poverty situations caused by violence. Below are pictures showing the Youth

Agenda Trust holding campaigns to stop gender based violence as well as the youths participating mainly young women:



*Source: YAT Pamphlet*

The Youth Agenda Trust even asked the youths to participate through creating a short drama with the theme of stopping gender based violence. The youths were so happy to participate as the drama also helped them understand more on the impacts of gender based violence. The youths were also able to come up with solutions on stopping the gender based violence. The picture below illustrates youth participation:



*Source: YAT pamphlet*

## **2.7 Chapter Summary**

This chapter was looking at the Youth Revolving Fund and how it is being rolled out. Youth revolving funds have been introduced by the governments as well as non-governmental through International aid. Through the youth revolving fund, the Youth Agenda Trust managed to sponsor the young people with money to carry out different income generating projects so as to improve their standard of living. The youths have been involved in economic activities like poultry, welding, goat rearing, candle making, flea markets, opening of tuck-shops, etc. They have also been engaging in political activities for instance in the elections as well as constitution making. Through the YAT the youths registered to vote in the 2013 elections and some even came up with reforms to help other youths understand the New Constitution of Zimbabwe.

In addition the youths have embarked on social activities like education; teachings on HIV/AIDS, drug abuse as well as gender based domestic violence. All these activities have seen the youths participating fully thus reducing the cases of poverty. The youths have managed to eradicate poverty in Zimbabwe with the use of the revolving fund offered to them by the YAT. Some youths have taken their siblings who had dropped out of school due to lack of finances back to school. Thus to a larger extent the Youth Revolving Fund has been effective in alleviating poverty situations in Zimbabwe.

## **CHAPTER THREE: CHALLENGES FACED BY THE YOUTHS AND THE ORGANISATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.**

### **3.0 Introduction**

There are several challenges that are faced with the Youth Agenda Trust as well as the youths. This chapter will look at the challenges that are faced by the youths in acquiring the revolving funds from the Youth Agenda Trust. It will also look at the challenges faced by the Youth Agenda Trust with the assistance they are giving to the youths. Moreover, the researcher will go on to give recommendations to the youths and the Youth Agenda Trust. These recommendations will help the youths come up with ideas to eradicate poverty totally. If the organisation also makes use of these recommendations they will be able to avoid problems with the youths.

### **3.1 Challenges faced by the Youths**

For one to access the funds they have to be politically affiliated. Most of these youths are failing to access the revolving fund from the organisation because the organisation is looking at their political affiliations. Most of those getting funds are supporters of the ruling party thus the showing lack of transparency.

Most of these youths have had problems with attaining good education hence they can not access these funds because they are not well educated enough to be able to right business plans. One of the requirements for one to receive a youth revolving fund is that one has to

write a business plan explaining the kind of business they are venturing into and how they intend to return the money. The youths are not able to write these business plans thus they can not acquire help. Poverty reduction becomes difficult to achieve.

Every youth is now engaging in income generating projects which is good for the country but this is affecting business as there is competition hence at the end of the day the youths can not return the funds.

Due to the history of the revolving fund beneficiaries not paying back the funds as expected it has become difficult for the youths to receive the revolving funds because the organisation can no longer continue to disburse funds.

Politicians are also accessing funds for their relations hence there is no need for the youths to apply for the funds.

Corruption and lack of transparency by the organisation has also affected the youths. The organisation does not clarify on the criteria they use when selecting the youths they want to give the revolving fund to. Some of the youths that have received the fund do not even deserve the fund as they are not well educated to carry out the business plans they would have brought to the Youth Agenda Trust.

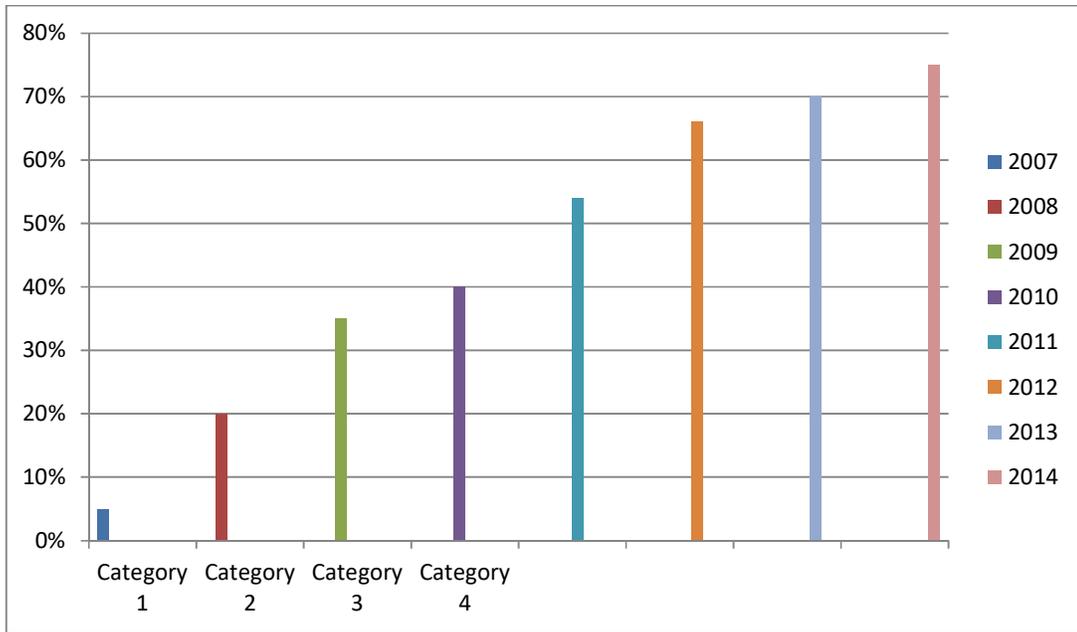
Most of these revolving funds have been given to the Residence of Harare. These revolving funds have been given mostly to the Harare youths this is observed through the great numbers of the youths that have received the revolving fund in Harare.

### **3.2 Challenges faced by the Youth Agenda Trust**

The success of the revolving fund lies on the youth's growth in their income generating projects and hence they have to return the money so as to allow other youths to access the same funds. The organisation is facing problems with the youths who are not repaying funds.

The Youth Agenda Trust faces a challenge of the youths not being productive. They come with budgets and business plans that are well written yet at ground that is not what is happening. If the youths had used all the funds they have received wisely they all could have contributed to the economy by now thus making a change.

The YAT organisation faced a challenge of the youths not returning the funds. An estimate of 70% of the total number of the youths who have received these revolving funds have failed to return the funds. The graph below illustrates the percentage of the funds that have not been returned by the youths in the past years:



*Source: Field findings*

Most of the youth projects are struggling due to poor economic performance.

The youths are unable to pay back the funds because they think it is the right of the government and the Non-governmental organisations to help them.

The youths are lacking business training thus their businesses are collapsing and they can not return the funds.

The youths have also given false information of their years of birth and their addresses showing that they never intended to pay back the funds given to them.

These challenges faced by the Youth Agenda Trust and the Youths as well, they have affected the economy of the country Zimbabwe. The main agenda of the organisation was to help the youths reduce poverty through empowering youths through encouraging them to start income generating projects. These projects were meant to sustain the youth in their standard of living.

### **3.3 Recommendations for the Youths**

There is need for the youths to be well organised, to be schooled and they have to prepare themselves so as to be able to carry out their projects. The organisations that offer funds can not continue passing a blind eye over the lack of seriousness of the youths.

Yes there is an economic meltdown and the country is facing so many challenges but the youths should also avoid these revolving funds if they know they will not be able to return the money.

The youths should also indulge in income generating projects that they know they can handle. Some of the youths venture into welding yet they do not have markets for their businesses.

When issuing the funds the youths should be given conditions. This will help reduce cases of the youths failing to meet up with the agreed terms

There is need for the business to have operated for more than 2years for a youth to receive the revolving fund.

### **3.4 Recommendations for the Youth Agenda Trust**

Before the Non-Governmental Organisations disburse funds, they need to know the backgrounds of the recipients for instance there is need to check for the legality of the business, need to evaluate the market availability for the products.

There is need for the NGO's offering the funds to state the time at which they are expecting these funds to be returned exactly. They should impose a grace period for example they can say the fund should be returned within 6 Months of being in the business with 10% interest per month until the fund is returned.

There is need for the Youth Agenda Trust to check the credit records for the youths applying for the revolving funds. If they do not check the credit records they will face problems with the youths who have a history of not paying back the loans given to them.

For there to be youth empowerment and development, there is need for all local economies to take part. Hence, I would recommend that instead of depending on foreign aid from international organisations there is need for Banks to get involved in spearheading the

revolving funds that are meant for economically empowering the youths. In Zimbabwe, there has been economic meltdown thus the need for banks to come in and help the youths.

The organisation should avoid disbursing funds based on political affiliations for instance most of the revolving funds that have been issued to the youths were given to the Zanu PF youths and they have failed to repay these funds thus contributing to the demise of the economy of the country.

### **3.5 Chapter Summary**

In this chapter the focus was on the challenges that are faced by the youths in acquiring the youth revolving fund. For instance, there is lack of transparency, there is corruption, etc. The chapter also looks at the challenges faced by the Youth Agenda Trust when issuing the revolving funds as well as after the funds have been given the youths. Youths are failing to return the funds as expected. Great percentages of the youths who have been helped by the YAT have failed to return the funds as some say it is a gift from the government to make up for the economic crisis and some write business plans that are not even valid and are full of lies hence when they receive the funds they spend the money on things like buying cars and paying bride price to their in-laws. This chapter also looks at the recommendations to both the youths and the Youth Agenda Trust. In order for the youths to continue with the alleviation of poverty programme they have to own the conditions set for them by the organisations that are offering funds to them. The same thing for the organisations, they need to check the credit history for these youths before giving them revolving funds.

## **Conclusion**

In this research, the researcher was looking at the effectiveness of the youth revolving fund in alleviating poverty in Zimbabwe using a case study of the Youth Agenda Trust in Zengeza Suburbs. Poverty has affected many young people in our country Zimbabwe. The economic meltdown has caused people to live in absolute poverty. Absolute poverty is when a family can not afford to live by even a \$1 per day. Due to this economic crisis faced by Zimbabwe, the government came up with strategies to address the issues of the economy also to improve the way people are living. These economic problems have led to the unemployment of the youths as many students are graduating and joining the economy yet the economic situation of Zimbabwe does not accommodate all of these young people. Different policies have been put in place by the government so as to address the issue of poverty in Zimbabwe.

These policies included: growth with equity, education policy, health policy, agriculture policy, land policy, land reform policy, Economic Structural Adjustment Programme, ZIMPREST, ZIMASSET, Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment, AIPPA & POSA, etc. All these policies were meant to change the standard of living of the Zimbabwean people. However, most of these policies were great failures as they failed to boost the economy of the country. Moreover, some of these policies were corrupt since the government was in total control they would give the opportunities to their relatives first. There was no transparency and there was unfair distribution of natural resources. Some policies are still under implementation for example the ZIMASSET. These policies also created job opportunities for the people especially the youths as they are the future generation. However, most of these jobs were temporary since the policies did not guarantee one of a life job. Thus, to a greater extent it will take years for the government to be able to deal with the Zimbabwean economic crisis.

Youth revolving funds have been introduced by the governments as well as non-governmental organisations through International aid. Through the youth revolving fund, the Youth Agenda Trust managed to sponsor the young people with money to carry out different income generating projects so as to improve their standard of living. The youths have been involved in economic activities like poultry, welding, goat rearing, candle making, flea markets, opening of tuck-shops, etc. They have also been engaging in political activities for instance in the elections as well as constitution making. Through the YAT the youths registered to vote in the 2013 elections and some even came up with reforms to help other youths understand the New Constitution of Zimbabwe.

In addition the youths have embarked on social activities like education; teachings on HIV/AIDS, drug abuse as well as gender based domestic violence. All these activities have seen the youths participating fully thus reducing the cases of poverty. The youths have managed to eradicate poverty in Zimbabwe with the use of the revolving fund offered to them by the YAT. Some youths have taken their siblings who had dropped out of school due to lack of finances back to school. Thus to a larger extent the Youth Revolving Fund has been effective in alleviating poverty situations in Zimbabwe.

The study also focused on the challenges that are faced by the youths in acquiring the youth revolving fund. For instance, there is lack of transparency, there is corruption, etc. The study also looks at the challenges faced by the Youth Agenda Trust when issuing the revolving funds as well as after the funds have been given the youths. Youths are failing to return the funds as expected. Great percentages of the youths who have been helped by the YAT have failed to return the funds as some say it is a gift from the government to make up for the

economic crisis and some write business plans that are not even valid and are full of lies hence when they receive the funds they spend the money on things like buying cars and paying bride price to their in-laws. This chapter also looks at the recommendations to both the youths and the Youth Agenda Trust. In order for the youths to continue with the alleviation of poverty programme they have to own the conditions set for them by the organisations that are offering funds to them. The same thing for the organisations, they need to check the credit history for these youths before giving them revolving funds.

The research findings also indicated that a large number of youths have been helped by the YAT through the revolving funds for years now. From the year 2007 when the YAT started operating an estimate of 20000 youths have benefited from this programme in different parts of the country. In Zengeza alone about 200 youths benefited from the programme and these have managed to bring about change in the economy of the country amongst the youths. To a greater extent the youths have managed to eradicate poverty within themselves as they have helped their families to be financially stable and they have also created employment for their peers as well through the revolving funds. This study has been effective since it brought about the economic crisis of the country and the strategies that have been put in place to address the poverty situation of the country.

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# Appendix 1

## Questionnaire

I am a student at Midlands State University currently studying Bachelor of Arts in Development Studies honours Degree as an undergraduate with the registration number R111594P. This questionnaire seeks to gather information that will help with my academic research.

### SECTION A: PERSONAL DETAILS

1. Age of respondent. 15-20  21-25  26-30  31-35
2. Sex Male  Female
3. Marital Status Single  Married
4. Level of Education  
Primary  Secondary  O'Level  A' level  Tertiary
5. Period of stay in Zengeza  
1-5years  6-10years  11-15years  16+years

### SECTION B: SURVEY DATA

6. Has the Youth Agenda Trust organisation reached this place? Yes  No
7. If yes, have the youths accepted the assistance from the organisation? .....
8. How many youths have been helped?  
1-10  11-20  21-30  Other
9. What kind of help is being offered by the Y.A.T? .....
10. Have the revolving funds assisted in boosting the economy the youths? Yes  No
11. If not, what would be the reason? .....
12. What criteria is used by the organisation to give the youths these funds? .....
13. Have the funds helped eradicate poverty? Yes  No
14. If yes, how has it helped? .....
15. Have the funds empowered all the youths? Yes  No

16. If yes, what changes have been made by the youths? .....

.....

17. Are there any challenges being faced by the youths through the revolving funds? .....

.....

18. Which group of the youths is mainly involved in this project?

15-20  21-25  26-30  31-35

19. In your own opinion, has the Y.A.T been any help to the youths? .....

.....

20. Have the youths embraced the idea of revolving funds? Yes  No

**Appendix 2**  
**Interview Guide for the Youth Agenda Trust**

1. How many youths have your organisation helped and in how many districts?
2. What kind of projects do the youths mainly venture into?
3. What criteria do you use when selecting these youths?
4. What challenges have you faced as an organisation with these youth revolving funds?
5. Have the youths been empowered with these funds?
6. What do you expect in return from these youths as we understand that a revolving fund is meant to be reinvested to other youths?
7. On average would you say the revolving fund has been helpful or its causing problems?
8. When do you expect the youth you would have funded to return the money you would have given them?