

**An exploratory study on the experiences of women
street vendors and the psycho-social effects of
street life on children of women street vendors in
eThekweni District.**

The work is submitted in fulfillment of the requirements of the Degree in
Master of Child and Youth Care at Durban University of Technology.

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Date: June 2024

DECLARATION

I, Thobeka Yolanda Shezi, declare that this dissertation originates from my own work except where referenced. All sources used and quoted have been cited and acknowledged. This dissertation has not been submitted to any educational institution.

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ABSTRACT

In post-apartheid South Africa, most people had hoped to find better and stable jobs, that would provide decent earnings to live a better life. However, unemployment is still an issue in this country. Street vending has become a source of income for most South African families and households. Most people have resorted to street vending due to a lack of employment and a lack of education. This is common to women who carry the responsibility of taking care of their children and families, for them to survive. Women seem to be the ones who are dominating the street vending business compared to men. This is due to women having the sole responsibility to perform caregiving duties and to provide for their children's basic needs. While much research has been done on the earnings of street vendors, there is little research exploring the experiences of women vendors and the psycho-social effects that street life has on the children of women vendors in the eThekweni district. This highlights the need for the current study to understand the plight of children of these women vendors.

A qualitative approach was used to explore the experiences of fifteen women vendors and the psycho-social challenges their children faced on the streets. Semi-structured interviews were conducted to gain insight into participant's reasons for resorting to street vending, determine their challenges and understand how street life affected their children psycho-socially. The participants included were those aged 21-50, and who had at least one child. Using thematic analysis, six themes and twenty sub-themes emerged from the data. Findings conducted for this study have revealed that, financial challenge is the primary reason why women chose street vending. Whilst street vending, women vendors encounter additional challenges. These challenges include a lack of infrastructure and resources, violence and crime, competition between street vendors and authorities, and gender inequalities towards women street vendors. Women vendors also experience challenges with their children on the street. Many children who vend with their mothers on the street face social, physical, and psychological challenges.

Participants expressed that they had to rise early to prepare their children and themselves for work. Therefore, juggling between work and childcare was hard. Children had skin disorders, flu, and sinuses. Children also faced the challenges of being bullied and mistreated by their peers, as their mothers were known to be working on the streets. Lastly other risk factors discovered was traffic road accidents and the kidnapping of children.

In order to improve the street vending life for women vendors and their children, the study recommends the provision of facilities to keep their children safe until the end of their shift. Furthermore, government officials need to take the initiative of observing the eThekweni area in need of support, regarding services. Lastly, awareness campaigns around road accidents, kidnapping, sexual abuse and any other risks children face on the street should be considered.

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DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate this work to God, as I believe that this was his project, and he trusted me that I would carry it with grace even though I did not believe it myself.

This work is also dedicated to all the women street vendors who are doing their best to take care of their children even in difficult times.

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ACRONYMS

CYCW-Child and Youth Care Work

ILO-International Labour Organization

IMF-International Monetary Fund

SA-South Africa

GDP-Gross Domestic Product

WIEGO-Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing Organizing

AIDS- Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

STDs-Sexually Transmitted diseases

UNCRC-United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter introduces the current study: *Experiences of women street vendors and the psycho-social effects of street life on children of women street vendors in eThekweni District.*

Growth in the informal sector has increased over the years in developing countries Legodi and Kanjere (2015: 57). To generate income, women have resorted to becoming street vendors due to fewer opportunities in the informal sector (Gamieldien and van Niekerk 2017: 24). Women dominate street vending worldwide, reflecting its global nature (Mramba 2022: 210). Women venture into street vending due to poverty and a lack of employment opportunities. Ramasamy (2019: 2) stated that households and families tend to rely on the informal economy when faced with economic turmoil. In both developing and developed nations, women, in particular, are affected by the informalisation of work, and the work tends to be overly presented in informal employment (Ramasamy 2019: 2).

It is evident that informal employment, particularly street vending, provides an opportunity for women that needs to take care of their families, mostly their children. Many are forced to take their children with them to street vend, as they struggle to afford people or day-care centres to take care of their children while they do their vending. Children raised in impoverished households or communities, however, encounter a variety of social, emotional, financial, and educational challenges throughout their lives. To provide for their families, widows and women who have lost their husbands sometimes turn to the street trade. Women vendors and their children face various challenges on the street while vending. Women street vendors who are unable to meet the diverse physical, social, and educational requirements of the children and families are obliged to work on the streets alongside the children (Madjitey 2014: 2).

These challenges include harassment, crime, abuse, sexual abuse, and other social and health challenges. Children of street vendors are also known to be at risk of accidents, kidnapping, sexual abuse, and contracting different illnesses (Gamielidien and van Niekerk 2017: 25). The International Labour Office (2018: 2) noted that street vendors always existed despite the frequent efforts to repress them, and they are part of an extremely visible category. Owuor (2020: 4) emphasised how crucial it is to guarantee a minimal level of welfare for all mothers and a secure atmosphere in which their children can develop. However, achieving equal economic status and attending parenthood is frequently unattainable for women. According to Madjitey (2014: 5), female street vendors frequently bear the entire burden of raising their children, which may negatively affect their capacity to work longer hours to support their families. This can also affect children's development, as they face different risks and challenges on the street.

The following aspects will be covered in this chapter namely, the background of the study, the problem statement, the aim of the study, the objectives of the study, research questions, definitions of concepts, the theoretical framework, and an overview of the research methodology. Finally, the structure of the dissertation and the conclusion will be presented.

1.2 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The absence of lucrative job opportunities, combined with poverty in both urban and rural regions has compelled individuals to leave their residences in pursuit of a more prosperous livelihood. Willemse (2011: 7) noted that a large percentage of South Africa's labour force is affected due to unemployment. The high rate of unemployment in South Africa has led many people to turn to the informal sector to survive and make a living (Willemse 2011: 7). According to Ntuli (2020:10), a higher number of women in South Africa are involved in the informal sector than men. This is due to the need for women to take care of their children and their families.

Women's active involvement in the economy is hindered by a lack of better opportunities or a perceived lack of social, and cultural beliefs that women must not work, especially mothers (Smith and Radebe 2023: 5). In South Africa, women entrepreneurs are important to the country's development (Smith and Radebe 2023: 5). Women in South Africa make important contributions to the formalisation of economic activities, and they also contribute to women's economic and social power (Smith and Radebe 2023: 6).

As stated by Khumalo and Ntini (2021: 262), South Africa is classified as a low and middle-income nation characterised by elevated levels of unemployment which limits job prospects within the official sector. Although street vending generates income and employment for most women in South Africa, it also comes with disadvantages. Smith and Radebe (2023: 5) noted that women face disadvantages in the labour market, and these disadvantages are evident in their high unemployment rate compared to that of men.

The crisis of unemployment in South Africa is reflected in that the unemployment rate is now 32.9%, having increased from 179000 to 7.9 million of the 40.6% of people working age (Smith and Radebe 2023: 5). The report further indicated that youth between the ages of 15 and 34 remain vulnerable and their rates of unemployment are 62.1% and are of the ages of 15 and 24; 40.7% of those are between the ages of 25 and 34 (Smith and Radebe 2023: 5).

According to Waterhouse (2017: 8), most women are concentrated in different kinds of jobs that are low paying with unstable incomes for the sake of taking care of their families. However, according to Ntuli (2020: 12), this has led to an increasing number of people, especially women in the informal trading sector. Many people in the informal sector do not get the opportunity to acquire the skills needed in the formal sector. Some are semi-literate and a small number of them do not have qualifications (Legodi and Kanjere 2015: 57).

Additionally, a significant proportion of South Africans in the working-age population possess a limited level of education which is a long-lasting characteristic resulting from the historical impact of apartheid (Khumalo and Ntini 2021: 262). Despite this fact, street vending has provided an opportunity for women vendors. Street vending sustains many families both in and around South Africa (Khumalo and Ntini 2021: 262). Due to limited opportunities in the formal sector of the South African economy, individuals are forced to rely on street vending for sustenance. Although there have been improvements in the regulatory setting, street sellers still face significant challenges in accessing adequate infrastructure (Khumalo and Ntini 2021: 263).

Some street vendors are compelled to sell their wares because they are desperate or out of necessity (Khumalo and Ntini 2021: 263). A lot of people agree that it meets most basic needs such as housing, food, education, and for immigrants to travel back to their own countries (Gamielien and van Niekerk 2017: 25). For most families, the informal sector has been a significant source of work and helps create jobs. According to statistics in South Africa from 2020, 18% of the country's population makes their primary source of income from the unorganised sector (Mohapo *et al.* 2022: 419). Studies revealed that over 80% of the projected one million street vendors in South Africa sold food (Mohapo *et al.* 2022: 420).

Additionally, a study by Mohapo *et al.* (2022:420), who employed 511 vendors in the Vembe District of South Africa showed that 80% of the vendors were proprietors and 70% had been in business for at least 1-10 years. The study also found that 68% of women vendors had some high school education compared to 52% of women who had never gone to school (Mohapo *et al.* 2022: 421). Although it has been said that street vending only attracts those with fewer opportunities to qualify in the formal sector, street vending has increasingly become an option for many people. It is no longer focused on disadvantaged groups; however, several different entrepreneurs now enter the street trading business (Mitullah 2003: 4).

Furthermore, gender-differentiated economic constraints have become evident in the informal sector. This is due to a lack of required skills; provision of childcare responsibilities and the lack of financial assets have hindered women's potential earnings in both the formal and informal sectors (Mabilo 2018: 2). The several inequalities experienced by women in the informal sector has not only brought constraints in earnings but has also further placed women in structural isolation under modern capitalism (Mabilo 2018: 4).

Waterhouse (2017: 9) stated that above all, women are a hard-working group of people within society. Waterhouse (2017: 9) further argued that traditionally, women are expected to bear children and care for them while working long hours and on unscheduled overtime. Parents who battle to support their family financially may find it hard to provide their children with the necessary care and attention due to the stress they endure. Dovza (2018: 2) opined that the early years are also the time when parenting is crucial to the development of a healthy and trusting relationship with their children.

Owuor (2020: 5) stated that in some countries, street vending is considered illegal. According to a study by Owuor (2020: 9) in Nairobi, Kenya, women are forced to be always alert and careful with their children on their backs and must shield themselves for their safety in the street. The streets are also characterised by other challenges. Carr (2019: 2) highlighted that city streets do not offer easy sanitation centres. Street environments expose younger children to a wide range of dangers such as sexual abuse, drug abuse, and crime. Owuor (2020: 10) further found that the family welfare of informal sector workers is extremely unrecognised.

Owuor's study also found that some women in Kenya enjoy spending time with their newborn babies during paid maternity leave while others have no choice other than to bring their newborns onto the street due to a lack of social rights. Furthermore, this study revealed that women tend to take their children with them to work.

The author further highlighted that these children are three years old or even younger (Owuor 2020: 10). It was discovered that the children slept on their mother's backs or played on the streets during the day until they finished trading at night (Owuor 2020: 11). According to Owuor (2020: 12), it would be admirable to provide free day-care facilities in the same settlements so that temporary employees may leave their kids in safekeeping while they attend to work.

1.3 PROBLEM STATEMENT

The study's background highlights the complexity of street vending and the significant role it plays to the lives of women vendors and their children. It shows that apart from the income that street vending gives to women, the experiences of women vendors and their children is not given much attention. Daudi and Magweni (2018: 136) discovered that economic diversity, resulting in unemployment and poverty, has led to many women in the informal sector. According to research by Mohapo *et al.* (2022: 2) which used data from 511 vendors in Zimbabwe's Vembe area, 86.1% of the female vendors were proprietors and 70% of them had been in business for at least one to ten years. According to the study, street vendors typically made R3200 in profit despite having to pay R1800 for essential daily expenses (Mohapo *et al.* 2022: 2). Berry (2010: 2) noted that female street vendors frequently bear the entire burden of raising the kids which can have a detrimental effect on their capacity to work as they juggle employment and family obligations. The domestic sector employs more than 70% of women. Women's involvement in the unorganised sector has exposed a multitude of issues that impact both them and their offspring.

The researcher believed that there is limited information on the experiences of women vendors and their children on the street in the South African context. Khumalo and Ntini (2021: 20) has reported a high prevalence of enormous risk factors and problems faced by children and youth while on the street. These include psychological, social, physical, and sexual abuse (Khumalo and Ntini 2021: 20). A large majority of children of women vendors were also found to be addicted to different types of substances such as smoking and glue sniffing (Dozva 2018: 67).

In addition to the challenge of making ends meet, Saradhamani *et al.* (2019: 144) pointed out that women who work as street vendors also must deal with several other concerns, including unstable and unpredictable working conditions, a lack of support, the constant threat of eviction, and harassment from authorities while taking care of their children. Hence, much of the empirical work focuses on women as opposed to the plight of their children. Given that little research exists in a South African context, related to the psycho-social challenges children of street vendors face, this study is important. This is where the research gap lies.

1.4 AIM OF THE STUDY

This study aims to explore the experiences of women vendors and the psycho-social effects of street life on the children of women vendors in the eThekweni district.

1.5 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To understand the experiences and challenges faced by women vendors in the eThekweni district.
- To explore what risk factors their children face on the streets whilst in the care of their mothers.
- To enquire how these children's physical and psycho-social well-being is affected by having to be on the streets whilst their mothers vend.
- To understand the support systems and mechanisms that may enable the safety and well-being of women vendors and their children.
- To make recommendations that can support the well-being of female vendors and their children.

1.6 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The questions that the current research seeks to answer:

- What are the experiences and challenges women vendors face on the street in the eThekweni district?
- What are the risk factors their children face on the street whilst in the care of their mother's?
- How are children's physical and psycho-social well-being affected by having to be on the streets whilst their mothers vend?
- What are the support systems and mechanisms that may enable the safety and well-being of women vendors and their children?
- What are the recommendations that can support the well-being of female vendors and their children?

1.7 DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS

This section offers explanations of concepts used in the study. It focuses on women vendors, street vending, and the informal sector.

1.7.1 Street vendors

According to Setiawan and Handoyo (2018: 173), street sellers are individuals operating in the informal sector who have a direct connection to local government policies. Street sellers utilise public areas such as sidewalks and shoulders for their business activities (Setiawan and Handoyo 2018: 173). For this study, street vendors refer to the women who have opted to start their small businesses of selling on the streets to provide for their children and families.

1.7.2 Street vending

Street vending is where people sell in or along streets (Monga *et al.* 2019: 6). It is a crucial part of poor people's economic structure because they primarily come from a disadvantaged class of society (Sarker *et al.* 2019: 172).

Street vending offers accessible and affordable services, as well as employment and income generation for the underprivileged (Sarker *et al.* 2019: 172). Street vending for this study refers to women who sell in the streets to make a living. It has been a source of income to meet the basic needs of their children.

1.7.3 Informal sector

All businesses, employees, and activities that take place outside of society's legal and regulatory framework are part of the informal economy (Chen 2012: 8). The International Labour Organisation (2018: 3) stated that national governments do not directly supervise the informal food economy which encompasses operations like food production, transportation, and retailing and takes place in unofficial settings. This category includes small-scale food producers, businesses engaged in manufacturing, traders, and service providers (Simon 2007: 5). The informal sector grants women the opportunity to make a living. Most of the women vendors do not have sufficient education to qualify in the formal sector business, therefore were forced to join the informal sector to survive.

Low capital investments, lack of specialisation, close ties between sellers and purchasers, few accounts and taxes, and permeability with the formal food industry are the major characteristics of the informal sector (Simon 2007: 5). The informal sector's significance lies in its role as a means of subsistence for marginalised groups, although women face challenges in terms of social protection, skills, and formal work (Mogobe 2020: 14).

1.7.4 Child and youth care worker

Child and youth care work's [primary goal is to protect vulnerable children. They offer care, develop, and carry out programs that are pertinent to young people's emotional, physical, spiritual, cognitive, and social development on a holistic level (Islam 2019: 2). Furthermore, according to Aharoni (Islam 2019: 2), a child and youth care worker is someone who guarantees adequate development and growth of and children.

They come up with strength-based programs to teach young people and grow them into better individuals. According to Jamieson (2022: 3), child and youth care personnel are experts who provide care services and guarantee

1.8 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The conceptual framework that is most relevant to this study is ecological systems theory. According to Ahmed *et al.* (2017: 12), an individual's environment which includes physical, familial, spiritual, social, political, societal, and other factors, influences their understanding. Consequently, practitioners must consider both the individual and the diverse elements of their environment when engaging in assessment, planning, and intervention activities.

This framework is applicable to this study as it looks at women vendors and their children's experiences in their environment. Individuals are inherently connected to their surroundings and theories that emphasise the connection between personal experiences and interactions are often perceived as rational and applicable by individuals in their daily jobs (Ahmed *et al.* 2017: 13). Systems theories facilitate the analysis of the interplay between individuals and their social and physical surroundings, enabling comprehension of how interventions in ecosystems can lead to change (Connolly and Harms 2017: 37).

1.8.1 Bronfenbrenner's ecological theory

When properly evaluating a child's development, ecological model theory considers the child's many settings. According to Bronfenbrenner, social ties that emerge within and across systems have an impact on a child's developmental stages (Bengtsson 2015: 46). Bronfenbrenner's research focused on the impact of social interaction on the development of children (Connolly and Harms 2017: 38). Bronfenbrenner argued that all aspects of an individual's environment, including their social connections, impact their growth (Bengtsson 2015: 46).

Ecological systems theory posits that children's interactions with others and the environment, among other factors, shape their development (Connolly and Harms 2017: 38). The ecological theory, therefore, holds that the growth and development of a child reflects the influence of multiple systems, which can also affect a child's development.

1.8.1.1 Microsystem

Children of women vendors are most likely to face developmental challenges as they are on the streets. The environment and surroundings on the streets are most likely to influence children through the systems and social relations that take place there. The family is a setting that provides nurture, love, and different opportunities (Bernes *et al.* 2017: 2). According to Bronfenbrenner's theory, the innermost level is known as the microsystem. Furthermore, based on Bronfenbrenner's theory, parent-child relationships can either positively or negatively impact a child's development, depending on the supporting adults in the child's surroundings (Connolly and Harms 2017: 38). For instance, based on the context of this study, as mothers vend on the street, providing care and support while vending can influence their child's development. The more nurturing, they are, the more chance the child must positively develop.

1.8.1.2 Mesosystem

The mesosystem, the second tier of the theory, comprises interconnections amongst the various microsystems, that have the potential to impact a child's development (Fenske 2005: 50). The mesosystem includes interactions among family, school, and peer groups. For some, it is television and church as well. For this study, mothers choose street vending to provide for their families. They cannot afford to pay for day-care; hence, they take children with them on the street to vend.

This may deprive children of early childhood development gained in daycare centres, extended family interactions, and positive peer support. This also has enormous effects on the psychological and social development of the child. For example, when the child accompanies the mother to the street vend, they miss out on playing, interacting with friends, and most importantly, learning to promote cognitive growth.

1.8.1.3 Exosystem

This system refers to settings in which children are inactive participants. For instance, parents' jobs and the school board (Dovza 2018: 18). Decisions made in the parent's work environment can have an impact on the child's life. For example, if a mother gets harassed or abused by authorities on the streets while vending, this may hurt the child's psychological and social development. Many parents who are unable to provide adequate needs for their children such as food and shelter have engaged in street vending. They take their children with them to vend, as they cannot afford people or daycare centres to keep their children until they finish work. For this study, the exosystem includes parents' workplace settings. A parent's workplace is often on the pavement, taxi ranks, and roadsides. This influences the women vendors and their children, as mothers are concerned that their children will grow up thinking that the streets are a suitable place to grow up. The environment exposes children to risks of drug use, crime, and violence, which can influence their behaviour negatively.

1.8.1.4 Macrosystem

Local micro, meso, and ecosystems are concrete manifestations of the macrosystems, which are institutions like the economic, social, educational, legal, and political systems (Dovza 2018: 19). To put it in perspective, the economic collapse caused many people to work in informal businesses, mostly due to social challenges related to poverty. The macrosystems in this study need to change to better support street vendors and their children, encompassing the economic, social, educational, and political systems in the nation.

This is evident in the background of the study where women vendors and their children face multiple challenges on the streets. These systems need to be put in place by the government to assist and improve the well-being of these women vendors and their children.

1.8.1.5 Chronosystem

The chronosystem is the last and fifth stage of Bronfenbrenner's ecological systems theory.

The chronosystem pertains to alterations and transitions over the child's lifetime. Stress may result from these contextual shifts, which can be expected, like starting school, or unexpected, such parental divorce or moving schools when parents travel for job (Evans 2024: 2). Furthermore, Evans (2024: 2) highlights that within the chronosystem, aging itself interacts with changing social expectations throughout time. The support of their natural systems determines how children react to both anticipated and unforeseen life transitions. This connects with the study, as children are expected to adjust to the street vending life. Some of the women were forced to choose street vending, due to job losses, and inadequate qualifications to enter the formal sector, therefore their children's lives are also affected as they need to adjust to the life changes.

1.9 OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The current study was conducted using qualitative research methodology which employed an exploratory design. Gatekeeper permission was obtained from the eThekwini ward councillor to conduct the study in this area. Purposive sampling was used to recruit participants. A sample of fifteen women who live in the eThekwini region were recruited to participate in the study. Semi-structured interviews were used to obtain the data, with an interview schedule serving as a data collection tool. Thematic analysis was the methodology used to analyse the data that was gathered. Ethical standards were upheld during the whole research process and ethical clearance was obtained from the university prior commencement of the study.

1.10 STRUCTURE OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT

Chapter 1: Introduction: The context of the study and the background we explained. In addition, the research problem, aim, and objectives are presented.

Chapter 2: Literature review: An in-depth overview of the literature on the topic is covered.

Chapter 3: Research methodology: This chapter primarily focuses on the research design, population, sample, data collection process and analysis. It also focuses on the study's rigour and trustworthiness, ethical considerations, and limitations of the study.

Chapter 4: Data analysis and findings: This chapter presents the findings of the data collected and the analysis of the data.

Chapter 5: Conclusions and recommendations: The final chapter presents the major findings, conclusions reached, literature review based on findings and the recommendations for the practice and the continuity of the research.

1.11 CONCLUSION

This chapter gave a broad overview of the current research study. The context for the study was women street vendors, their children, and the informal sector in South Africa. Through this chapter, the researcher was able to understand that children and their mothers face multiple challenges such as harassment, sexual abuse, kidnapping, and road accidents. This is due to the workers in the informal sector not being recognised. This then negatively affects the development of children of women vendors on the street. The background of the study and problem statement revealed the research gap and the need for conducting this research. The guiding theoretical framework was also discussed. Lastly, an overview of the research methodology was presented, and the structure of the research report was presented. The following chapter will present the literature review of the study.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Literature review comprises a thorough synthesis and analysis of previous research and literature about the study. The literature review is an essential component of research methodology design since it gives the investigator a clear picture of the field of study and advises them on appropriate methods and best practices (Ebidor and Ikhide 2024: 212). A literature review critically evaluates published sources on a given topic and entails a thorough analysis of academic texts, scholarly articles, and other pertinent materials to acquire information and a thorough understanding of a certain issue. Providing a thorough context and justification for a research topic is the main objective of a literature review (Kraus et al., 2022).

Moreover, understanding the limitations of earlier studies and attempting to go beyond them is another important function of the literature review. A literature review helps the researcher refine, refocus, and review the study topic to ensure the research findings make a difference in the lives of others. Its goal is to ensure that the work adds to the existing knowledge and does not repeat the knowledge that has already been discovered in the field. Literature review is essential as it assist in identifying areas in which further research is required and research gaps. It also offers a theoretical framework and enables researchers to develop certain study questions or hypotheses.

Snyder (2019: 333) defined a literature review as “an overview of a certain topic or research problem, an assessment of theory or evidence, an investigation into the veracity or accuracy of particular theories, and research questions are all addressed by means of a literature review, a methodological tool.” Snyder (2019: 333) argued that literature review can also be used to establish theories, trace the evolution of a certain study topic over time, identify research gaps, and set research agendas. Depending on the objective of the literature review, several methods will be used.

For current study, the focal point of the literature review was the experiences of women vendors and the psycho-social effects that street life has on children of these women vendors. Much of the literature has focused on street vending as a business and how it can provide for families. However, little has been written about the lives of children whose mothers are vendors on the street and the effects street life has had on the psycho-social well-being of children in South Africa. Hence, the researcher has chosen this as an area for research. While mothers struggle to provide for their children, children are continuously, inevitably affected by life on the street.

Through literature review, the researcher was able to draw out know about women street vendors and their children's experiences on the streets in eThekweni district. Key aspects were used during the search for this study: Challenges faced by women street vendors and children in their care, risk factors children and adolescents face on the street, and the effects of physical and psycho-social well-being of children and youth. Headings were utilized for continuity, context, and order as well. This chapter will further scrutinize the role of relevant parties in the street vending business such as local authorities and government and the support provided the women street vendors and their children in order to survive with street life. It further looks at the recommendation of how to improve the lives of these women vendors and their children while vending on the street.

This chapter presents literature according to the following headings and sub-headings. It aligns with the aim and objectives of the study:

Challenges faced by women street vendors and children in their care.

- social challenges and lack of security, conflicts from formal traders and harassment
- encroachment of public spaces and unstable environment.
- childcare responsibilities
- increased competition levels

Risk factors children and adolescents face on the street.

- Verbal exchanges and victims of traffic accidents
- Maltreatment, aggression, and abuse
- Unhealthy environment and lack of resources/adequate nurturing of children

The effects of physical and psycho-social well-being of children and youth.

- physical well-being of children and youth
- psycho-social well-being of children and youth
- support required to enhance the safety of these children and their mothers.
- lastly, the recommendations to support the well-being of female vendors and their children.

The research used the following keywords: street vendors, street vending, and informal traders/sector.

2. 2. HISTORY OF STREET VENDING IN AFRICA

In almost every nation and major city on the planet, street vending is an ancient and significant profession. Although many onlookers also link street vendors to traffic, health and safety hazards, tax fraud, and the sale of subpar goods, they do provide character to the cityscape, support economic activity, and provide services (Bomley 2000: 2). The majority of countries have a lengthy history of regulating street vendors' activities, and many national laws, local laws, and municipal ordinances either directly relate to street vendors or are applicable to them. Over the centuries and across the world, street vending has been practiced in many ways. In addition, Donovan (2008: 30) stated that street vending constitutes one of the most well-known and visible jobs in the urban regions of the global South. Winter (2017: 13) emphasized that despite the importance of road selling in generating livelihoods, elected officials typically do not view marketplace sellers as effective salespeople, instead seeing them as a menace to urban areas since they crowd the streets and spread illness. From a historical angle, merchandising is one of the oldest occupations that has been held using both males and females on the African continent and is preferred in the whole of Africa (Donovan 2008: 32).

According to Mramba (2022: 208) the road merchandising enterprise is a critical employment opportunity in African cities. Due to lower education and poverty, millions of women make their living by trading goods on the streets (Mramba 2022: 208). Gautam and Andersen (2016: 240) stated that in many growing international locations, street merchandising is a critical strategy concerning city household livelihoods. Street vending takes place in open areas that are especially particular for change, and it crosses the threshold of competition with different urban amenities inclusive of traffic glide (Ngomane 2020: 379).

Historically, there was no place for street merchants in the growing communist city. Street vendors were officially viewed as deviants, lumpen proletariat, parasitic middlemen, tiny capitalists, or impoverished people degrading themselves to survive in the Soviet Union prior to World War II, and subsequently throughout the whole COMECON block from the late 1940s until the late 1980s. They were singled out for exploitation, repression, and alternative employment; street hawking was seen as the embodiment of the past, a sign of oppression, poverty, and exploitation. Strangely, despite the collapse of communism, street sellers have multiplied despite Russia and the other former Soviet and Eastern European countries not having reached prosperity. Street vendor controversies are nearly inexplicable to someone who adopts a simplistic left-right political polarization (Bromley 2000: 5).

For most of these women, informal employment is the most practical way to live. (Maphumulo 2021: 6) Due to the nature of this type of job opportunity women are vulnerable (Maphumulo 2021: 6). The International Labour Organization (2019: 1) highlighted that street vending is a great source of employment and creates a major contribution in providing income for people in both developed and developing countries. Millions of families that are less educated and disadvantaged make their living through selling on the street. Some of them are forced to bring their children with them due to having no one to assist and take care of the children at home (Monga *et al.* 2019: 6).

According to statistics, over 16 million persons in South Africa (SA) who were in employment in 2017, had about 5 million who participated in informal labour. Nearly 2 million of the 6.8 million women in South Africa who were employed were doing informal work which mostly included street vending (ILO 2019: 1) A study undertaken in Nigeria using 24 participants to examine children's experiences on the street, demonstrated that it was dangerous and damaging for children to participate in street trading. Despite the dangers of street vending, it was also viewed as both a huge part of existence and a way of life for children growing up in Nigeria (Okoli and Cree 2009: 2).

This study found that children in Nigeria saw street vending as a crucial component of their growth. These children also reported that street vending was a practical foundation for their subsequent lives and occupations (Okoli and Cree 2009: 22). However, it is argued that this poses significant problems for children's rights and for social welfare organisations that work to serve children and youth in emerging nations like Nigeria (Okoli and Cree 2009: 22). Dovza (2018: 1) highlighted that as far as these children are concerned, the early years are also the time when parenting is crucial to the development of health and trusting relationships with the children.

A typical home provides good housing, safety, and basic cleanliness and is a secure environment for young people to play in (Okoli and Cree 2009: 27). In contrast, street surroundings no longer match these standards. Carr (2015: 2) highlighted that city streets do not offer easy sanitation centres. Nevertheless, street environments expose younger children to an extensive range of dangers such as sexual abuse, drug abuse, crime etc. A global estimation of 120 million children aged five to fourteen undertaken by the International Labour Organisation (2019: 1) found that children were working long hours and in exploitative environments. Another predicted that 50-60 million youngsters between the ages of five to eleven years were engaged in unsupportive kinds of labour in unpleasant environments (International Labour Organisation 2019: 1).

Since street vending is a part of the unstructured quarter, it follows that street vending exhibits the same traits as the informal area (Gamieldien and van Niekerk 2017: 25). According to Hlengwa (2016: 23), the key admirable distinction is that, unlike other informal financial operations, street vending is carried out in readily accessible locations. Andiny and Nurjannah (2020: 4) posited that the informal sector commercial enterprise activities are not well organized, because the emergence of business devices do not use centres or establishments which are available in the formal quarter and generally do not have permission for stable facilities to trade. Dovza (2018: 5) stated that informal sector wages are also not enough to cover all the expenses. This adds to the challenges women or individuals in the informal sector face daily (Dovza 2018: 5).

According to Becker (2004: 6), market vendors offer a wide variety of goods and services, ranging from the selling of food to the repair of shoes, running hairdressing services, creating business phone booths, and barbershops. In the same discussion, Abebrese and Schachtebeck (2017:131) drew attention to the fact that street vending operations frequently choose locations with heavy pedestrian traffic close to major thoroughfares, and with local courier services.

2.3 STREET VENDING AS AN INFORMAL EMPLOYMENT

Sibhat (2014: 5) noted that within the literature, the informal zone is known by way of numerous terms such as the secondary quarter, informal economy, alternative financial system, black economic system, black market, coins financial system, ethical financial system, and non-professional economic system, to mention a few. Conversely, the increased new definition of the International Labour Organisation (2018: 4) noted that the informal sector incorporates all types of informal employment. These types of formal employment contain employment without labour and social protection both outside and inside casual businesses, unregistered companies, and salary employment in unprotected jobs.

Some street vendors are mobile as well, moving from location to location while carrying their items on pushcarts, in baskets, or on their heads to make products available to customers (Andiny and Nurjannah 2020: 4). The informal economy has poor infrastructure which includes poor transport, poor electricity provision, inadequate storage, water, and sanitation (Mkhize *et al.* 2013: 4). Stutter (2017: 4) concluded that the sheer size and casual nature of road vending makes it difficult to alter avenue trading spots. On the other hand, in many countries, street vending plays an important role in generating income and creating employment and production (Recchi 2021: 806).

Gautam and Andersen (2016: 240) highlighted that street vending is universally permanent and continues to grow around the arena. Growth within the informal financial system has accelerated hastily through the years, particularly in growing countries (Gautam and Andersen 2016: 240). According to Maphumulo (2021: 5), in this sector, women constitute the best percentage of these casual employees. The author added that these are women who mainly have inadequate skills are semi-literate and cannot be employed inside the recognized area. For these females, street vending is the sole source of income to support themselves and their households and to provide for their children (Maphumulo 2021: 6).

The International Labour Organization (2021: 6) highlighted that more than 6 out of 10 workers, as well as 4 enterprises among 5 in the world operate in the informal economy. From the government's perspective, many factors add to the hardship of putting together appropriate policies for the informal economy (Legodi and Kanjere 2017: 64). These factors include the instability and vulnerability of informal workers, representation and association of organizations that are representing informal workers in each city or town (Legodi and Kanjere 2017: 64).

Most women in the casual sector possess realistic competencies which include making items to sell on the street, cooking capabilities, needlework abilities and more. In addition, those women are so committed to their jobs that enhancing their entrepreneurship capabilities can even improve the neighbourhood economy.

Hence developing employment possibilities and assuaging poverty (Maphumulo 2021: 36). According to Dlamini *et al.* (2021: 412), in South Africa as much as it is a challenge to measure the sector due to its informal nature, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimated the value of the sector to be around 35% of South Africa's GDP in 2017.

In contrast, Legodi and Kanjere (2017: 65) argued that informal sector businesses are constantly harassed by authorities or police officers. Legodi and Kanjere (2017: 65) further stated that the relationship between the informal sector and the police is usually strained. This is due to the law enforcement agents who are seen as being antagonistic in the informal trading sector. In South Africa, women in the informal sector are generally not covered by necessary social protection, which makes women in this sector more vulnerable and faces many challenges (Legodi and Kanjere 2017: 65).

As street vending in the formal sector is not acknowledged, this has led to many tensions and conflicts in most African countries. This is mostly between authorities and street vendors (Matamanda *et al.* 2023: 4475). According to Maphumulo (2021: 38), the informal sector is a poor economy that contains vulnerable individuals. It is also seen as an environment of desperation, where most people working within it are earning little, working in poor environmental conditions and have a huge responsibility of taking care of their children and families.

2.4 CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN STREET VENDORS AND THEIR CHILDREN

Literature on the challenges of street vending is reviewed in the sub-sections that follow. This section begins by looking at social challenges and lack of security and is followed by conflicts from formal traders and harassment, encroachment of public spaces, unstable environment, and childcare responsibilities.

2.4.1 Social Challenges and lack of security

Street vendors have relatively low social standing, acceptance, or recognition (Rahaman 2019: 6). The sensitivity of female street vendors to seasonal fluctuations, pressures, and various emotional stressors has a significant influence (Rahaman 2019: 6). For instance, taking care of families, putting in extended hours, and insufficient functioning infrastructure all contributes to women's vulnerability as street vendors (Steel 2008: 14). The job in this industry comes with many difficulties, including rivalry from other street vendors for valuable space and ongoing harassment from the police and local officials (Azzazy 2019: 21). The shortage of expendable spending plays a big role in one's inability to satisfy fundamental demands, which involve children's education, health requirements, pay rent, pay for transportation, and cover other expenses among others (Singh 2021: 28). The most common challenges faced by women street vendors are social challenges. This includes safety, working hours, social status, crime, and self-reliance (Khumalo and Ntini 2020: 263).

The security of women participants in eThekweni, Warwick Junction has been discovered through prior research using a purposefully sampled population of women. Seventy percent of women in this study felt less secure at work and more exposed than men. These findings were further supported by the other researcher's observations which revealed that as dusk fell, an increasing number of women began packing their belongings out of concern about crime and a desire to go home on time (Khumalo and Ntini 2020: 264).

Singh (2021: 28) claimed that street sellers constantly strive to strengthen their ties with their suppliers, partners, customers, the government, local business owners, and their co-workers. Ramasamy (2019: 36) argued that since they set up shop along the roadsides where disasters might happen at any time, street selling is rife with worry and fear.

A study conducted by Abede (2017: 7) found that insecure environments result in a loss of customers, frighten tourists, crippled business, reduced income and generally interferes with trading. Intimidation, abuse, theft of their belongings, including cell phones and money and other crimes were some of the offences committed against them (Abede 2017: 7). A study undertaken by Abede (2017: 7) using ten participants in Ethiopia, found that crimes against women were mostly motivated by their perceived vulnerability, as offenders saw women as weak and easy targets in comparison to men.

2.4.2 Conflicts from formal traders and harassment

A research study conducted in Ethiopia using ten participants found that conflict among formal traders was one of the challenges that street vendors faced (Abede 2017: 13). However, the existence of women's street vendors and their activities have resulted in ongoing conflict with the city administration regarding street vending premises as well as working circumstances. Monga *et al.* (2019: 7) highlighted that in many African countries, street vending is seen as a major predicament and a challenge for street urban authorities. It was judged to be the cause of an increasing number of social ills that negatively affect the cities (Monga *et al.* 2019: 7). Ramasamy (2019: 37) highlighted that the conflicts between traders arise mainly from the site of operation. The biggest cause of insecurity for women vendors has come from government interference (Abede 2017: 14). The lack of protection for street vendors and children is evident in cases with women vendors who are targeted for harassment and face sexual maltreatment (Roever 2016: 29).

According to Adama (2020: 534), authorities frequently have unfavourable perceptions about street selling, even though it is a vital part of poor livelihoods in developing nations and greatly boosts urban economies. The legal texts conflict with municipal bylaws which encourages the growth of unauthorized business activity (Racuad *et al.* 2018: 17). Racuad *et al.* (2018: 17) stated that the lack of a clear legal regulatory framework for operations in the informal sector is a result of conflicts between local bylaws and national Acts of parliaments which frequently results in disputes between street vendors and local government.

A study conducted in Barishal city by Rahaman (2019: 10), using 60 participants revealed that 33.3% of street vendors and 50% of local leaders agreed that they are routinely harassed by the police and government officials, respectively. Yet just 16.7% of participants reported that local political figures harass them frequently. In South Africa, Dlamini *et al.* (2021: 414) cited an incident that occurred in the city of Johannesburg where 6000 informal street vendors were forcefully removed by the city authorities from their places of business in 2013. This consisted of forcefully breaking into informal shops, confiscating goods, and forcing them to leave their trading locations (Dlamini *et al.* 2021: 415).

Arocikam and Umamakeshwari (2016: 64) argued that despite the significant role that street vending plays, authorities frequently fail to acknowledge it and instead choose to combat it by enacting removal techniques and relocation laws. Mogobe (2022: 22) it was claimed that most governments are against street vending because of the outdated stigma it carries, which puts it at odds with the image of a clean, contemporary metropolis that most emerging cities try to project. The authorities harass, beat and confiscate goods of street vendors without any warning (Adama 2020: 535). Even though they contribute significantly to the economy, authorities in many nations rarely acknowledge or assist street vendors (Adama 2020: 535). As a result, there are numerous difficulties and obstacles faced by street vendors (Karunaratna and Tjandra 2021: 190). Karunaratna and Tjandra (2021: 190) claimed that local authorities have a bad attitude toward street sellers, some are uncooperative, and they view street vending as a threat or an eyesore when vendors obstruct traffic and use streets and footpaths improperly.

Street vendors discover ways to retake their locations, but they face greater resistance when the authorities destroy their stalls (Jundi *et al.* 2022: 2). In addition, Racuad *et al.* (2018: 18) highlighted that the most frequent types of friction between law enforcement and street vendors are a crackdown and the forcible removal of vendors from the streets. According to Mogobe (2022: 22), failing to present vending permits, selling illicit or pirated items and operating in undesignated vending areas were the most often reported causes of harassment and confiscation of goods by authorities.

2.4.3 Encroachment of public spaces and unstable environment

Street vendors are frequently associated with trespassing in common areas. This contributes to clogged roads, poor sanitation, and improper trash management (Mshira 2018: 175). Rahaman (2019: 6) highlighted that most street vendors live and trade around disadvantaged neighbourhoods which are characterised by poor sanitation, lack of healthcare, and inadequate access to clean water. Prior research in Ethiopia by Abede 2017: 13), showed that for most street vendors, keeping food safe became a huge concern. It revealed that women street vendors faced problems of accidents and loss of products (Abede 2017: 13). Similarly, prior research undertaken by Jundi *et al.* (2022: 2) revealed that for street vendors, rainy days were difficult as the wind and rain ruined their makeshift huts and stands.

Floods and droughts are caused by external influences such as climate change which hurt their operations (Jundi *et al.* 2022: 2). Factors such as rain and heat determine the fluctuation in the demand for street vendors' goods. (Karunaratna and Tjandra 2021: 190). These researchers also said that numerous street sellers have constructed temporary huts, shelters, and kiosks. Due to a lack of funding, street vendors become stuck in the same situation and request assistance to purchase some necessary materials and equipment to upgrade the service (Karunaratna and Tjandra 2021: 191).

A study done by Jundi *et al* (2022: 3) in Ethiopia revealed the existence of a broad agreement among all participants that street vendors were being adversely affected by the absence of public storage facilities. Participants in Ethiopia also mentioned the need for basic urban infrastructure in the Gaborone area as a common issue. For instance, the inadvertent rationing of electricity in the vendors' homes prevented them from cooking which resulted in a decline in clientele and income (Jundi *et al.* 2022: 3). For women who sell food on the street around the world, the lack of basic working amenities including restrooms, storage space, water, and shelter was seen as a huge issue. Women street food vendors are impacted by the lack of services (WIEGO 2019: 5).

A study conducted by Maphumulo (2021: 35) in eThekweni, KwaZulu-Natal using 50 participants revealed that women vendors utilized large plastic sheets to cover the open sides of their trading shelter on wet days to preserve their stock and continue working. The study also revealed that food vendors among the participants traded containers, although some of them did not have containers to stock their items. Some participants stated that because they did not have shelter, they could not work on rainy days (Maphumulo 2021: 36). The informal economy struggles to provide workers with a safe workplace environment which has a detrimental and serious impact on their health because of their exposure to hazardous employment conditions, pollution, inclement weather, and insufficient access to essential services like water and toilets (Mabilo, 2018:121).

2.4.4 Effects of street vending on family and childcare

A study done by Khanyati and Mabvuriara *et al.* (2020) has presented solid and convincing evidence that children in Zimbabwe are not only going on selling trips with their parents or guardians, but that quite a few of them were vendors themselves. Elliot *et al.* (2017: 16) asserted that young mothers frequently felt overburdened by childcare obligations. Similarly, a study by Gerbery (2018: 2) found that young mothers often weep, exhibit temperamental behaviour, or become emotionally distant from their kids when they are overburdened with childcare duties. The concern was that young mothers who simultaneously worked as street vendors and provided childcare could find their workloads to be too much to handle which leads them to sacrifice their children's needs. Women who don't have large extended families or who are unable to afford to pay a neighbour or childcare facility to watch their children often bring their infants to work. The children of such women are subjected to dangerous workplaces their labour in (Maphumulo 2021: 6).

Horwood *et al.* (2019: 2) explored the working conditions and childcare practices of informal women workers in eThekweni, Kwa-Zulu Natal with 247 participants. The study revealed that supporting their families and kids was difficult due to the minimal income from food vending on the street.

This study discovered that younger children were typically assigned to live in the village because vendors could not manage childcare and their vending obligations. According to the report, single participants had increased caregiving duties for their children and other family members. This was because most single women worked as street vendors who shared homes with other relatives (Horwood *et al.* 2019: 3).

Tambo (2015: 19) stated that women who sell goods on the streets of most cities and towns must deal with raising their children, especially babies and toddlers on the streets. This is because most of them cannot afford the pricey services of a maid or day-care facility (Tambo 2015: 19). While children are prone to severe weather, disease, starvation, and even terrible events like rape and physical molestation by older children and criminal adults, Horwood *et al.* (2019: 23) argued that the reality of children growing up on the streets might have far-reaching social effects.

Maphumulo (2021: 12) argued that these children's right to be raised in a secure, beneficial environment has been violated. Nonetheless, some mothers choose to leave their kids in the care of a grandparent or an older sibling who may not be capable of caring for the child. Leaving children with such individuals may have an impact on the level of care and the child's well-being (Tambo 2015: 19).

2.4.4 Childcare responsibilities

It has been argued that being a mother or being involved in childrearing comes with many challenges. This is because women have a greater responsibility in parenthood (Maphumulo 2021: 11). Arocikam and Umamakeshwari (2016: 104) stated that women street vendors who earn money through selling can support their families' daily needs with the little they receive. This includes their children's schooling and household necessities.

A study done in Harare, Zimbabwe by Mbulayi *et al.* (2020: 4), using sixteen participants indicated that mothers working as street vendors often had negative opinions about working while caring for children. There were signs that street vending and childcare activities went hand in hand with poor childcare, increased child vulnerability to traffic accidents, child trafficking, and exposure to illness.

It was also discovered that childcare and street vending together caused young children to develop a love of money (Mbulayi et al. 2020: 4). The results showed that additional household responsibilities were taxing women street vendors more (Mbulayi et al. 2020: 5). Women in the informal sector worked long hours and most times they worked seven days a week. This caused significant conflict in balancing work and childcare (Maphumulo 2021: 12).

2.4.6. Increased competition levels

A study done by Joshi *et al.* (2018: 3) in the Iraq, Baghdad area using 25 participants discovered that various types of competition were present among street vendors in the research. For instance, female street vendors reported being up against competition of all types. The study results showed that there were many vendors on the street, indicating a competitive climate in which women's street vendors operated. Also, the research revealed that street vendors competed with one another for available vending spaces. Female respondents said that they were using a variety of tactics to deal with the degree of competition when asked how they were coping in such a competitive climate. Offering good customer service, working long hours, and providing a range of goods were a few of these techniques (Joshi *et al.* 2018: 4).

2.4.7. Long Working Hours

Research carried out by Mukamba (2021: 94) in the Nelson Bay region, using 60 individuals discovered that female street vendors spend many of their days engaging in activities related to their line of work. Most of the women surveyed, spend 7 to 10 hours per day on the streets. Most women who work long hours claimed that they were so exhausted when they arrived home that they had no time for their children or husbands (Mukamba 2021: 94). This author claims that male street vendors who lamented their lengthy workdays in this line of work further supported this finding. The average earnings of a vendor are maybe 3 to 10 times higher than the minimum wage, and they are frequently equivalent to the income of skilled labourers who are employed in the formal sector.

Rahaman (2019: 9) conducted a research study in Southeast Asia using 25 participants. The investigation discovered that many vendors left the streets late after working long shifts. One group of street vendors left the streets between 3 and 6 pm, while another group of 41% left between 7 and 9 pm. A small percentage of these vendors (6%) stated they left at any time. By 9 o'clock in the evening, their kids helped more than ten street vendors as their mothers went home to prepare dinner and take care of younger kids (Rahaman 2019: 10). Singh (2021: 29) posited that most of them seem to be concerned about their families and lives. They are therefore unable to spend much time with their loved ones (Singh 2021: 29).

2.5 RISK FACTORS THAT CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS FACE ON THE STREET

Literature related to risk factors of street life on children of women vendors is reviewed in the sub-sections that follow. This section begins by looking at verbal exchanges and traffic accidents, maltreatment, aggression and abuse, an unhealthy environment, a lack of resources or inadequate nurturing of children and increased crime as risk factors. Dovza (2018: 71) posited that while children might be able to handle one or two threats, an excessive number of risks could damage their development.

2.5.1 Verbal exchanges and victims of traffic accidents

The parent's financial support for their households is a strain and the experience makes it challenging for them to offer their children proper care and attention (Daudi and Magweni 2018: 135). Children exposed to the streets are at high risk of being victims of abuse and traffic accidents, as they are vulnerable in their development. Street vending is normally characterised by the aid of verbal exchanges and aggression from buyers and fellow vendors. This can also influence their psycho-social development as they spend most of their time on the streets or at home with inadequate mother care (Daudi and Magweni 2018:136).

A study conducted by Mbulayi (2020:4) highlighted that as street vending provided basic needs for children, women vendors felt obligated to juggle between vending and childcare. Due to this, children of these women vendors were exposed to the danger of becoming victims of street vending sites. Participants intimated that through extended hours of being strapped on their backs, children became restless and agitated as they wanted to play (Mbulayi 2020: 4). Indications were that whilst these children were removed from the restrictive straps, they could run onto the street and find themselves being run over by vehicles (Mbulayi 2020: 4). The women vendors said that they were only able to take their children to their booths because they had no other option for childcare given the risk of traffic accidents (Mbulayi 2020: 6). Findings from a study by Omotosho and Ola (2021: 64) showed that insults, in addition to physical abuse, are a common occurrence for these children.

2.5.2 Maltreatment, aggression, and abuse

A growing number of children are being pushed onto the streets due to poverty, abuse, torture, rape, desertion, or being orphaned by AIDS (Berhanu and Abeshu 2019: 163). Children are also affected by the mistreatment and abuse of criminals and police (Saradhamani *et al.* 2019: 146). According to a study by Omotosho and Ola (2021: 50), which was conducted in Southwest Nigeria with 25 participants revealed that traffic accidents affected 46.7% of children, abduction risks affected 28.3% of children, and abuse risks affected 28.1% of the sample. The participants in this study placed a strong focus on abuse as well as a high priority on inappropriate touch (74.2%), verbal abuse (75.8%), and penetrative sex (11.7%) (Omotosho and Ola 2021: 51). Moussie and Alfes (2018:18) asserted that abuse in all its forms psychological, physical, and sexual abuse as well as neglect and other traumatic experiences have a profoundly negative impact on the capacity for recovery of children on the streets.

Okoli and Cree (2009: 8) stated that the priority for children's protection and safety has turned out to be a worldwide problem and has evoked extensive debate. Article 32 of the UNCRC said that children ought to be covered from financial exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be unsafe or to intervene with child schooling, or to be dangerous to the child's physical, mental, spiritual, ethical, or social development (Dovza 2018: 69).

Daudi and Magweni (2018: 32) argued that children are attracted into dangerous people on the street due to vulnerability. For example, children can be forced to provide intercourse for food and protection, exposing them to an excessive hazard of STDs and unwanted pregnancies (Madjitey 2014: 56).

Prior studies undertaken in Nigeria by Ogochukwu *et al.* (2012: 177) with the usage of 124 children of vendors revealed that thirty-six children (24.5%) attested to having been bullied and molested by using older street children. The study further found that nine out of this many were children (6.1%) who were sexually abused and forty-six per cent (32.7%) had at one time or the other been robbed of their earnings. By being on the road all day, twelve (8.2%) have also been involved in smoking marijuana, and 27 (18.4%) were involved in avenue site visitors' injuries maintaining minor accidents (Ogochukwu *et al.* 2012: 176).

2.5.3. Unhealthy environments and a lack of resources

Lack of water facilities, inadequate sanitary conditions, and garbage removal were some of the fundamental services that were a source of conflict. With the accessibility of fundamental services, it is possible to determine the circumstances and environment in which female street vendors were operating (Singh 2021: 25). Children of women who work as street vendors are subjected to dangerous risks because of the vending setting, this includes sanitary resource shortage, noise pollution, and air pollution (Sekgabo and Maripe (2019: 47). Children of street vendors also shared crowded, substandard homes with their parents, dangerous neighbourhoods, slums, kiosks, containers, and storefront sidewalks which compromises their health (Dovza 2018: 5).

Children who work on the streets also perform difficult tasks and handle hazardous equipment (Madjitey 2014: 55). Their overly long shifts expose them to major health risks, inadequate cleanliness, unsafe conditions, and a lack of access to medical care (Madjitey 2014: 55). While selling, they struggle to eat, sit down or rest occasionally, even in difficult situations, they neglect getting regular health needs (Singh 2021: 29).

Carr (2015: 2) added that street vendors who earn their living in common areas have significant problems that go above their regular business dealings. Street vendors generally battle to make enough money to survive; the cost of accessing toilets, clean water and insufficient ablution facilities further adds to that burden (Carr 2015: 3).

Research conducted by Mohapo *et al.* (2022: 15) in Vembe district, Makhando, Limpopo using 20 food vendors revealed that due to a lack of infrastructure, many street vendors occasionally hold stock in their storeroom (30.3%), residences (27.2%), and stalls (21.0%). Some street vendors claimed to have stored their goods in nearby rented rooms, to keep them secure. However, this was common to only 11.2% of street vendors, others were not familiar with stocking merchandise (Mohapo *et al.* 2022: 15).

A study conducted by Mbulayi *et al.* (2020: 4) in Harare, Zimbabwe using fifteen mothers who were street vendors found that mothers had their children with them while vending. The study revealed that they struggled with alternating between childcare and vending due to the busy vending obligations. They were not capable of breastfeeding, changing diapers or having quality mother-child interactions concurrently with street vending. Furthermore, the study in Harare also discovered that it became difficult for these mothers to offer adequate interest to their children's needs, especially during the pick hours 3 pm to 6 pm (Mbulayi *et al.* 2020: 4).

Another woman participant indicated that she left her merchandising stall for a longer period to locate water and lavatories. She concluded that this caused a loss of profits and left her business susceptible to failure. In a few instances in the study, participants also indicated that they would leave their business to be attended by neighbours and in worse cases unattended (Mbulayi *et al.* 2020: 4). This study further found that the safety, health, and physical fitness of women street vendors changed due to loss of adequate basic offerings (Mbulayi *et al.* 2020: 4). Many street vendors are susceptible to illnesses because of exposure to the climate factors, accidents associated with lifting heavy wares/wearing, lengthy distances and different stressful situations common to their work surroundings (Singh 2021: 29).

2.5.4 Increasing Crime

A study conducted by Mbulayi *et al.* (2020: 4) in Harare, Zimbabwe using fifteen mothers also found that crime in Harare was a concern for vending mothers. The study found that theft of goods was a problem for 22% of the street vendors and robbery of cash/profits was a problem for 13% of street vendors. Crime/theft of products became a challenge for those women street vendors who did not have adequate storage areas for their stock at nighttime. In addition, the unlawful confiscation of goods by police was recognised by researchers of the casual sector as a main hassle (Ramachandran *et al.*, 2017).

Prior research undertaken in Nigeria by Abuja by Ogochukwu *et al.* (2012: 177) using 124 street vendors highlighted that a big proportion of women street vendors left street vending late after selling for lengthy hours. About 43% left the streets around– 7 - 9 pm, while some amongst them (6%) claimed they left at any time. More than ten street vendors had been assisted by using their children after 7 pm. This study also revealed that vegetable providers laboured about twelve hours on an average day by day to earn a profit with the purpose to allow them to address the one-of-a-kind problems they faced and provide necessary basic needs for their families (Ogochukwu *et al.*, 2012: 150).

Moreover, Ogochukwu *et al.* (2012: 150) discovered that all the women vendors in Abuja have been working amidst negative conditions. Some of the crimes that were perpetrated included intimidation, abuse, and robbery of their items, mobile phones and cash. Findings showed that crime directed at females changed mainly due to their perceived vulnerability wherein perpetrators had taken into consideration that they were weak and gentle targets compared to adult males. Thus, these findings showed that women participants had been sufferers of crime more than males (Ogochukwu *et al.* 2012: 150). The number of crimes against street vendors has grown from 38 to 166 per year over the last decade, an increase of 336%. As street vendors do not have to worry about getting attacked and robbed, they may also be privy to traffic information. (Meija 2020: 12).

Prior research by Mkhize *et al.* (2013: 24) which used 149 participants at the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal in Durban concluded that 63% of the study participants regarded stealing as a severe issue in street vending. "Thefts steal our stock and even steal directly from "us" said one female vendor. Despite having a duty to safeguard everyone, vendors said that the police did not shield them from criminals. Participants in this study also said that the police failed to carry out adequate examinations, took bribes, and failed to capture offenders. According to a female vendor, "Police take bribes from these thieves who use drugs called "iwunga" and let them go "free" (Mkhize *et al.* 2013: 24).

2.6 THE EFFECTS OF STREET VENDING ON THE PHYSICAL AND PSYCHO-SOCIAL WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Literature on the effects of street vending on the physical and psycho-social well-being of children and youth is reviewed in the sub-section that follows. The first sub-heading will be looking at the physical well-being of children and youth, followed by the psycho-social well-being of children and youth.

2.6.1 Physical well-being of children and youth

Gamielien and van Niekerk's (2017: 26) study in Cape Town with six participants found that street vendors are subject to biological, economic, physical, and psychosocial risks. According to the study, street vendors frequently traded near areas with heavy traffic and concentrated air pollution. This makes illnesses like asthma, allergies, tuberculosis, and chronic bronchitis worse. According to Gamielien and van Niekerk (2017: 26), traders in these locations run the risk of developing eye discomfort, dizziness, tightness in the chest, sore throats, colds, and coughing. Some children of these vendors washed their hands in the same bucket used to clean utensils, and this may cause faecal contamination.

The extreme physical restraints that women vendors place on their children such as strapping them to their backs for extended periods have a detrimental effect on how well the children can develop their motor abilities (Berhanu and Abeshu 2019: 167). Daudi and Magweni (2018: 140) stated that the 0–5 years age group has been noted to correspond with the development of a child's control over his/her movement system and thus potty training becomes one of the main activities at this age. Some older children may experience bodily harm because of regularly engaging in physically demanding activities like loading and unloading items (Daudi and Magweni, 2018: 140). Berhanu Abeshu (2019: 167) argued that street vendors and their children need to receive services like family planning, HIV/AIDS testing, and cervical cancer screenings.

Furthermore, research in a study by Gamieldien and van Niekerk (2017: 26) in Cape Town, South Africa found that the average number of children per woman was 2.8, while 28.6% of the women had no children, many of them had more than three. Most of the children were younger than five years old. Children's illnesses were reported by 14% of parents in the two weeks before the poll. According to Gamieldien and van Niekerk (2017: 26), women between the ages of 20 and 29 were substantially more likely to have had a sick child in the two weeks before the survey. Gamieldien and van Niekerk (2017: 26) also stated that children are often involved in harmful employment such as carrying large goods or working in hazardous conditions, and others have no choice as their mothers have to sell to provide for them.

2.6.2 Psycho-social well-being of children and youth

Dovza (2018: 71) concurred that the environment has a vital role to play in toddler development. Additionally, Dovza (2018: 71) agreed that conducive environments create foundations for healthful, emotionally secure, and nicely balanced stages in their personalities and cognitive development. Perpetual exposure to unclean urban environments has effects on younger children developing delinquent behaviour patterns which are destructive to their development. Again, Dovza (2018: 276) argued that it is not surprising that those children experience communication difficulties, behaviour issues, and low self-esteem.

Prior research undertaken in Rusape Urban, Zimbabwe revealed that the results of street vending on children's socio-emotional improvement were bad. The youngsters had no time to play freely as they had been constantly limited to their mothers' stalls. The moment they wanted to attempt or start play they were returned to their fathers and mothers to defend them from the risks of the streets (Daudi and Magweni 2018: 138). Furthermore, Daudi and Magweni (2018: 138) stated that street children experience high levels of hopelessness, vulnerability to despair and depressive signs and symptoms. Since children on the streets lack the proper competencies to secure a first-rate task, they face oppression, torture, insecurity, and different problems at the same time.

Additionally, Joanou (2020: 8) highlighted that children's lives on the road might also result in "bad adjustment, aggressive and antisocial behaviour, behaviour disorders, communication difficulties, adjustment issues, negative self-concept and low self-esteem." When children are mistreated, this can result in them being traumatised and might increase psychological problems (Khumalo and Ntini 2021: 285). According to Saradhamani *et al.* (2019: 144), children's early experiences influence their development. Elliot (2009:113) agreed that during the early years of improvement, children display the finest ability to learn and develop. Saradhamani *et al.* (2019: 144) added that the child's early years are the primary mission to the development of a child's feeling of trust, safety, and self-assurance.

Carr (2015: 9) estimated that 215 million boys and girls between the ages of five and seventeen worked on the streets worldwide in 2008, with 115 million of them doing dangerous jobs. Tens of millions of children are thought to reside or perform labour on the streets of cities and communities around the globe. This number is growing because of relocation, urbanization, and population expansion. Teenagers who labour for extended periods or in dangerous situations are unlikely to finish their schooling which significantly restricts their capacity to get out of impoverishment (Ogochukwu *et al.* 2012: 174). However, because of the environment's negative effects on their psychological health, they feel inadequate and concerned about the next day (Rahaman 2019: 10).

Children who are homeless lack the opportunity of a compassionate childhood since prolonged interaction with urban environments has a negative overall impact on youngsters (Dovza 2018: 278). Carr (2015: 10) concluded that parenting children in a street environment is dangerous and this should be prevented no matter the circumstance. The destiny of children depends on themselves, their community, and their country. They influence society either negatively or positively as they are the adolescents and adults of tomorrow (Berhanu and Abeshu, 2019: 362).

2.7 SUPPORT REQUIRED TO ENHANCE SAFETY OF THESE CHILDREN AND THEIR MOTHERS

Health schooling of women can assist in enhancing growth, healthy diet, cleanliness, and protection for women street vendors and their children (Hernandez *et al.* 2017: 169). Support from friends and households is essential to the lives of women street vendors and their children (Daudi and Magweni 2018: 140). Extended households are essential to social protection, this can help children obtain their developmental gains, the parents can employ a family member to stay with the children instead of exposing them to street vending life.

Government and non-government organisations should offer the necessary facilities for healthcare and education. They should set up extensive advertising to inform the street traders about the schooling of their children and they may add extra amenities to the school to entice children to attend such as scholarships, free books, and lunches (Rahaman 2019: 13). Rahaman (2019: 13) highlighted that this is questionable as larger households are increasingly implicated in incidents of maltreatment. Moreover, improvement of the infrastructure, given the dispersed nature of street vendors and constructing facilities has become difficult for government officials. As a result, choosing the right site is one of the key elements in the success of the street vending industry.

The location was also mentioned as a significant issue among Tanzanian street vendors (Mramba *et al.* 2022: 224). Most street traders believe that providing them with appropriate places for operating their business, as well as enough infrastructure and amenities, would be the greatest assistance the government can offer them

(Mramba *et al.* 2022: 224). In recognition of the fact that street vendors must constantly deal with many sorts of uncertainty, Mramba *et al.* (2022: 224) stressed the need for activities, abilities and tactics which are linked to risk identification and risk mitigation. Carr (2015: 8) stated that the government or the municipality must make provisions for a conducive and legal environment that lowers the value of establishing and performing an enterprise. This includes simplified registration and licensing tactics, appropriate regulations and guidelines, affordable and honest taxation, an increase in the benefits of criminal registration, facilitating access to business consumers, greater beneficial credit terms, legal safety, agreement enforcement, entry to generation and the countrywide legislation that addresses the issue of reputation and protection of agency and employees in the informal economy with a special emphasis on human rights and gender equality. Dovza (2018: 284) stated that children possess entitlements about the continuation of life, safety, growth, and involvement in decision-making processes that may apply to their lives. They also wish to direct choices made on their behalf within the context of their families, schools, and communities (Dovza 2018: 284).

2.8 RECOMMENDATIONS TO SUPPORT THE WELL-BEING OF FEMALE VENDORS AND THEIR CHILDREN

This research aimed to shed light on the difficulties faced by female street vendors and the psycho-social effects street life had on the children of women vendors in the eThekweni district. Women expressed multiple challenges such as lack of proper infrastructure, lack of resources, clean facilities etc. When data showed that a sizeable section of the population was struggling with poverty and unemployment, street vending was often seen as an empowering job for many women (Berry 2010: 88). The goal of this study was to understand the experiences of women street vendors and their children on the streets. Although each participant's street vending experience was determined to be distinct, it was also discovered that the working environment had an impact on street vendors' experiences.

According to Berry (2010: 88), cooperative women's initiative has hastened the development and transformation of their socio-economic situation. Berry (2010: 88) highlighted those women in cooperatives enhance their social roles in society and help reduce the daily difficulties they encounter. Singh (2021: 31) argued that attention to women vendors' physical demands should be given attention too, such as body aches, fatigue, a lack of energy, menstrual discomfort, headaches, and skin rashes. To lessen unfavourable effects, street vendors and others should also have their mental and emotional health taken into consideration (Singh 2021: 31).

According to Gamielien and van Niekerk (2017: 28), occupational therapy professionals should produce data to support health legislation that targets the needs of the public and lessens social inequities. Occupational professionals who are working in the fields of economic independence and economic growth have a chance to consider incorporating patients whom they treat into government-created nurturing settings (Gamielien and van Niekerk 2017: 28). Most of the time, those selling do not have access to sufficient drinking water, suitable washing infrastructure or restrooms. A few street vendors even began their shifts without having a decent bath. Therefore, the authorities should take the required actions to provide them with clean water, suitable sanitation services and other conveniences so that they can raise their quality of existence (Gamielien and van Niekerk 2017: 28).

The necessity of stepping up awareness campaigns to teach children not just about the risks, as most of them do, but also about how to prevent abuse and other problems related to the trade. In addition, more investigations may be required to comprehend the societal and financial traits of the parents and caretakers of the street sellers to teach them how to safeguard the lives of the children (Gamielien and van Niekerk 2017: 28). Rahaman (2019: 13) made the case that the more knowledgeable consumers and vendors are about topics like nourishment and food safety, the more engaged they will be in keeping the establishment tidy and the goods as healthy as possible. Mashudu (2015: 60) argued that to preserve the health of older children and youth, it is crucial to provide access to condoms and to provide health services.

Programs are also required to keep adolescents on the streets actively engaged in a variety of activities. For instance, engaging the youth in activities that better prepare them to handle their challenges on the streets and using sports to channel their energies positively (Mashudu 2015: 60). All of these become crucial because it may not be possible right now to address deficiency and philosophy which are the main drivers of street trading (Omotosho and Ola 2021: 65).

Trading on the sidewalks would become safer and more effective when street vendors are provided with shreds of shelter. The representatives of informal trading and the municipality council should expedite the issuing of trading licences because when products are seized by the police, traders are prevented from making a living since the money they make must be used to pay a fine for the restoration of the goods. Workshops involving the police and informal traders should be organized to foster a good working relationship between the two parties (Mashudu 2015: 61). The government should make careful plans and take appropriate action to create a favourable business environment. There should be some rules and regulations for their vending business to maintain its smooth operation (Mukamba 2021: 124).

Vendors should be subject to rules to prevent them from offering customers unclean food. To create gender-sensitive policies that promote female street vendors, local governments, provincial governments, and the national government must collaborate. Street trading associations, trade combinations, ward councillors, non-governmental organizations, traditional leaders, and other parties attracted to developing these guidelines should also be involved in this process (Mukamba 2021: 125).

2.9 CONCLUSION

This chapter reviewed the literature relevant to the aim of the study. Most of the literature that emerged from the review claimed that resident communities and the survival of the economy depend heavily on street vendors. As a result of many issues, including health risks, low living standards, illiteracy, poverty, and other issues, street vendors are unable to sustain their quality of life (Rahaman 2019: 13). Most of the time, the vendors do not have access to enough clean water, suitable washing facilities, or restrooms.

Several vendors even began their shifts without having a decent bath. Children who are on the streets with their mothers encounter mental and social difficulties, including the lack of necessities and services like food, and clothing, depression, and addiction to drugs. It is because of this, that the government should take the required actions to provide street vendors with clean water, suitable sanitary facilities, and other amenities so they can raise their standard of living. The chapter that follows focuses on research methodology.

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents an outline of the research methodology that was used in conducting the study. It provides a comprehensive strategy for connecting conceptual research issues with feasible and pertinent empirical investigations (Asenahabi 2019: 77). Research methodology provides specific directions for procedures in research (Boru 2018: 2). It often determines the analysis required to achieve the desired results. It explains in detail what information is required, how it will be gathered and analysed, and how it will address the research objectives (Mohajan 2018: 25). The research design, sampling procedures, semi-structured interview data collection methods, data capture procedures, and data analysis procedures are discussed in this chapter. In addition, this chapter examines the researcher's role, reflexivity, and ethical considerations.

3.2 RESEARCH DESIGN

Researchers typically employ qualitative research approaches to answer questions based on participant perspective, meaning and experience (Relacion 2017: 102). Typically, qualitative study data cannot be counted or measured (Hammarberg *et al.* 2016: 499). The researcher used qualitative research methodology for this study. By employing a qualitative technique in an iterative process, researchers can get a deeper understanding of the phenomenon under examination, leading to the identification of significant new insights (Aspers and Corte 2019: 140). Data and visual texts that are significant to people's lives are also collected using qualitative research techniques (Relacion 2017: 107). Qualitative approaches are valuable for identifying aspects such as societal norms, socio-economic status, gender roles, ethnicity, and religion (Mack *et al.* 2016: 2). Small-group discussions are one of the qualitative research approaches mentioned by Rossman and Rallis (2019: 7) for examining beliefs, attitudes, and notions of normative conduct.

According to Moore and Dooly (2017: 4), interpreting qualitative data entails trying to connect disparate events, perceptions, and behaviours by using a comprehensive and contextualized analysis. Gerring (2017: 15) stated that qualitative techniques emphasize particular people, events and circumstances and use natural language. Qualitative techniques also involve purposefully selecting small samples (Gerring 2017: 15). Qualitative research aims to understand each person's perspective about their worldview (Braun and Clarke 2013: 20). Hennink *et al.* (2020: 4) described qualitative research methodology as the ability to understand the significance of the phenomenon and that study participants assign to behaviours, events, and objects.

The advantage of using the qualitative approach is that it provides adequate and detailed data, it also emphasizes the role and relevance of social context. Interviews are conducted quickly and are well-structured, making it easier to compare respondent responses. They can reach a large sample and are simple to reproduce. Adjusted to gather deep and insightful information about a certain area (Queiros et al. 2017: 378). Furthermore, qualitative approach needs only fewer participants to deliver interesting and relevant insights, it can also be carried out in a casual setting. For the current study, the qualitative approach made it possible to receive adequate and necessary data from the participants as the interviews were structured accordingly.

Queiros et al. (2017: 378) argued that qualitative approaches can also have limitations. It is time consuming and comparatively expensive, very rigid and with low flexibility in the response's choice. Queiros et al. (2017: 378) further states that it is difficult to obtain detailed data and preparing an interview can become time consuming. The researcher also faced time limitations when using this approach as the location for the interviews had to be physical and closer to the participants. Due to that, time was consumed. Due to traveling as well, it was expensive.

The study aimed to explore the experiences of women vendors in the eThekwini district and to understand the psychological and social impact of street life on the children of these vendors. Therefore, a qualitative research approach was considered most suitable for the study.

3.3 RESEARCHER AND REFLEXIVITY

Reflexivity “is a process of expanding one’s consciousness to make what has been tacit explicit” (Dodgson 2019: 221). Reflexivity is necessary for qualitative research to identify processes and evaluate one’s assumptions, perspectives, and knowledge (Lazard and McAvoy, 2020: 162). The research process is influenced by the researcher, and through the knowledge generated, it can be impacted (Lazard and McAvoy 2020: 170). Dodgson (2019: 220) highlighted that to produce a rigorous and trustworthy report, it is important to use and report reflexivity. Two aspects will be discussed in this section. Firstly, situating the researcher in this study’s context will provide a clearer understanding of the motivation behind the study. Secondly, describing the means through which reflexivity will be explained.

3.3.1 The researcher in context

The field of child and youth care work (CYCW) is primarily focused on relationship building, care and being sensitive to the needs of children and their families. In the context of the study, exploring the experiences and events of women street vendors and their children requires an adequate understanding of working in the moment. This means that in the process of conducting research, a lot needs to be considered in response to the needs of the participants. As a person who has worked closely with vulnerable children and their families, it is important in the context of this study that their safety and protection is ensured. I have worked and completed practical work as a student in different child and youth care centres. Based on my experience, working with vulnerable children has taught me to be considerate; it has also taught me empathy. One can understand other people’s circumstances when they are willing to put themselves in those people’s shoes. Therefore, as I was interviewing mothers who faced various challenges to provide for their children and families, I was able to practice empathy.

3.3.2 Reflecting through rapport building

Dodgson (2019: 221) stated that the process of reflection should occur early in the research process, as being reflexive takes time, and one gets better at it through each successive encounter. The researcher demonstrated reflexivity by developing rapport with the participants, and through getting to understand a little about them. Working with the families was close to the researcher's heart, especially when a good relationship was built. In this research study, rapport meant creating trust, honesty, and transparency between the researcher and the participants. Qualitative research allows researchers to obtain insights into research participants thoughts and emotions, enabling them to understand the importance that individuals attribute to their experiences (Austin and Sutton 2015: 228). Through this, the researcher was able to track the positive relationships which were built with participants and also tracked the challenges which were encountered.

3.3.3 Reflecting on the research process

Lazard and McAvoy (2020: 167) stated that reflexivity can assist researchers in reflecting on the research process and how the researcher influenced it. The questions "Why study that subject? Why did you choose those specific research questions? and Why adhere to that certain theoretical viewpoint?" are addressed (Lazard and McAvoy, 2020). The current study is the first study conducted by the researcher and being knowledgeable and skilled in working with children and their families, it became a natural area to explore. The aim and objectives of exploring the experiences of women street vendors and the psycho-social effects of street life on children stemmed from the researcher's personal experience. Only once the process began did the researcher realise that studies related to this topic were lacking. This made the study a valuable and significant one.

Before the interviews, it was vital for the researcher to provide the consent forms and explain them to the participants so that the details of the study would be understood by the participants. Researchers must engage in introspection and contemplation both before and throughout their qualitative research endeavours to offer participants and readers a comprehensive understanding and perspective (Mhizha 2021: 226).

To facilitate readers' understanding of the perspectives from which questions were formulated, data was collected and analysed, and results were presented. The researchers had to consider and clearly define their position and subjectivities (worldview, viewpoints) (Austin and Sutton 2015: 232). The researcher has already outlined this.

3.4 STUDY POPULATION

Majid (2018: 3) defined a population as “a specific group of individuals that a study aims to investigate.” A study population refers to the practical interpretation of a target population (Jacobs 2022: 42). The target population refers to a clearly defined set of individuals who can participate in the study and represent the population of interest. The target group must be adequately selective to avoid including volunteers who do not meet the study's requirements, as this would lead to an incorrect representation of the population of interest (Casteel and Bridier 2021: 360).

To ensure clarity and comprehension among researchers and other stakeholders, it is necessary to define the boundaries of the target population. This should be consistent with the population of interest. Defining the boundaries of the target population consistent with the population of interest enables a precise understanding of the composition and magnitude of the population being studied. These aspects were important in this research as they assisted in allocating resources to address the research challenges while also ensuring the investigation's effectiveness.

According to the 2007, Community Survey (Stats SA 2007 cited in Mkhize *et al.* 2013: 12), 3,486,086 people live in the eThekweni municipality. It serves as a transportation and commercial hub (It also boasts Africa's busiest port). Arde (2021: 15) highlighted that there are 45,700 street vendors in the city of Durban who jointly pay the eThekweni municipality millions of rands to sell their wares on the sidewalks. Approximately there are 45,700 street vendors in eThekweni. Only street vendors (mothers) between the ages of 21 and 50 were recruited.

3.5 STUDY SAMPLE

According to Gravetter and Wallnau (2017: 16), a sample is a group of units chosen to reflect the population of interest. The sample will satisfy the requirement of being a representative of the population of interest by creating the appropriate sampling frame and using the appropriate sampling process (Casteel and Bridier, 2021: 350). Twelve people comprised the study's original sample, and three more were added to the research. This made up a total of fifteen people who participated in the study. Sampling is one of the most important elements of a strong study design.

In the context of this research, sampling is the process of selecting a subset of data from a certain population to include in a study (Mitchell *et al.* 2020: 25). Following the analysis of the sample data, conclusions will be drawn about the population of interest quantitatively or qualitatively. There are no formal limitations on the sample size for qualitative research (Shaheen 2019:110). The sample size for qualitative research has no formal limitations and depends on the goals of the study, the problems at hand, the importance and accuracy of the data and the precise research path that can be taken, considering the time and resources available (Shaheen, 2019:110).

As this study was conducted in the eThekweni district, central park area, all women street vendors in this area are referred to as the population. The researcher met each participant at the setting to conduct the interview. The sample size was enough to gather rich and in-depth data and to provide a rich understanding of the experience (Gill 2020: 16). It is not always possible to study the whole population due to its size, inaccessibility and other related limitations (Gill 2020:16). A purposive sample of 15 women vendors from ages 21–50 of different races were recruited. Only participants who met the inclusion criteria were sampled. The participants were selected based on their experience regarding street vending and their children being in their care while vending.

3.6 SAMPLING TECHNIQUE

Rossmann and Rallis (2019: 43) provided a concise definition of sampling “as a method used by researchers to systematically choose a smaller, yet representative, subset of items or individuals from a predetermined population.” These selected subjects serve as the data source for observation or experimentation which are aligned with the objectives of the study.

The study employed a non-probability purposive sampling strategy to select participants who were most likely to provide relevant and valuable information. This approach allowed for the identification and selection of instances that can efficiently utilise limited research resources. There are two types of sampling: non-probability sampling and probability sampling (Jacobs 2022: 43). The study utilised a non-probability sampling approach. Rossman and Rallis (2019: 46) stated that in non-probability sampling, samples are selected on the terms of judgment and convenience of collecting data. Jacobs (2022: 44) defined purposive sampling as a method employed in qualitative research to select participants based on specific features and experiences. Purposive sampling sometimes referred to as judgmental sampling or selective sampling is a technique that is commonly employed when studying a small population that is challenging to access and too diverse to utilise probability sample methods (Hassan 2020: 1).

This sampling methodology facilitated the researcher's identification of mothers who were engaged in the informal sector with children below the age of fifteen. Non-probability sampling methods are entirely discretionary. Purposive sampling can be useful when a population is rare, difficult to reach or has a specific characteristic that is significant for the research question. Researchers choose participants who possess specific traits to gather valuable information that informs their research (Hassan 2020: 2). Purposive sampling sometimes begins with one or more participants and gradually continues based on referrals from those participants. Researchers widely employ this sampling strategy in qualitative research, particularly when studying hard-to-reach participants (Nikolopoulou 2023: 2). Qualitative research designs may encompass several sequential phases, wherein each subsequent phase is constructed upon the foundation of the preceding one. Various sample approaches may be necessary for each phase in such cases (Nikolopoulou 2023: 2).

Hassan (2020: 3) defined purposive sampling as a versatile method that may be customised to fulfil different objectives and research inquiries. It allowed researchers to select volunteers based on certain criteria. Hassan (2020:3) additionally asserted that it is a beneficial method for scrutinising complex occurrences or populations that are challenging to access. This sampling technique enables you to access these populations while taking ethical considerations into account. This encompasses safeguarding their privacy and guaranteeing confidentiality and security.

Hassan (2020: 4) suggested employing purposeful sampling in research projects to ensure the voices and experiences of marginalized or vulnerable populations are heard and taken into consideration. Alkassin *et al.* (2019: 2) argued that this kind of sampling has advantages and disadvantages of its own. Its primary drawback is that because there is no method for estimating sampling error, it prevents generalisation from the sample to the population. Once more, it does not ensure that the participants are accurately representative.

Non-probability sampling, however, offers a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of the topic under study. It saves time because it is also less expensive. By employing well-defined inclusion and exclusion criteria, the disadvantages of non-probability sampling can be mitigated. Renjith *et al.* (2021: 3) claimed that purposeful sampling is helpful in these situations because it provides the researcher with a range of non-probability sample options. Deliberate sampling is a common practice in qualitative research which is aimed at identifying and selecting cases with the greatest amount of information to optimise resource utilisation (Alkassin *et al.* 2019: 2). Purposive sampling comprises selecting people that meet predetermined criteria and identifying a population based on those characteristics to boost the reliability of the data (Renjith *et al.* 2021: 4).

To increase the depth (as opposed to breadth) of comprehension, a relatively small and purposefully selected sample may be used in a qualitative study (Campbell *et al.* 2020: 655). Initially, the study sought out twelve mothers as participants of this study, as research continued three participants were added. Data was gathered until saturation. Data saturation occurs when data analysis does not yield any new information. This redundancy alerts researchers to the possibility that data collection may end (Trotter and Faulkner 2017: 2).

3.6.1 Sampling Process

The study used a purposive sampling technique to select the participants as the researcher aimed to obtain in-depth information from these participants. Therefore, the researcher selected female vendors from the central area, eThekweni district.

The selection was based on the experiences and knowledge of street vending as well as those mothers who are vending with children in their care. These types of participants were considered information-rich cases for the study. However, the sample for this study were women who are mothers of children aged 7–15 and who have been in the street vending industry for sufficient time to have enough knowledge regarding the study objectives. The Durban University of Technology's Institutional Research Ethics Committee granted ethical approval. The ward council approved the selection of female street vendors because of the study's interest (Annexure 1B).

Step 1: The researcher went up to the eThekweni Central Area Ward Council. This was done to inform the officials about the planned study and solicit their participation. They received a thorough description of the study's goals and advantages. They learned about the kinds of participants that are required for involvement as well.

Step 2: To find women street vendors with experience and children impacted by street vending, the councillor permitted me to carry out the selection process. The researcher politely introduced herself and made small talk with the women. Then, the researcher explained the goal of the study to them.

Participants were given the freedom to choose whether to participate in the study in a courteous manner (Annexure 2). After consenting to participate, each mother was subjected to an informal screening interview. The researcher completed this at the closest park with permission from the council members. The researcher was able to ascertain their willingness to take part in the study in this way. All participants received an information letter outlining the aims, objectives, and benefits of the study. The letter focused on the significance of informed consent and the participant's unimpeded right to withdraw from the study at any moment. They were told that no known negative consequences from taking part.

Every participant was told that confidentiality of the data and anonymity would be ensured and that their identity would be safeguarded via a pseudonym. Each participant was subsequently informed that the interview would occur in the closest park. The Ward Councillor and the researcher planned the location of the interviews in a park. Additionally, participants were told that an alternate appointment would be arranged if necessary.

3.7 DATA COLLECTION TOOL

For the study, an interview schedule was used as the data collection tool (Appendix D). This was the most appropriate tool as it provided a great opportunity to talk and focus on the participant's views (Wangier 2020: 34). A large part of the interview questions that were set out allowed participants to describe their physical, social, and psychological experiences, including their fears and anxieties of being on the streets and other different challenges they faced. The interview questions were developed and based on the objectives and research questions of the study. During the initial write-up of the interview schedule, the researcher ensured that the questions were not too abrupt or invasive and appropriate for the participants. Interviews were scheduled for approximately an hour.

3.8 EXCLUSION AND INCLUSION CRITERIA

The exclusion and inclusion criteria identify the participants in a consistent, reliable, uniform and objective manner (Homberger and Rangu 2020: 12).

3.8.1 Inclusion criteria

Making sure the participants fit the requirements for selection was the first stage. These are referred to as inclusion criteria or the grounds on which an individual could or could not be allowed to take part in a study.

According to Homberger and Rangu (2020: 12), inclusion criteria includes "the various requirements an individual must fulfil to take part in the study." For this study the inclusion criteria included:

- Women aged 21-50
- Female street vendors with at least one child aged 7-15 years.
- Indigenous-speaking participants could be included.
- Those willing to participate.

3.8.2 Exclusion criteria

Exclusion criteria are characteristics of an individual or their environment that could conflict with or undermine the study's objectives (Hombberger and Rangu 2020: 12). Exclusion criteria included mothers who were below 21 and above 60 are excluded.

- Female street vendors with children above 15 years.
- Those unwilling to participate.

3.8.3 Recruitment process

As a recruitment method, the researcher initially created posters that contained information about the study, what it was about, the sample required, and relevant criteria (Appendix C). The researcher physically provided a letter requesting permission to conduct the study and showed the posters to the ward councillor who approved it and returned a formal signed letter of permission (see Appendix A). The researcher was not satisfied with the response she received from women vendors. The researcher then decided to physically recruit participants by moving from area to area and selecting those who qualified for the study and had experience in street vending. The ward councillor was made aware of this, and it was approved. During recruitment, most women vendors showed willingness to participate, especially the younger ones. Those who were willing to participate were evaluated to see if they fit the necessary criteria for the study. No coercion was used during this personal recruitment drive.

As the researcher selected the participants, those who met the criteria and were willing to participate received an information letter (Appendix B), a letter of consent (Appendix C), and an interview schedule (Appendix D). Some documents were provided on the day of the interviews such as the interview schedule and the consent form. After recruitment, the researcher had to set up interviews with the participants.

For those who agreed, an interview was set up with a date, time, and location convenient to the participants. The researcher made sure to set up interviews that were convenient for the participants.

3.9 DATA SATURATION

In qualitative research, the concept of saturation has gained considerable recognition (Hennink *et al.* 2020: 6). Saturation in qualitative research is a condition for ceasing data collecting and/or analysis (Saunders *et al.* 2018: 10). Trotter and Faulkner (2017: 3) defined data saturation “as the point in the research process when no new information is uncovered in data processing, and this redundancy signals to researchers that data collecting may “alt”. When a study is saturated, a researcher can be reasonably confident that additional data gathering would provide comparable results and support emergent themes and conclusions (Hennink *et al.* 2020: 6).

Researchers should explain how, when and to what extent they achieved data saturation when they may say that they have gathered enough information to carry out their intended research saturation (Lowe *et al.* 2018: 192). Data saturation is attained in interviews when the researcher starts to hear the same remarks repeatedly. So, instead of continuing to gather data, it is time to begin analysing what has already been gathered (Saunders *et al.* 2018: 10).

3.10 STUDY SETTING

The nature of the study setting, context, environment, and logistics can impact the execution of the research study (Majid 2018: 5). The researcher conducted the study in eThekwini. However, interviews were conducted in the local park closest to each vendor’s stall. There are many different areas where women street vendors work in eThekwini. However, the researcher chose the eThekwini, central area, as it was convenient.

3.11 DATA COLLECTION PROCESS

3.11.1 Semi-structured interviews

Semi-structured interviews are defined as “interviews which are conducted through a set number of preordained questions with a degree of adaptability in both the run of questions and conceivable answers to carry out the inquiries about the need to discover in-depth data” (Wangier 2020: 35).

The researcher used semi-structured interviews to get opinions on a certain subject or from important sources, either for contextual information or to gain an institutional viewpoint (Brown and Danaher 2017: 76). Researchers frequently employ in-depth interviews to gain a comprehensive understanding of a condition, experience, or event from an individual's subjective viewpoint (Rossman and Rallis 2019: 7).

According to Wangier (2020: 34), semi-structured interviews promote thoughtful contemplation and astute development concerning the broader ethical, methodological, and theoretical aspects of research. Furthermore, semi-structured interviews can take place over the phone and in person using several computer-assisted interviewing techniques (Brown and Danaher 2017: 78). Participants completed their answers concerning the interview questions. The researcher made sure they had the right data for the study by interviewing the mothers (women vendors).

Conducting face-to-face interviews proved to be the most efficient method for gathering data that facilitated the examination and comprehension of the diverse obstacles faced by women vendors, as well as the psychological and social impacts of street vending on children. Mhizha (2021: 228) suggested that the interview should take place in a tranquil and secluded environment, ensuring participants' ease and confidentiality. This setting promotes an open and focused discussion on pertinent subjects, free from any disturbances. Skilled researchers leverage the unique advantages of different interview forms to establish a strong connection with the study participants, regardless of the communication method used. This, in turn, enhances the overall effectiveness of the interviews and promotes mutually advantageous outcomes (Mhizha 2021: 229).

Semi-structured interviews provide the benefit of being convenient for conducting comprehensive interviews. The researcher can thoroughly examine the responses critically (Kakilla 2021: 2). The interviewers can merge different themes to promote adaptability. A researcher does have the ability to discuss a multitude of topics, employing various themes. Furthermore, the semi-structured interview's participatory aspect allows the interviewees to freely express themselves, providing flexibility in the process (Mhizha 2021: 230).

Also, some researchers say that the creation of flexible coding methods for computer-assisted qualitative data analysis can produce accurate results from interview sample sizes of more than 30 people, especially when used with themes that have been well-coded (Deterding and Waters 2018: 15). This, however, was not used in the current study. These findings suggest that the goals of the study can be achieved by obtaining detailed information. On the other hand, inadequate or insufficient responses would ruin the dialogue (Kakilla 2021: 2). Semi-structured interviews can more frequently produce work of poor-quality meaning from a dull conversation when the interviewer gets distracted or attempts to extrapolate the unanticipated (Deterding and Waters 2018: 15).

3.12 PROCEDURE FOR COLLECTING DATA

3.12.1 The process followed for collecting data.

According to a qualitative study, context is crucial for interpreting data (Relacion 2017: 112). During the data collection phase, the researcher interviewed participants at Durban Central Park as part of the research process. The researcher conducted the interviews in English, although occasionally individuals expressed certain idioms in their tongue, primarily IsiZulu. The researcher recorded the interviews in English; however, translation was required in some interviews while the transcription process was underway. The length of the session and the fact that it would be audio recorded were both disclosed to the participants.

A promise was made to the participants that their names shall be concealed with pseudonyms to maintain anonymity. Furthermore, participants were assured that their data would be securely stored for five years and subsequently deleted. Participants were informed that they would have to take an hour or less off from their place of work to attend interviews. A schedule was created for interviews to ensure participants did not have to leave their stalls unattended. For example, vendors who worked early hours and ended their shifts early were scheduled for interviews after their shifts. Another schedule was created for vendors who ended their shifts late, allowing the interviews to be conducted early with them. This was to avoid vendors losing their work hours, abandoning their stalls, or losing their trading licenses. Participants were interviewed individually to ensure that confidentiality was maintained.

Appendix B contains the attached gatekeeper letter. A letter of information and the consent form were given to eligible women vendors concerning the study and was attached (see Appendix B and Appendix C). The community ward councillor is permitted to access the community. With the permission granted by the ward councillor, interviews were, therefore, held at the closest local park.

The researcher showed respect to each participant throughout the sessions (Austin and Sutton 2020: 230). Given the researcher's history, the researcher found it easy to relate to the participants replies. The social context of both the researcher and the participants, encompassing their ethnicity, sexuality, and social standing, significantly influenced the conduct of the research (Majid 2018: 10). Due to the shared social background between the researcher and participants, it was easier for the researcher to establish rapport with the participants and foster a secure environment where participants could freely interpret their experiences without fear of judgement.

The researcher informed the participants about the topic and the ethical issues surrounding it. The fact that the researcher did not take an authoritative stance and was honest with the participants made it easy for them to share their experiences. Due to her professional reputation, the researcher put herself in the participants' shoes by assuming that she too has difficulties when having to look after a child while vending. It was discovered that this openness benefited both the participant's comfort level and the revelation of data. The researcher and the participants established an empathic bond in line with the feminist research method for gathering information (Austin and Sutton 2020: 231).

3.13 DATA ANALYSIS

The transcribed data was analysed by using the thematic data analysis technique. Castleberry and Nolen (2018: 807) defined thematic data analysis as a method for identifying, analysing, and interpreting patterns of meaning themes within qualitative data. As part of the stage, open coding, the researchers took the time to read all the interview transcripts, assign a code to each pertinent question, and afterwards assign a code to every pertinent participant response.

Axial coding is the process in which researchers continuously read over interview transcripts to look for any statements that might fall into any of the categories. The third phase was a little more analytical as the researcher looked for any themes (thematic analysis) within the codes. For instance, there were so many than one equivalent answer to one question.

In the third stage, the researcher focused on looking for connections among the answers and whether they were given in a particular order, based on the questions posed. The researcher had to read through the remaining original information at the fourth and final step of coding to either provide clarification of the notion or create an analysis. The researcher was selectively coding the data at this point to look for inconsistent evidence. The researcher needed to refrain from looking for the data at this final step of data coding that confirmed their personal beliefs about the primary conclusions; this is known as motivated reasoning.

3.13.1 Process of data analysis

The researcher verbatim translated the recorded interviews into written texts after each interview. The participants real names were obscured in the transcripts to safeguard their privacy. Usernames have also been given to them to conceal their identities, although they still revealed background information about them. The 'ser's text was empty. The transcripts of the interviews were finished within 24 hours of their recording. The objective of this expeditious transcription technique was to provide the researcher with ample time to acquaint herself with the material. Each iteration of reviewing the procedures as part of an ongoing process achieved a higher level of analysis. The literature review instructed the researcher to focus on specific topics about the study's subject during the analysis phase.

Additionally, the data analysis yielded information regarding relevant literature that required further examination. While evaluation primarily focuses on the verbal aspects of communication as a means of expression (Austin and Sutton 2020: 235), it was important to note that this study specifically examined the written form of transcribed verbal communication.

To avoid doing superfluous examinations that would not contribute to the objectives of the study, the researcher consistently evaluated the questions asked during the interviews and the responses provided by the participants.

Before initiating the analysis, the researcher reviewed the data to obtain a broad understanding of the information and an awareness of the conceptual frameworks of the different participants. The researcher carefully observed how the participants attributed importance to the ideas being studied, documenting each distinct approach. To eliminate any possibility of detecting novel patterns or interpretations in the text, the researcher meticulously examined and reviewed each technique multiple times. The researcher discovered parallels between how the participants-built thoughts and gave meaning to those constructs throughout the preliminary investigation, examining the various procedures. Finding similar structures or interpretations that arose out of the numerous interviews was the next part of the analysis.

After categorising and identifying variations and patterns, the researcher consolidated the different constructions to understand how individuals attributed meaning to their situations. At this juncture, the researcher endeavoured to present a comprehensive and holistic perspective on the emerging discourses or constructions. To see if any new discourses would emerge during the study's third phase, three further interviews were done. The researcher ended the interview procedure when she believed that the amount of material gathered had reached a saturation threshold. To create an understanding of the results, the literature was also continually reviewed. In addition to ensuring the consistency and reliability of the results, the data was analysed as interviews were completed (to be discussed in the section that follows). According to Reid and Koglbauer (2018: 63), qualitative data analysis is participatory and frequently takes place concurrently with data gathering.

3.14 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

These are core features; principled concerns can come up at any stage of the study procedure in qualitative research practices (Reid and Koglbauer 2018: 66).

Study ethics are an essential fragment of research procedures and are not measured against established directory processes (Reid and Koglbauer 2018: 66). Moreover, Vanclay. (2017: 253) stated that ethical principles are established based on the benefits to society and the protections, well-being, and willingness of the participants. Ethical considerations are “fundamental to practical research and therefore create a keystone of method training in the social sciences” (Arifin 2018: 30).

Moreover, Vanclay (2017: 253) stated that “ethical principles are established based on the benefits to society and the protections, well-being, and willingness of the participants.” According to Reid and Koglbauer (2018: 70), ethical issues in qualitative investigations which involve human connection, are an ongoing process that extends beyond the first permission. A responsive method is necessary for responding to ethical difficulties that arise “in the time in which the researcher examines his or her presumptions and motivations” (Unger 2018: 2). According to Reid and Koglbauer (2018: 68), ethical consideration is widely known and governed by the concept that procedural ethics which includes getting preliminary authorization for research investigations is important. Therefore, the researcher was guided by the Institutional Research Ethics Committee (IREC) at the Durban University of Technology.

Specific ethical considerations were considered to ensure that the study was conducted appropriately. Each participant provided a signed agreement to be interviewed for the research and to demonstrate active involvement to adhere to ethical requirements for conducting research. After the researcher approached the participants and provided a clear explanation of the objective and methods of the study, the participants willingly consented to participate in the study.

According to Unger (2018: 2), excessively formalised methods of giving permission should be eschewed in favour of developing connections that uphold participants' continuous ethical respect. The participants had given informed consent before interviews through a letter of information (Appendix B). They were also asked to sign a letter of consent confirming that they had been informed about the study and were willing to participate. The researcher guaranteed that the individuals were not deceived in any way. In addition, the researcher assured the participants that their information would be kept confidential, with only the specific details of individual sessions being shared with the supervisor.

The participants were provided with information regarding the objective of the study and were allowed to withdraw from the interview at any point if they wished to do so. All participants willingly consented to having their interviews recorded and had no objections to this process.

Furthermore, given the intimate nature of the research interview's content, the researcher deemed it necessary to highlight the confidentiality of the material and build trust with the participants at the beginning of the interviews. During the study, the researcher not only explained the objective but also provided information about her professional background and shared personal anecdotes and experiences related to her work with children and their families. As a result of the increased trust that was created, the participants felt more comfortable sharing their knowledge and experiences of dealing with children and their families. During the debriefing session that followed the interviews, both the interviewees and the researcher engaged in a discussion regarding the interview methodology and its subsequent impacts. The objective of the debriefing was to ensure that the participants did not experience any emotional or psychological harm because of the interview.

Afterwards, none of the individuals appeared to require counselling. The participants expressed their appreciation for the conversations, therefore, highlighting the immediate and significant benefits of the study. The fact that the participants interacted extensively during the dialogues shows that the interview method gave them the freedom to share their experiences in a private, judgement-free setting, as it allowed them to express their feelings. This experience may have even been therapeutic for some of the participants. In a culture where women's speeches are often ignored and marginalised, this is especially important.

The researcher expects that this study will add to the limited body of knowledge on women's street vendors and their children in South African and worldwide literature, as described in Chapter 1. While the findings cannot be universally applied, there is an expectation that they will have a positive impact on society by providing insight into the challenges faced by Black women with specific skills in South Africa. This knowledge will contribute to a better understanding of their experiences by society.

3.14.1 Consent

According to Weerasinghe (2018: 40), “consent is negotiating trust between the two parties, researcher, and the participant”. Respecting participants as ‘persons’ including those who are dependents such as children is vital. Arifin (2018: 30) highlighted that “the process of obtaining consent consists of the following: consent should be given freely, subjects should understand what is being asked of them, and involved persons must be competent to consent”.

This indicates that to take part in a study, a participant must be sufficiently notified about the research, understand the material, and have the flexibility to determine if they want to join or not. For this study, the researcher made it clear that the study was for academic purposes and their participation was voluntary. No one was forced to participate in the study. As a researcher, a letter seeking permission (Appendix A) to conduct the study was sent to the community councillor. Informed consent (Appendix C) was obtained from participants who had decided to participate.

3.14.2. Right to privacy

Hycner (2015: 328) defined privacy as “a person having control over the extent, timing, and circumstances of sharing oneself, physically, behaviourally, or intellectually with others. Privacy holds certain data collection procedures, such as participatory and personal information confidential (Hycner 2015: 328). For this study, participants were informed of their rights to privacy through the letter of information. Therefore, their real names were not used. For consideration of ethical issues, the semi-structured interview questions were designed such that they were only relevant to the study. Participants were not requested to provide names or other ways to identify themselves. The researcher ensured that participants were given respect and were fully entitled to what they wanted and did not agree on.

3.14.3. Confidentiality

The confidentiality in the interviews was managed carefully during the interview session, data analysis, and dissemination of the findings. For this study, participants were informed of their rights to confidentiality through the letter of information. Confidentiality was maintained by ensuring privacy and keeping participant's identities from being exposed. In this manner, the researcher highlighted the importance of maintaining the confidentiality of the participants in terms of their participation in the study and terms of the access and handling of the data collected, emphasising that the data would be accessible only to the researcher and the lecturer responsible for grading their research study. In this regard, the participant's real names were not used. The semi-structured interview questions were structured in such a way that questions only related to the research topic were asked, and the participants were not required to give any names or any form of identification.

3.15 Trustworthiness

According to Nowell *et al.* (2017: 3), to provide meaningful and practical findings, qualitative research must be carried out rigorously and methodically as it gains recognition and importance. Qualitative researchers should document, systematize, and disclose the techniques of analysis in sufficient detail to allow the audience to assess the processes of credibility if they want to believe that the data analysis was carried out in a precise, consistent, and comprehensive fashion. One of those shared realities albeit a subjective one where readers and authors could discover overlap in their productive processes is the reliability of the research. There are four general criteria in their approach to trustworthiness. These are credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability (Stahl and King 2020: 27).

Nowell *et al.* (2017: 3) claimed that credibility refers to the appropriateness of participant's interpretations and the researcher's depiction of them. This study ensured that all information provided was credible and transparent. The participant's information was not changed or altered. The researcher maintained credibility by doing member checking where participants along with the researcher had the opportunity to test the findings and interpretations regarding the study.

Transferability is defined as “the generalizability of inquiry” (Nowell *et al.* 2017: 4). Transferability is achieved when the researcher can ensure that the research findings of the study can be utilised by other researchers in different regions. The women street vendors and their children on the street having similar experiences and challenges in this study can contribute to achieving transferability. This can serve as evidence of what the women's street vendors and their children in the eThekweni district faced. The in-depth information gathered for the current study and the structured and conducted nature of the study assured transferability in exploring the experiences of women street vendors and the psycho-social effects of street life on the children of women vendors in the eThekweni district.

Dependability encompasses the participant's estimation of results, understanding, and commendations of the study (Nowell *et al.* 2017: 4). For this study, dependability was ensured through consistency in terms of how data is analysed, and the process used to make it clear. Hence, through thematic analysis, the researcher was able to ensure consistency in the interpretation of the data.

Confirmability concerns the aspects of neutrality (Korstjens and Moser 2018: 122). To ensure confirmability, the researcher had to make sure she could answer any question that may be raised about the study. This may be in terms of theoretical, methodological, and analytical choices made regarding the study. Research ethics are a vital segment of the research procedure and are not restricted to creating consistent procedures (Korstjens and Moser 2018: 122).

3.16. CONCLUSION

This chapter discussed methodology as a vital part of conducting and reporting the findings of a study. The researcher highlighted qualitative research methodology and its advantages in terms of conducting a research study. The purpose of this study was highlighted, thus further providing, and maintaining guidance concerning the findings of the data that was collected in this study. In terms of data analysis, thematic data analysis was useful in developing codes and themes necessary to analyse and understand the collected data. In addition, the study utilized semi-structured interviews to gather comprehensive information regarding the experiences of women street vendors and their children.

The research found that the thematic data analysis strategy allowed a better understanding of the data and how to arrange the information provided accordingly. Ethical considerations were lastly reviewed, as these are important factors in working with and dealing with participants and handling the data collected for the study. The next chapter will focus on analysing the data and discussing the findings.

CHAPTER FOUR: ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the data collected from interviews with women street vendors and discusses the findings made. The study aimed to explore the experiences of women vendors and the psycho-social effects of street life on the children of women vendors in the eThekweni district. The study focussed on five objectives, namely, to understand the experiences and challenges faced by women vendors in the eThekweni district, to explore what risks children face on the street while in the care of their mothers, to enquire how these children's physical and psycho-social well-being is affected by having to be on the street while their mothers vend, to understand the support systems and mechanisms that may enable safety and well-being of women vendors and their children, and to make recommendations that can support the well-being of female vendors and their children on the streets.

Semi-structured interviews were conducted face-to-face, using an interview schedule (Appendix F) as a guide to collect data. The data was analysed using thematic data analysis, and the themes, as well as the sub-themes, were developed. In the sections that follow, the participant's demographic profiles are described together with the process of data collection. Lastly, a presentation of the findings made is detailed.

4.2 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES

The demographic profiles are presented in the table below. Table 1 presents the details of the research study participants.

Table 1: Demographic profiles of participants

Participant Identifier	Age range	Gender	Number of Children	Race	Area of residence
A	23	Female	1	Black	Umlazi
B	38	Female	2	Black	Adams
C	48	Female	4	Black	Pinetown
D	54	Female	4	Black	KwaMashu
E	41	Female	3	Black	Umlazi
F	44	Female	5	Black	Berea
G	28	Female	1	Black	Illovo
H	36	Female	2	Black	Verulam
I	44	Female	2	Black	Verulam
J	51	Female	4	Black	Umlazi
K	45	Female	2	Black	Pinetown
M	36	Female	3	Black	Inanda
N	26	Female	1	Coloured	Pinetown
O	42	Female	2	Black	Verulam
P	33	Female	2	Coloured	Umlazi

4.2.1 Summary of the Participant's Demographic Profile

Fifteen participants participated in this research study. All participants were women street vendors aged between 21-50. Only female street vendors were included in this study. The category of these women street vendors included those residing around the eThekweni district and who had sufficient experience in street vending. The racial demographics included thirteen black female participants and two-coloured female participants. All these participants had at least one or more children aged between 7-15 years. These are the children they take with them when they are vending. Most of the older mothers (street vendors) had more than one child who had the experience of being raised on the streets while their mothers vend. The younger mothers had one or two children.

4.3 THE PROCESS OF DATA ANALYSIS

The researcher used thematic data analysis to systematically analyse and interpret the data collected and was able to develop themes. After each interview, the recordings were verbatim transcribed and repeatedly examined (Castleberry and Nolen 2018: 807). The researcher made notes on the data, including reflections, while reading the transcripts a few times (Reid and Koglbauer 2018: 4). The purpose of data analysis was to extract useful information and decide based on data analysed (Islam 2020: 10).

Moreover, common words, phrases, or themes were underlined and noted in the interview transcripts using coding notes (Castleberry and Nolen 2018: 807). The coding procedure led to the creation of themes (Reid and Koglbauer 2018: 4). Several developing themes and patterns were found after further data analysis, using the interview questions and research objectives as the starting topics. Connections and overlaps that required to be assessed, analysed, and interpreted considering the study objectives were found when themes were formed and recognized (Castleberry and Nolen 2018: 808). The researcher eliminated information from the analysis that was not pertinent to the objectives.

4.4 DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

This section presents the findings of the study and the discussions. The data has been divided into six themes and nineteen sub-themes. These are presented in the table below.

Table 2: Themes and sub-themes

Theme 1: Motivation for street vending	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of employment and poverty 2. Lack of education 3. The need to support a family
Theme 2: Challenges faced by women street vendors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Competition and conflicts between street vendors and authorities. 2. Violence and Crime 3. Lack of proper infrastructure and a lack of resources 4. Financial challenges 5. Inequality towards women vendors
Theme 3: Street vending and Childcare	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Early to rise. 2. Fears for the safety of children 3. Loss of customers
Theme 4: The effects of street life on children of women vendors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Physical effects 2. Psychological effects 3. Social effects

Theme 5: Risk factors faced by children on the street	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accidents 2. Kidnapping
Theme 6: Support systems to protect children and their mothers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The need for facilities to keep children safe. 2. Support from the authorities 3. Creating a union for women vendors

Each theme and sub-theme will be discussed below and evidenced by verbatim excerpts from participant interviews.

4.4.1 THEME 1: MOTIVATION FOR STREET VENDING

The first theme was concerned with understanding why women chose street vending and how they got into the business, in the eThekweni district. The theme had three sub-themes namely, (i) lack of employment and poverty, (ii) lack of education, lastly (iii) the need to support family.

4.4.1.1 Sub-theme 1: Lack of employment and poverty

The first sub-theme derived from the data reflected a lack of employment and poverty. This was one of the main reasons that women street vendors chose to do street vending. Most women vendors reflected that the advertisements through newspapers for the spaces available got them the opportunity to do street vending for a living. Participants expressed this as follows:

A- *"It was advertised on paper, after that I went to the places where available stalls were posted. I was then introduced to the committee; they wrote me on the list to be submitted to the eThekweni municipality and I was called to say I have a space for trading.*

B- *"It has been a long time since I finished school not finding a job, I kept on trying but there was no luck. I decided rather than sitting waiting to get a job, let me find other ways of getting money and making a living for myself."*

C- *"I applied for the stall, I got a permit, and I was introduced to a committee because everything here starts with the committee you don't just make decisions."*

B- *"I studied, studied and studied and graduated, then I saw that I couldn't find a job and I decided to start street trading."*

C- *"There were no opportunities, I got tired of applying and not being employed then I decided to come sell."*

D- *"I started selling long time ago helping my mother during holidays. You find that when it was holidays, I would sell ice-cream, and she would sell fruits. As time progressed, my mother went old she than sat down and I had to continue where she left of. That's how I got into street vending. However, I tried getting a proper job as I thought I was young for this, but I had no luck."*

E- *"I have tried to apply many times, but I couldn't get a job."*

G- *There were no better opportunities, there are no jobs. I been applying for jobs and physically going and looking but I had nothing to find."*

J- It was applying and not finding a job, then I saw that there is a potential here in the street and that the reason I got in.”

From the data collected the researcher was able to establish that women street vendors of eThekweni, had a similar reason for choosing street vending. The primary reason was a lack of employment and poverty. During data collection, the researcher observed that most women street vendors are young women approximately around the age of 26-35. For most of them, unemployment created a need for finance, hence they resorted to street vending. Findings established from data revealed that women street vendors got into the business by applying for their stalls and were introduced to committees and street vending authorities. Most women street vendors revealed that many have made attempts to find employment but have been unsuccessful. Some expressed that unemployment became a strain and they got tired of applying for jobs and therefore pursued street vending. For most women vendors a lack of employment and poverty were a major reason.

For participants around the age of 50, street vending was not a choice as they grew up vending with their mothers. They had to continue where their mothers left off. Even young mothers who had gone through to secondary phase of school and had studied and graduated, stayed-at-home and could not find jobs. Women street vendors admitted that unemployment was the major reason why they resorted to street vending.

According to Altman (2020: 158), the unemployment problem in South Africa is not a recent phenomenon. The employment rate has been stagnant and failing since the early 1980's. This confirms why most women are street vendors. This includes the young youth of South Africa. Street vending seems to be a source of income for most women who cannot find jobs but trying to make a living. Muthwa (2021:1) highlighted that South Africa's unemployment rate is at an all-time high, with 7.2 million South Africans without jobs. This means 32,5% of the country's citizens are unemployed. This number of unemployed people continues to rise. It was also confirmed that women accounted for 34% of the employment rate (Muthwa 2021: 1).

A study done by Ngomane (2020: 383) in Mpumalanga, Mbombela municipality using sixty participants found that most women in Mbombela chose street vending due to unemployment and to eliminate hunger and poverty in their households. Ramasamy (2019: 8) noted that many countries are still unable to create a modern economy that can provide suitable employment opportunities, due to the rapid growth population. Women in the eThekweni district, engaged in informal economic activities to make a living and obtain daily subsistence. Therefore, poor family income or families without income were forced to search for a means of survival to meet family needs. Street trading develops as an unconventional alternative to low-paying formal employment and a response to economic opportunity, a preference for independence, and other factors (Sassen *et al.* 2018: 3).

4.4.1.2 Sub-theme 2: Lack of education

The second sub-theme derived from the data reflected that a lack of education was another reason for engaging in street vending. Some women in eThekweni did not possess any former educational qualifications, with only four participants who completed high school. Participants stated:

D- "I did go to school, however, I had to not continue as my parents died. I had to continue selling, as I had no qualifications to get a proper job."

H- "I never got the opportunity to pursue my schooling, that is why I am selling fruits here. I wish I had the opportunity to go varsity maybe I would have got something better."

I- "I started selling at a very young age, I had to take over from my parents. There were many of us and all of us at home ever went to school, we had to make sure that we survived every day."

K- "Education was never put forward at home, when one was old enough around age 12, we were forced to start working. At home, selling has been a source of survival to us from a long time ago."

O- "I have known trading all my life, and through this, I have been able to survive. I wish I would have got to know something else. Like the opportunity to study and go to university maybe life would be better."

Most of the women street vendors who were interviewed did not have the opportunity to get a proper education and acquire skills that the formal sector required. Hence, the reason for street vending. Out of the fifteen participants interviewed, a third expressed that a lack of education was a factor that made them choose street vending. For some participants, education was not an end goal. Some participants interviewed were older participants who were raised in the 80's, whose families had believed in handwork, survival, and independence of their young children. Based on the responses of some women vendors, children would start working at the age of twelve and during the weekend, they would help their mothers or fathers vend. Most women vendors did not get the opportunity to go to school. If they did, they never finished high school or got the opportunity to go to university and gain more skills. All they were taught was to street vend and they did just that when it was time for them to take over.

Jundi *et al.* (2022: 9) stated that a lack of education is another reason that people engage in street vending. The informal sector is mostly joined by women who did not get the opportunity to attend school and women who dropped out of school (Mogobe 2020: 61). It is difficult for less educated people to get jobs in the formal sector, so they must work or get jobs in the informal sector to survive (Jundi *et al.* 2022: 9). Street vending needs fewer professional skills and human capital resources and is therefore, an option for those who have less resources to invest (Tufa 2020: 17). The trade sector is an important part of the economy, as it employs many less educated people and acts as a shock absorber in the livelihoods and earnings of the disadvantaged (Tufa 2020: 17).

4.4.1.3 Sub-theme 3: The Need to support a family.

The third sub-theme focused on the need to support a family. This led women to street vending. The participants said as follows:

F- "My late brother got me a space here to work, I have been working here for a long time to support my siblings and my children. Right now, through this business I support my children and my brother's children since he is no more, they all go to school together."

D- "I pursued selling because as I was growing up, I ended up having children. I now have responsibilities and needs. I needed to have money coming in, so that's why I am here, to support my kids."

Others mentioned they got into street vending, mostly during COVID-19, as most of their family members lost their jobs. They were forced to plan, as to how they would make their earnings to take care of their families. Participants shared as follows:

N- "My baby daddy lost his job during COVID-19. At that time, I had a newborn baby to take care of. It was difficult. That was when I thought of using my cooking skills, and that was how I got into street vending. I started selling vetkoek up until I was able to get my own stall."

M- "My second reason is I needed money so I could take care of my child. You know fathers don't support their children; I saw that it was best to go open a table."

F- "I became a street vendor due to no source of income at home. I had to put food on the table when no one else could. The no-job situation also in South Africa did not help at all."

Street vending served as a source of income for many women street vendors in eThekweni. It was a source that allowed women street vendors to be able to take care of their families and a whole household. Through the income generated by selling on the streets, their children were able to grow and develop. Street vending paid for their needs and enabled them to send their children to school. Street vendors reflected that they grew up on the streets and were familiar with it, as their mothers were breadwinners through street vending.

This was the only business they knew that assisted them financially and was able to provide for their families. These women street vendors have now taken over from their mothers to continue supporting their children as well. COVID-19 also played a huge part in bringing financial distress to families. They had more responsibilities including childcare, as most people lost their jobs. One participant reflected that street vending was one of the options they had to resort to as they needed money to take care of their children's needs.

The informal economic activity, especially women's street vending, provides an earning to families with small incomes for livelihoods. It provides for families who are dependent on the little family income they have and on which the whole family members depend. In addition, livelihood incomes are important for those with little amount of income to support their family member's daily subsistence at the household level. In less privileged households in developing countries, most women street vendors are breadwinners (Tufa 2020: 17). Some of the women need additional income to support their family which is dependent on the small amount of income from the family members (Tufa 2020: 25). The financial circumstances of these disadvantaged households were one of the reasons why some participants had to pursue street vending.

A study done by Tufa (2020: 18) in Ethiopia, Dire Dawa University, using 60 participants showed that street vendors had faced different social effects which included financial constraints and other social issues. Street vendors used street vending as one source of income generation for the continuity of social life. The researcher further found that, family members such as children and old parents need support. However, the only institutions to support these societies are family members who provide daily subsistence (Tufa 2020: 18).

Providing necessities to those family members who are dependent becomes the responsibility of other family members (Tufa 2022). Furthermore, a study done by Sassen *et al.* (2018: 6) on the experiences of four women doing informal trading in Cape Town revealed that women could act in and on their circumstances by fulfilling their responsibilities as partners and mothers providing for their families. They were also able to support each other as women vendors and felt a sense of community with other street vendors. Considering the advantages and prospects provided by their street trading, they were able to envision better futures (Sassen *et al.* 2018: 7).

4.4.2 THEME 2: CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN STREET VENDORS

The second theme focussed on determining the challenges faced by the women street vendors in eThekweni. Women vendors of eThekweni faced different challenges, which are reflected in five sub-themes, namely (i) competition, conflicts amongst street vendors and authorities, (ii) violence and crime, (iii) lack of proper infrastructure, unstable environment, and storage of goods, (iv) financial challenges lastly (v) inequality towards women vendors.

4.4.2.1 Sub-theme 1: Competition, jealousy and conflicts amongst street vendors and authorities

The first sub-theme focussed on competition and conflicts among the street vendors and authorities. This was a concern for most street vendors. Women street vendors

expressed that some of them do not even get along because of jealousy and competition. Participants said as follows:

A- *“I was once blamed for something I did not do which was stealing, because people did not like me. I was called by the committee for that case, and I got through it as there was no evidence.”*

F- *“One woman was unhappy and did not want me to sell near her, for my peace I had to talk to the committee to find me another stall as it was hard working around her.”*

Some commented on the competition and did not express any challenge.

A- *“Competition will always be present. In this kind of business and places, you just have to have a strategy.”*

G- *“I make sure I buy fresh fruits and quality goods, 'that's how I overcome competition, and it has worked for me.”*

H- *“Competition is tough around here, buying quality goods is costly.”*

Conflicts between street vendors and authorities seemed to occur frequently. This was because most of them operated on the same streets and there were many in one place. Some participants expressed that they were not welcomed, even by the local authorities. This affected their businesses. Women vendors reflected on this as follow

A- *“One local authority seemed to not like me, as he treated me badly every time, he would see me. He would always tell me to move somewhere else and not sell here.”*

This affected my business because sometimes I felt demotivated to work or even come to sell. Rumours were that he wanted to place one of his family members in my stall.”

B- “I was once called by the committee due to something I have done that I don’t know off. I assumed it was amongst other street vendors who did not like me.”

Participants had to overcome the pressure that came with the competition in the street vending business. Some had become familiar with the pressure, and they were able to work around it as they did their work and hoped to survive. For some participants, the pressure of competition was a strain, as they could not afford quality goods. Municipal authorities seemed to be the main source of instability for most street vendors. They do not support the street vendors, as they are the ones who threaten them, and make them feel unprotected.

Jaishankar (2016: 5) found that competition is another challenge faced by informal traders worldwide and is due to the high level of unemployment. Traders, therefore, experience a high level of competition with each other. According to Ramasamy (2019: 10), women vendors experience constant harassment and deportation for their trading places by local authorities and competing shopkeepers due to the lack of legal status and recognition. Moreover, their goods are easily confiscated, and they are moved from one place to another.

Ramasamy (2019: 9) noted that women's street vendors are normally connected with a violation of public spaces. In the informal sector, literature revealed that women are highly represented especially in street vending throughout the world. Some countries are trying to control the increasing numbers of vendors without success, resulting in women facing harassment from law enforcement agents (Carr 2015: 4). As such vendors worldwide experience some form of discrimination and unfavourable conditions of work, when they operate from the sidewalks, makeshift sheds and under the trees (Sekgabo and Maripe 2019: 48).

A case study done by Agadjanian (2002:10) that examined the dynamics of competition and cooperation among this group of poor working women in the context of economic structure, revealed the extreme competition in the crowded street market, declining profits, and disillusionment with traditional worker's organizations. The competition made it difficult for vendors to cooperate and break up the street markets social fabric, often by highlighting its existing issues related to gender, class, race, and religion (Agadjanian 2002: 10). In contrast, for some women vendors in eThekweni, the competition was not the worst-case scenario. They seem not to experience competition. However, they thought it was normal, especially if one was selling the same thing on the same streets.

4.4.2.2. Sub-theme 2: Violence and Crime

The second sub-theme from the data reflected violence and crime that women street vendors faced on the street while vending. It was established that most vendors were afraid for their lives as this violence sometimes involved guns and knives. Two participants shared as following:

A- "When the violence begins, we hear guns, and we end up running to save our lives."

C- "As I am near the rank, sometimes fights erupt. I was once shot, the bullet travelled from the air and got shot in the arm."

Another social challenge that was derived from the data was crime. Many participants mentioned gangsters (amaphara) would steal their goods and services, so they could sell them away. On most of the street vendors' tables, gangsters found a place to sleep which is why their materials and resources were easily destroyed. They shared the following:

A- "I once found a Phara in my corner sleeping when came early in the morning to start trading. I had to chase him away."

D- "They stole some of my goods while I was away to the toilet."

Violence and crime among taxi drivers and owners were a concern for most participants who were selling on the street. Most of them expressed the danger of selling near the taxi rank, as sometimes the fights and violence related to taxi drivers affected the vendors as well as their children. Participants expressed the difficulty of leaving their things unattended as they feared that the gangsters would steal everything and run away. Nxumalo (2018: 26) stated that women working in the informal sector constantly feared being attacked by armed robbers. This is considered a challenge within the informal sector, resulting in difficulties in sustaining their livelihoods as stock is often lost (Nxumalo 2018: 26). A prior study by Berry (2010: 58) found that women are more victims of crime than men. They also felt a sense of helplessness at the hands of criminals (Berry 2010: 58).

Berry (2010: 58) highlighted that streets are mainly designed for vehicles. The sidewalks and pavements are hence not wide enough for pedestrian vendors. However, poverty has been blamed as a vital cause of street hawking, as many people do not have the opportunity to rent or secure an authorized place to hawk their goods. It was a challenge for them since they finished late and had to walk from their place of work to the taxi rank. For them, it was not safe, as some were possible targets for gangsters.

4.4.2.3 Sub-theme 3: Lack of proper infrastructure and lack of resources

The third sub-theme established from the data reflected a lack of infrastructure and resources as one of the challenges faced by women vendors. The most common hazards which they faced included a lack of shelter, no ablution facilities or access to clean water. Most women street vendors said as follows:

C- "It is really hard to trade when it is raining, as you can see, I don't have a shelter here."

D- "When it is raining, I sometime hesitate even coming to work because I know it would be a waste as I wouldn't be able to trade."

N- "I have only poles covered with plastic, when it is windy the plastics comes out and my poles are not strong enough. It is very hard as I have to attend to the customer, while being worried about my pole falling and my plastics coming off."

O- "It is difficult to work, I get a lot of headaches when it's hot. The sun hits my head so hard."

Another challenge faced by women vendors was the lack of water. They indicated that there was no water where they worked and most of the time, they had to buy water for themselves take water from their homes or walk a distance to go look for where water was available for them to drink. For some participants, they found it hard to work without water. They shared as follows:

A- "It is sometimes really hard to work when there is no water."

F- "There is no water here, I take my water from home and bring it to work."

Access to clean sanitation facilities was a further major challenge for participants. Street vendors used toilets, which were in different places. This made it difficult for the street vendors to access clean toilets. The participants shared as follows:

A- "Toilets here are not clean at all, and they don't have lights in the late hours we really struggle."

D- "The toilets are smelly and unhygienic. I don't go to that toilet. Sometimes I have no choice but to leave my stall and go look for a better one across the road."

For some street vendors, the issue of not having toilet facilities was difficult, as they could not imagine using the same toilet as the homeless people. Most mothers (street vendors) expressed how this was a concern, as they came along with their children, who themselves need to use toilets now and then.

P- "Having no toilets of our own as street vendors is hard. We are sometimes forced to use the same toilets that homeless people sleep in and leave all their hazardous materials."

L- "We don't have toilets around here. I must cross the road for me to find the toilets. It would have been better if we had ours around."

Most vendors faced challenges of not having access to shelter, water, clean sanitation, electricity etc. It was found that women street vendors were exposed to extreme weather temperatures. They struggled to trade in extremely hot weather, rainy and windy weather. This had a huge impact on their trade. Most times trading would stop when it was raining heavily, and some street vendors, wouldn't even trade at all. The cost of travelling to their workplace was a concern as well. Women vendors highlighted how the sun affected their stock even when it rained, as most of them did not have shelters their stock was damaged. Women vendors stated that it saddened them when they had to throw away their items due to them being wet and unable to sell.

A prior study done by Ngomane (2020: 383) in Mpumalanga, Mbombela using sixty participants revealed that women had no water in some parts of where they were trading, no electricity, and a lack of shelter. According to Ngomane (2020: 381), it was important for women street vendors to have access to proper infrastructure. However, the literature indicates that most women in many countries did not have access to storage space, shelter, sanitation, electricity etc. to enable them to increase economic growth (Ngomane 2020: 381).

4.4.2.4 Sub-theme 4: Financial challenges

The fourth sub-theme was based on the financial challenges that women vendors faced in the street vending business. Most expressed that business had become slow and there was no money.

participants said as follows:

E- "There is no money now in the tables, most people do not work now. We no longer get customers like before.

A- "The business is now very slow than before. I used to make enough money to pay for my child's primary school fees, but now this has changed. Most people have no jobs and because there are a lot of street vendors now, the business is slow."

G- "Financially in street vending it is not the same. With the money I earned here before I took my children to school and was able to pay for school fees, now we are working for survival."

Some of the participants expressed that there was no money in street vending. They said that because of the high unemployment rate, it was hard to make enough money a day. The business has become slow. Some participants also expressed that they used to make sufficient income before. With the income, they will be able to pay for their children's school fees as well.

Nxumalo (2018: 27) highlighted that the money women make from the informal sector is usually used to support their families, however, the income earned by the women traders is not enough to cover monthly needs (Nxumalo 2018: 27). According to Net Street International (2021: 2), studies have indicated that women in developing countries, street vendors, come to the street to sell their wares because of the growing difficulty at home where they are confronted by a lack of cash. Due to most people being unemployed and living on the edge of poverty, street vendors claim a high level of financial challenge. The difficulties women street vendors encounter on the streets are severe and hurtful, and they must overcome them all, to maintain their managed income. Women vendors encounter challenges such as competition, conflicts with authorities and most violence and crime, however, overcome them to make a living.

Street vendors are often pushed to work in the informal economy not only due to financial necessity but also due to transition to formality as women vendors can be extremely difficult (Net Street International 2021: 3).

4.4.2.5 Sub-theme 4: Inequality towards Women Vendors

The fourth sub-theme was focused on inequality towards women vendors. Women expressed how they were often taken advantage of, as women vendors in the business. They reflected on this by saying:

N- "I will have customers asking me why my food is not cheaper, they would complain and tell me how much it should be."

J- "Most people underestimate us as we are women in the trading spaces. They tell us we do not belong here; it is better with the younger ones."

G- "These men we trade with are behaving like this because they are intimidated by us. They think we are here to block them from opportunities of getting customers."

The women vendors of eThekweni showed much vulnerability when talking about the issue of gender inequalities on the streets. Some mentioned how they sometimes must fight for what is rightfully theirs. They expressed how they do not allow men to take charge and not make them feel less by selling goods on the street. In addition, women vendors mentioned that they feel discriminated against as women. Some experienced disrespect from others as they expressed that street vending was more of a male-dominated job.

Women were perceived to cook and focus on childcare. Due to this, it was evident that some women of eThekweni faced gender inequality in the trading industry as well. Women also mentioned that they were not respected. Male vendors or anyone else who knew that they were women, thought they could take advantage of that. Most women felt that such does not happen to male street vendors. Most mentioned that they take advantage as they know that women are vulnerable, and they work as street vendors to take care of our children even if it is as little as one rand.

Kounzas (2022: 48) highlighted that female workers are a part of the population that is particularly vulnerable to informal work. According to Radebe and Smith (2023: 6), women's involvement in the economy is hampered by a real or perceived lack of opportunities and social and cultural beliefs that women especially mothers should not work. In addition, Radebe and Smith (2023: 6) further stated that several cultural factors shape women's disadvantage in the labour market. These are learned and socialized at home during schooling and in the wide culture through the belief that unpaid care should be women's primary activity. Women's participation in the economy is still seen as less important than that of men. The societal norms that women are breadwinners and that women are household caretakers are prevalent across cultures and races in African society (Radebe and Smith 2023: 10).

Gender inequality in the form of cultural norms and traditional gender roles continues to be a hindering factor in women's advancement in South Africa. Women in South Africa are often housewives who are responsible for chores and less opportunities for personal growth. The cultural beliefs and social norms present men as superior to women, thus restricting them from the ability to engage both economically and socially (Radebe and Smith 2023: 10).

4.4.3. THEME 3: STREET VENDING AND CHILDCARE

The third theme focussed on the experiences of women vendors regarding childcare and street vending. Many expressed how unpleasant vending with the child was and that most of the time it triggered anxiety, as far as their children's health and safety were concerned. Three sub-themes emerged from the data. This included waking up early, losing customers and child safety.

4.4.3.1 Sub-theme 1: Early to rise.

The first sub-theme related to children having to wake up early. Most participants had to rise early to prepare their young ones, as they were taking them along to vend. They expressed how that was a challenge not only for them but for their children as well

A- "Now that I have to bring my child to work, I have to wake up very early to prepare for my child and I."

B- "It is hard to sell with a child. I wake up at 4 am bath myself and at half 4 I wake my daughter up and it is so hard to wake up my daughter so early. She cries every day."

Other street vending mothers had early clients who travelled with them by train. They targeted those clients early around 6 am. Therefore, they were forced to wake up very early and this was difficult when vending with a child. This also affected children as they had to wake up three to four hours before their normal time for school preparations.

H- "I wake up at 3 am to ensure that I prepare everything for me and my child, sometimes time flies and I have to take my child to my neighbours."

Some expressed that they even forgot the important items at home as the mornings were challenging. They had to also make sure that the child was prepared. For some, the child was a priority.

D- "This other day I forgot my trolley keys at home, I had to make a plan on how to take out the items I sell out of the trolleys."

Some expressed the challenges of having to prepare their children during school days. They had to wake up early to prepare children for school. Women vendors said that street vending affected the development of a child, and this caused a lot of stress for them. They had to deal with making means to prevent their children from falling sick due to waking them up early in the morning. Most of the participants stated that vending with a child in eThekweni was mentally and physically tiring.

According to Sekgabo and Maripe (2019: 52), the street vending business is quite stressful and may impact the development of the child. Stresses may come from children getting sick and having to be looked after at home. Sekgabo and Maripe (2019: 52) further stated that they had to be woken up early to avoid missing the bus and missing regular customers who have early shifts, a child must be woken up early to avoid missing the bus.

4.4.3.2 Sub-theme 2: Fears for the safety of children

The second sub-theme was based on data that most women vendors feared for the safety of their children while vending. This made it hard for them to trade.

Mothers stressed that their children were not safe as most mothers sold their goods near the taxi rank.

Participants said as follows:

E- "The first time I started vending in this place my child was very much excited to the point where she moved and took walks. It is hard for me to stop her, but I do fear that what if something happens to her."

H- "My child likes to move around; he gets irritable when stuck in one place or position for a long time. I do let him go but I get very anxious as I worry about his safety."

It is a volatile business where vendors may have problems, given that competition for customers is high. This may put the child at risk as fights may ensue, and the child may stray without anyone noticing. Therefore, the caregiver-child relationship may be adversely compromised. Most expressed how this made them anxious, as much as some of their children were older enough but they had moments of being worried whether their children were safe where they were. Women vendors said that their children could not sit in one position for a long time, so they had to let them go.

Sekgabo and Maripe (2019: 52) similarly said that street vending is a source of livelihood for most street vendors, however, a risky environment for the caregiver-child relationship. The caregivers may be constantly stressed by the customers resulting in her venting out on the child, especially if the child is considered naughty. It is a volatile business where vendors may have relational problems, particularly, where competition for customers is high. This may put the child at risk as fights may ensue, the child may stray without anyone noticing or the caregiver may shout out to the child. Therefore, the caregiver-child relationship may be adversely compromised and the cognitive development of the child (Sekgabo and Maripe 2019: 52).

4.4.3.3 Sub-theme 3: Loss of customers

The third sub-theme was based on women vendors losing customers due to vending with their children. Women street vendors mentioned that they lost many clients because of vending with their children. This was the primary experience women street vendors had.

Two participants said:

M- "The experience has not been good. I have lost so many customers due to my child crying and wanting my attention."

L- "It is hard working with a child, have lost many clients. Sometimes I am not in my stall busy looking for my child."

Some women vendors explained that they did not have other options while some expressed that their primary responsibility was to take care of their children themselves. This is the reason they took children with them in the stalls. Alternative care comes at a financial cost which most vendors are unable to afford. For example, daycare centres, nanny services and taking children to the village were quite expensive.

The participants expressed that the vending business was a source of livelihood but a risky environment for the caregiver-child relationship. Women vendors were constantly stressed by customers resulting in them venting their frustrations on their children, especially if the child was misbehaving. Some women vendors mentioned that they easily lost customers when vending. This was due to their children crying and seeking attention. Most women vendors also said that they sometimes leave their stalls to go and look for their children. They were sometimes they were not found on the stall, as they had to feed their children. Due to persistent gender norms globally and across all countries, women vendors shoulder more childcare responsibilities than men (Weigo 2019: 2). The challenges of earning an income and raising a child are made more difficult by the lack of social and labour protection that characterize work in the formal economy (Weigo 2019: 2). Street vendors shared the difficulty of working with their child.

The literature revealed that historically, women strap children on their backs when they carry out domestic chores such as farming and cooking (Mbulayi *et al.* 2020: 14). Mbulayi *et al.* (2020: 14) asserted that efforts to ensure the survival of children are centred on mothers. They make sure the children are always taken care of because they are the main carers.

Moreover, they are motivated to bring their kids to work because of their historical responsibilities. This led to the development of 'modern street vending', as many participants said it was a major challenge. However, they have no choice since the creches around eThekweni are very expensive. Sekgabo and Maripe (2019: 47) highlighted that the caregiver's children cannot be separated from them, but neither can they afford the childcare centre costs nor nannies to watch the children.

4.4.4 THEME 4: EFFECTS OF STREET LIFE ON CHILDREN OF WOMEN VENDORS

Berhanu and Abushe (2019: 362) stated that there are enormous challenges that children face on the street. This includes psychological, social, physical, and sexual abuse that were reported by different scholars at different times. Children are, therefore, not properly prepared for the future (Berhanu and Abushe 2019: 363). Children are important to societal development, hence their well-being in society is an index of social and economic development of that society. This theme focussed on the effects that street life had on the children of women vendors. From the data, it was established that young people face psychological challenges, social as well as physical challenges.

4.4.4.1 Sub-theme 1: Psychological challenges

The first sub-theme reflected the psychological challenges children of women vendors faced. According to women vendors, the most common issues related to their children worry, anxiety and frustration. The participants shared as follows:

A- "My child is always crying; you can see she is affected by the noise."

L- "My child tells me all the time that she does not want to be with me on the street, I sometimes would not understand why. Until she told me that she is always afraid and worried about what could happen to her and me as her mother."

Even mothers themselves feared their children when it came to child trafficking, violence, and crime. They had fears that their children might learn bad behaviour and think that it was a good thing to do or even affect them as they grew up.

E- "There are a lot of crime acts going on around here and I am afraid my child would think this is good and fall for it since he is a boy child."

F-My child always expresses that she would rather stay with me and be next to me all the time because moving around gives her anxiety plus she says she is afraid the taxi drivers might do something to her."

Hence, as evidenced the children of street vendors experienced psychological issues such as worry, frustration and being afraid. Some women vendors mentioned that their children sometimes told them they were worried about what could happen to them and their mothers as well. Most of the women vendors traded near the taxi rank. Therefore, vendors stated that their children also were afraid of what the taxi drivers could do to them. The mothers also expressed that their children sometimes felt hopeless. They felt that their children did not deserve to experience being raised on the street. Women vendors thought of the future of their children and that the environment affected their children's growth. Some mentioned that their children were grumpy most of the time and they could see the frustration in their eyes.

Street children go through psychological dilemmas, due to the situations they face in their day-to-day lives (Hayati *et al.* 2023: 12). The street vending environment, congestion, and a lack of adequate space do not always provide a child with a chance to play with other children for healthy motor development. Children are quite mobile to assert their independence and due to limited space, they become confined. This poses a serious barrier to their cognitive development (Sekgabo and Maripe 2019: 52). It was, therefore, not surprising that the children of street vendors developed communication development and were often mistreated by others on the street. They become traumatised and can develop psychological problems (Dovza 2018: 13).

4.4.4.2 Sub-themes 2: Physical challenges

The second sub-theme focussed on the physical challenges children endured on the street. Data established the physical effects children encountered, including children getting sick. It was evident that the environment has a huge impact on the child's well-being. Most mothers (street vendors) expressed concerns regarding the physical well-being of children on the streets.

This is reflected below:

O- *"My child gets random coughs and rash every week. This stresses me a lot because sometimes I am unable to take him to the hospital as I have to work. He was given medication but now, I know that it is the environment that affects him because he just randomly gets sick."*

P- *"My son is still very young; he likes to crawl and pick up things on the floor and that has caused skin reactions for her."*

Some women vendors mentioned that the places where they sold their goods were very cold. They also had to wake their children up early to get them ready and that affected the children a lot. As they easily catch a cold.

A- *“Right now my child is sick, she has flu because waking up early while its cold and finishing late. There were also tired at the clinic as to the reason why my child always has the same illness.*

A- *“Right now I made a decision to find someone to take care of my child, even though I don’t have money, but it was better than my child suffering here.”*

O- *“My son has sinus, he really cannot survive in this environment, I had to remove him and find someone to stay with him. He was really suffering with finding sleep at night as sinus would bother him.”*

J- *“This place is awful; I use to feel for my child every time when she has to be here. I had to teach her good hygiene habits. So that even if I am not around or looking, she is able to take care of herself.”*

Children on the street were prone to disease and illnesses. A few mothers expressed an interest in learning about hygiene. These mothers expressed how they have been looking for ways to protect their children from contracting diseases and other illnesses. They thought of learning with their children about cleanliness and hygiene. Their children became easily sick due to crawling on the floor and picking up dirty items. This made it easy for them to catch sicknesses. These physical problems included consistent coughing, flu, sinuses, rashes, and stiffness. Some women vendors said that their children would get random skin disorders and coughs almost every week. Mothers, therefore, did not recommend selling with children. However, for some of them, it was difficult as they did not have other alternatives.

Most mothers also expressed that hygiene, and the unclean environment contributed to enormous effects on their children’s physical well-being. Young children tend to touch, smell, and occupy dirty spaces. Data also revealed that some women vendors had made decisions to find someone to take care of the children, even if it was costly rather than keeping them on the streets.

The children of mothers who worked as street vendors were, therefore, faced with dangerous challenges which related to the selling environment such as air pollution, noise pollution and a lack of hygienic resources. However, street vending gave mothers a chance to help with their children's fundamental necessities (Sekgabo and Maripe 2019: 47).

According to Susan and Milliam (2022: 301), loitering and crawling of children, especially during rainy days was not suitable as the hygiene of street trade was lacking. eThekweni streets are known to be the busiest streets in South Africa. It was therefore not a surprise that there were many risk factors that children could encounter. In addition, a study in Botswana revealed that though women are expected to be economically engaged, they still take care of children and vending offers them flexibility. Sekgabo and Maripe (2019: 47) stated that the urban workspaces of informal workers such as landfills, city streets and markets or homes in informal settlements are likely to be unsafe and inappropriate spaces to care for a young child.

The caregiver must choose between staying at home and/or going to work with the child. However, as she is busy cooking under the makeshift stall, the child's safety may be compromised because the fire may erupt, they may be exposed to harsh weather elements, concentration on the business rather than on the child's movement, and a lack of good sanitation which may expose the child to health risks. Children who are carried along by their mothers to street vending businesses are at risk of poor nutrition because they may be fed with whatever could be sold in the business during the day. Children from underprivileged families are at risk of low physical and mental development, often reporting poor nutrition and low birth weights (Sekgabo and Maripe 2019: 52). Dovza (2018: 13) noted that continuous exposure to an unclean environment, results in young children developing antisocial behavioural patterns, which maybe be harmful to their humanhood.

4.4.4.3 Sub-theme 3- Social Challenges

The third sub-theme focussed on the social challenges faced by children of street vendors. These social challenges included loneliness and being bullied. The participants expressed as follows:

N- "My son gets lonely here, he does not have friends, and I do not allow him to as these streets are not safe. But I can see through his eyes that he does not like to be here, he is happier in school."

Some participants expressed that their children were mocked at school and often were bullied as their mothers were street vendors. They were not treated normally.

F- "My child is bullied at school, just because I am trying to make a living for us. There was a point where my daughter did not want to go to school because her peer would always remind her that her mother was a seller on the streets."

One mother shared her thoughts and feelings about how being a street vendor has affected her relationship with her son and how she would see that her son was no longer himself since he had grown up on the street and had struggled to have social life. Mothers expressed their concern regarding their children's social life. They mentioned that their children get bullied at school by other children, due to their mothers working on the streets. Women vendors said that their children get mocked and mistreated, and their children are reminded every day by other children that their mothers sell on the streets. These mothers did not have a close relationship with their children. Women vendors also mentioned that often their children refused to go to school, due to being bullied and mocked.

Exclusion from the normal activities of society made them lonely, and devoid of affection, love, security, protection, and social support. The lack of these relevant social capitals separated them from mainstream society due to families/guardians who served as interlocks.

Furthermore, Sekgabo and Maripe (2019: 51) highlighted that children are not given a chance to socially interact and play to improve their language development due to them being on the street with their mothers. A child's social development and experience are important in their growth. Sekgabo and Maripe (2019: 52), believed that children can acquire skills and concepts from birth and through interactions made with people and the environment. Thus, street life does not enable children the opportunity to learn and obtain the required skills.

4.4.5 THEME 5: RISK FACTORS FACED BY CHILDREN ON THE STREET

The fifth theme derived from data focussed on the risk factors which the children of vendors faced on the street. These risk factors were divided into two aspects namely, traffic road accidents and kidnapping.

4.4.5.1 Sub-theme 1: Traffic Road accidents

The first sub-theme focussed on traffic road accidents that were a concern to the eThekwinini women vendors.

Mothers said as follows:

A- "My child is always moving around trying to get fresh air, as he cannot stay in one place. I fear that sometimes he might be in a car accident, the way it is busy in this street."

B- "I have a boy child, he does not stay in one place, he is also friends with taxi drivers. I do fear sometimes but I pray every day."

Road accidents were one of the major factors that most mothers mentioned. They highlighted that they sold near the road, and they were around a taxi rank where drivers come to park their taxis. For them, road accidents were highly common and threatened their physical safety. Some mothers mentioned that for the younger children, it was very hard to always monitor them as they liked to move around. This made it difficult to continue selling for the day.

White *et al.* (2000: 6) stated that several areas were investigated which linked factors associated with traffic accident rates and those associated with children of women vendors in the street. Road traffic accident rates are higher, particularly, for children (White *et al.* 2000: 7). Children of women vendors are at higher risk, due to exposure rates, through less adult supervision in the traffic environment and the fact that children are educationally disadvantaged concerning understanding the issues of road safety (White *et al.* 2000: 7).

A study done by Susan and Milliam (2022: 304) at Kalerwe market, in Uganda, using sixteen participants revealed that women vendors in Uganda had concerns about the lives of the children that they come with to vend. The main concern was the car accidents that occurred as children were in the market. The study also found that not only car accidents were a concern for women vendors in Uganda, but children being also hit by loads of merchandise as they offload, children who are loitering around were highly at risk (Susan and Milliam 2022: 305).

4.4.5.2 Sub-theme 2: Kidnapping

The second sub-theme focussed on kidnapping. Mothers also mentioned kidnapping as a possible risk factor that their children faced on the street. For most street vendors, their stalls or rather their selling business were located near the taxi rank. The possibility of kidnapping made them afraid.

A- "One mother mentioned: my child likes walking to the rank, I would sometimes find her in the taxi rank talking to some taxi drivers. The taxi drivers always shout at me for letting my child come here. I would wonder what if they have taken my child."

J- "Being near the taxi rank is scary, I have to make sure my child is near me 24/7 plus I have a girl child."

For most mothers, their concern was mostly on their girl children. One women vendor expressed:

N- "Raising a girl child most especially, they are always thoughts of wanting to shield her from the world. A street that has predators who look at our children as pieces of meat."

Women vendors expressed concerns about the risk of their children getting kidnapped while vending on the street. Most women mentioned that they worked near a taxi rank and sometimes would find the taxi drivers attempting to talk to their children. However, some taxi drivers helped to keep their children safe and brought the children back to them. That was also a concern as they knew anything could happen. Some mothers said they had daughters, and they had to make sure that their children were with them all the time to prevent them from being kidnapped.

4.4.6 THEME 6: SUPPORT SYSTEMS TO PROTECT CHILDREN AND THEIR MOTHERS

The sixth theme focussed on the support systems and mechanisms that may enable the well-being and protection of women vendors and their children on the street. The following sub-themes were established to provide in-depth perceptions of women vendors regarding what could be done for their safety along with their children. The sub-themes consist of (i) affordable facilities to keep children safe, (ii) support from authorities and (iii) A worker union for women street vendors.

4.4.6.1 Sub-theme 1: Affordable facilities to keep children safe.

The first sub-theme established from the data focussed on affordable facilities to keep children safe while women vendors work. Most participants felt this would help them not to worry about their children's safety and they would not have to constantly be monitoring them.

One participant said:

O- "Life would be better, if they build facilities to keep our children while we vend."

They mentioned that although this has been raised prior, nothing was done.

P- "We have raised the matter to the authorities, they once saw that it would be of help to get an affordable facility to keep our children. I have no idea why that was not done."

Some participants even described how that would cause stress and financial strain.

K- "I have thought of taking my child to a day-care but is far and it will cause more financial strain as I would have to take a transport to go fetch her."

N- "I want my child to be safe, but I am making little capital here I am not able to afford a daycare centre."

Most mothers expressed that if they could have affordable facilities built, to keep their children safe until they were done working would be of huge assistance. Having facilities provided to keep children may assist street vendors to work effectively and efficiently. The level of worry for women vendors in eThekweni is indescribable. They expressed how this was a concern for them. As they sell in the town, daycare centres near them are very expensive and most of them were far from where they sell hence, they had to finish trade for the day and go to fetch their children. The women vendors also seek this kind of support from the government and officials. Women vendors mentioned how their lives would be less stressful if they were provided or offered facilities to keep their children safe while they vend. They also believed that in this trading business, possibilities of developing and thriving would be created with less anxiety and stress.

Prior research conducted in Cambodia found that there are no public daycare centres available for children under the age of six and most of the street vendors cannot afford their children in private daycare centres (IDEA 2020: 1). As a result, most street vendors had no choice but to bring their children to work despite the environmental conditions. Cities present important challenges for the extension of quality childcare services to informal workers who make up most of the urban poor across the global south (IDEA 2020: 1).

4.4.6.2 Sub-theme 2: Support from Authorities

The second sub-theme was about the need for support from authorities. Some mothers expressed this as follows:

I- “I would appreciate if we had support from our authorities, we also have rights but most of us are too afraid to confront them as we are safeguarding and securing our trading stalls.”

J- “Our authorities always come here to fight with us, sometimes for no reason.”

Most mothers also expressed how this affects their children. They mentioned that their children became anxious and scared when they were being threatened by authorities. Two mothers expressed this:

C- “Authorities wanted to move me one day on my stall to find me another one, as my one was now organised for someone else. I remember when I had that argument with the authority my child asked me so anxiously and afraid “Mah bayakuxosha” (Mom are they firing you?).”

Women vendors also felt authorities did not support them and allowed them to exercise their legal rights as women vendors. Some expressed that it would be better if authorities that would come frequently to check that things are operating fairly than to cause commotion. Support from authorities would go a long way for the women vendors of eThekweni as they are the only people who could make their lives better and change the negative narrative people have about work vendors. Women felt that this would be their major support system as women vendors fought against being harassed and violated.

Street vending is an important source of income for many women in urban areas. However, they are regarded as unlawful and ungoverned entities and are subjected to continuous harassment by authorities and other street vendors (Ramasamy 2019: 11). For the authorities to support women who are vending, they should contribute to direct laws that can protect women. Ngomane (2020: 287) noted that street vendors lacked recognition which leads to ignorance of their labour rights, proper security measures and environmentally friendly working facilities. This, therefore, means that street vendors encounter such challenges as a lack of presentation and operational problems, particularly, because the sector is informal. The women street vendors, therefore, carry out their business under the fear of being evicted. They are also forced to set up their vending spaces in unhygienic locations, often without access to toilets making them vulnerable to diseases.

4.4.6.3 Sub-theme 3- Creating a union for women vendors

The third sub-theme focussed on creating a union for women vendors. The following participants stated:

P- "As women vendors here, we don't have people who stand for us. We always fight our own battles and hope to survive."

A- "Being here is hard, especially our children they are really affected by this environment and the violence that takes place, hence that is why we need an organisation that will be able to assist us to fight for our rights."

Some women vendors seemed to not mention anything about their rights. It was observed that some were just there to make a living and to fight so that they could survive. They appear to have accepted the situation. Two mothers reflected on this as follows:

A- "I'm here to work Sthandwa sami (My love). As long as I make something for my children every day."

Based on the theme regarding systems and mechanisms to support women street vendors and their children, women mentioned that having a union that could ensure that their concerns and needs were taken into consideration was important. Most women vendors mentioned that unions were big on making sure that people under it were protected and that their work was not disturbed as well as their income. Women street vendors mentioned that street vending was no longer governed and therefore, people were mistreating them. They felt that they had no voice as they were mostly seen as desperate people. Most women vendors during interviews mentioned that there were many factors that they faced in the streets, and they felt that no one was there to rectify and fight for their rights. For most women in the informal sector, representation is another priority.

For eThekweni women vendors, this was also a concern as they felt sidelined and left unrecognised by the authorities within the informal sector. Women emphasised the need to have a standard union that would represent them and that would make sure that their concerns and demands were fulfilled as it was clear that they were not acknowledged. Gender-based violence has increased among informal economy workers since the pandemic started in March (Weigo 2018: 2). Gender-based violence against women in the informal economy is pervasive but there is a wide range of sources of violence (Weigo 2018: 2). Hence, the importance of the union for women street vendors was significant to protect their rights and stand for what they rightfully deserved.

4.7 CONCLUSION

This chapter presented the themes and sub-themes that emerged from the data collected from the fifteen participants. The themes and sub-themes were presented in Table 3 and were discussed throughout the chapter. The findings revealed the multiple challenges faced by women vendors in the eThekweni district. These challenges included competition and conflict between authorities and street vendors, violence and crime, lack of proper infrastructure and a lack of resources as well as gender inequalities. The study also primarily focused on the psycho-social effects that street life had on the children of women vendors.

The findings revealed that children were affected socially, physically and psychologically by being on the street while their mothers vend. Children are deprived of the opportunity to play and interact with other children and people. They were exposed to a hazardous environment that could make them sick and catch diseases. The environment that their mothers vend in is unhygienic. These children are faced with the risk of kidnapping and road accidents. Women vendors expressed how this is concerning to them, especially their children. Women vendors of eThekweni needed support from authorities and facilities nearby to keep their children safe while vending. The following chapter seeks to provide recommendations considering the findings and to conclude the study.

CHAPTER FIVE:

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

The study aimed to explore the experiences of women street vendors and the psychosocial effects of street life on children of women vendors in the eThekweni district. Five objectives were developed to achieve in-depth information on the study. The theoretical framework used to guide the study was the ecological systems. The ecological systems framework emphasised how the environment and the surroundings, affected women vendors and their children. It creates a framework to understand how women vendors and their children can be understood and influenced in the context of their environment. The ecological systems framework consists of different systems (microsystem, mesosystem, exosystem and macrosystem) which were discussed in this chapter.

The interviews conducted with fifteen women vendors provided the researcher with rich and in-depth data. This data was analysed through thematic data analysis. Six themes and twenty sub-themes were established from the data collected. Chapter Four presented the findings and discussions of the study. This chapter will present a summary of the findings, main conclusions, and recommendations to enhance the

well-being of women vendors and their children on the streets. Lastly the chapter includes the recommendation for future research and limitations.

5.2 SUMMARY OF MAJOR FINDINGS

A summary of the major findings is presented under the following headings, under the objectives of the study, (i) Motivation for street vending (ii) the challenges faced by women vendors in the eThekweni district, (iii) the experiences of vending and childcare, (iv) risks factors faced by children on the streets whilst in the care of their mothers, (v) the physical and psycho-social effects of having to be on the streets while their mothers vend on the children's well-being (vi) recommendations that may enable the safety and well-being of women vendors and their children.

5.2.1 Motivation for street vending

The first objective sought to explore the reasons women chose street vending and to understand how they got into it. The study found that most vendors chose street vending due to a lack of employment. For some participants, the reason was the lack of education, the need to support their families and financial challenges. In South Africa, most women are forced to become street vendors due to restricted opportunities in the formal sector and a need to generate income to meet their family needs (Gamielien and van Niekerk 2017: 24). The findings also revealed that most participants got into street vending through advertised posts around the eThekweni district areas.

5.2.1.1 Lack of employment and poverty

The reasons that led women to street vending were a lack of employment and poverty. Findings revealed that most participants struggled with finding jobs and felt that there were no better opportunities, especially in the formal sector, hence they chose to vend. Ramasamy (2019: 4) stated that in many situations, the decision to enter the informal

sector is due to a lack of jobs. In South Africa, unemployment rates continue to rise, and the youth is significantly affected by this (Gamieldien and van Niekerk 2017: 24).

Most participants started selling at a young age, as a result of their parents' retirement. This left them with the responsibility to run the business that their parents had started. Street vending was not a choice for most participants, as they grew up vending with their parents. With regards to them taking over the business, they attempted to find proper jobs but had no luck. The study discovered that participants got into the vending business by applying for posts advertised for street vending. That is how they got stalls and were introduced to the street vending committee and authorities.

5.2.1.2 Lack of education

Participants did not get the opportunity to go to school. Those who never finished high school, could not access higher education to acquire skills that were necessary for them to work in the formal sector. This left them with street vending as the only option available for survival. For some participants, education was not a priority, as they were equipped by their families to develop handwork skills. Therefore, the focus was mainly on survival and independence. Many disadvantaged people face social stigmas that prevent them from being involved in their desired occupations. These social stigmas include a lack of educational qualifications and skills (Gamieldien and van Niekerk 2017: 25). Ramasamy (2019: 5) stated that due to being unskilled, most women vendors moved away from the formal sector into the informal sector. This was the case for most eThekweni women vendors, it was the lack of education and skills which led them to choose street vending to survive.

5.2.1.3 The need to support a family

Street vending served as a source of income for many women vendors in the eThekweni district. Through street vending, most participants revealed that they were able to take care of their children and families. With the income generated by selling on the street, participants were able to send their children to school and provide support to their children. This was the reason why most chose street vending. Some participants expressed that they grew up vending with their mothers and their mothers

would utilize the income from street vending to take care of them and the other family members. Street vending was the only business that they knew that brought income. These participants also expressed that as time went by, they had to take over to continue taking care of their children and the entire family. Women had the sole responsibility of taking care of their children and families, financial circumstances had left them with no alternative to generating income other than street vending (Mramba 2022: 211). Fathers were often not present in children's lives, to assist with basic needs and school. Therefore, participants regarded it as the best option to maintain their families. For some participants, COVID-19 took a toll on them, as most of the individuals who were breadwinners in their households lost their jobs. Hence street vending was the only option that could quickly bring income for their day-to-day basic needs.

5.2.2. The challenges faced by women vendors in eThekweni district

The first sought to explore the challenges faced by women vendors in the eThekweni district. The findings revealed that most participants experienced multiple challenges on the street such as competition, jealousy, conflicts amongst street vendors and authorities, violence and crime, the lack of proper infrastructure, a lack of resources, and inequality towards women vendors.

5.2.2.1 Pressure of competition, and conflicts amongst street vendors and authorities.

The study found that street vending came with a lot of pressure, as the competition was high. Competition for some was a strain as they could not afford to purchase quality goods. Hence, they were overpowered by those who could afford items. For most participants, competition was also a strain, as it brought jealousy and conflicts among women street vendors. Agadjanian (2002: 13) similarly, stated that extreme competition in crowded spaces made it challenging for street vendors to cooperate. In contrast, some women vendors did not mind competition, as they believed that it brought inspiration to do better in their jobs. Overcrowding in the informal economy is dominant among street traders. As a result, they compete over customers, the products they sell and over space (Kabeer *et al.* 2013: 251). As mentioned above,

some street traders use street pavements to run their businesses. Therefore, there is also competition for such space between street traders and pedestrians (Kabeer *et al.* 2013: 251).

The study also found that conflicts between authorities and street vendors resulted in some participants almost losing their jobs. Based on the findings, this was mostly caused by jealousy, as some street vendors wanted to get opportunities for their family members in the business. Participants expressed how this affected their work, in such a way that they would not be willing to return to work the next day.

5.2.2.2 Violence and Crime

For participants, violence and crime that exists in the street vending business were a concern. Violence and crime were a challenge for women vendors, as most were trading near the taxi rank. They expressed that it was dangerous working near the taxi rank, as most often there would be gunshots fired and random fights between the taxi owners and drivers. Participants said that when gunshots and fights erupt, they had to run as fast as they could, grabbing their children along with them. This affected women vendors significantly since their children were also on these sites. For most participants, leaving their things unattended was not ideal, as they feared that the gangsters would steal their belongings and run away. The most common fears that most women street vendors have are theft, crime and violence (Barker 2004: 8). The challenge women vendors faced in the informal sector was just as adverse as the jobs they do in this sector, violence, harassment, and crime takes different forms depending on the area they are based in (Radebe and Smith 2023: 5).

5.2.2.3 Lack of proper infrastructure and necessary resources

Another common challenge faced by women vendors was the lack of proper infrastructure and the lack of resources. This included shelter, water, and access to clean sanitation facilities. Most participants revealed that trading became extremely challenging when weather conditions were changing. Women vendors had their shelters built using poles to make them stable and covered the whole shelter with plastic. Therefore, when it was raining, trading was hard. Most mentioned that they

would hesitate to come to work as they felt it was a waste of time since they could not trade due to the rain damage to infrastructure. Participants revealed that they often worry about the poles that made their shelters stable, as the weather was too windy.

Access to clean sanitation facilities and water was a challenge. Participants revealed that where they worked there were no toilets. The toilets available were smelly and unhygienic. Participants revealed that they had no water to drink, when they needed water, and they had to travel from one place to another. The informal economy has poor infrastructure which includes poor transport, poor electricity, inadequate storage facilities, inadequate water and sanitation, and poor working premises (Sassen *et al.* 2018: 13). Most of the informal workers working within the eThekweni district could not afford to pay for trading permits, and some had difficulties in accessing accommodation because of overcrowding, which is an offshoot of urbanisation. Therefore, such informal workers operate their businesses on street pavements, in open spaces or in peripheral areas (Sassen *et al.* 2018: 13).

5.2.2.4 Financial challenges

Most participants reported that the street vending business was not the same as before. The income earned on street vending allowed them to take their children to school and pay for school fees. However, business was slowed down. Women vendors stated that the reason behind this was unemployment. A lot of people had no jobs, therefore, making it difficult to make money these days. Income in the informal sector is very low. Dlamini (2021: 413) stated that informal workers in South Africa earn considerably less on average when compared to formal workers.

In South Africa, the national minimum wage is R20 per hour which amounts to R3 440 per month. However, this policy was not being practised in the informal economy. In 2011, the average income for informal workers was R1 733 per month (Rogan and Skinner 2017: 25). The wage that women receive in the informal sector is often not enough to cover their expenses. Children were also affected, as their mothers could not afford to cover their needs. Nxumalo (2018: 30) highlighted that women could not afford to educate their children for as long as they wanted. This implies that children

will face the same challenges of not finding proper employment as their parents, hence perpetuating poverty.

5.2.2.5 Inequality towards women vendors

Women vendors showed a high level of vulnerability when discussing gender inequality experienced on the street. Participants revealed that they experienced disrespect from others, and they felt that street vending was mainly dominated by males. Therefore, male vendors tended to take advantage of them. Males expressed to them that they were supposed to be at home taking care of children while they worked for money. Women said that male vendors would let them know that it was a waste of time for women to be selling here, as they did not have the courage and the skills to do so. Otobe (2017: 1) highlighted that with regards to both quantity and quality of employment in the labour market remain a greater disadvantage for most women than men. The world of work remains gender divided, despite the level of growth of society (Otobe 2017: 3).

5.2.3. Experience of vending while caring for the children

The second objective focused on understanding the experiences of women vendors in childcare and street vending. The study found that rising early, losing customers and fear for the safety of children was a challenge for most participants.

Most women vendors had to wake up early to prepare their children first before they could get to work. Women vendors shared that street vending had affected the development of a child, which caused stress for them as women vendors. Women also had to wake up early as they had early clients who had a 6 am shift. Because of this reason, women vendors found street vending difficult. Most women vendors made it clear that juggling childcare and street vending was not easy. Some mentioned that if they were not preparing the children to go to school, they were preparing them to go to vend.

This was a challenge for women vendors who had younger and older children. Participants also expressed that due to morning preparations, they would sometimes forget their important materials or items for work, such as keys for their trolleys and this created a challenge for them to work effectively. It has been argued that the responsibility of being a mother or child-rearing is intensifying since women have a greater responsibility in parenthood. The study also found that participants were not only worried about their children, but they were concerned about their business as well. Participants said that working with children made them lose customers. They expressed that their children would cry for wanting attention or be forced to leave their stalls to look for them. Women vendors mentioned that they can even afford to put their children in daycare centres.

This was their coping strategy in balancing work and childcare since some of them could not afford to pay for childcare. However, combining work and childcare meant that one would take precedence over the other. Dovza (2018: 5) stated that women who sold food spent two to three hours doing childcare. Most women lack time to effectively care for their children since they are occupied by their working roles. Women in the informal sector work long hours sometimes seven days a week. This also caused a significant conflict in balancing work and childcare (Dovza 2018: 2). Findings revealed that women vendors' concerns were regarding the safety of their children. They expressed that their children could not sit in one position, children wanted to play and take walks, and therefore, they sometimes had to let them go. Children were exposed to hazardous substances, people, and the environment. Due to this, mothers feared losing their children.

5.2.4 Risk Factors Faced by children of women vendors on the streets

The third objective focussed on determining the risk factors children of women vendors faced on the streets while in the care of their mothers. The findings revealed that children faced the risks of road accidents and kidnapping. The study found that road accidents were potentially possible in street vending, as they often occupied spaces along roadsides, pavements and in the taxi ranks.

Women vendors were also concerned about the lives of their children on the streets. For some participants, car accidents brought them anxiety, as they revealed that their children liked to move around and take walks with friends. They were afraid that their children could be involved in car accidents since the road was often busy. Some of the participants had younger children who were active and constantly wanted to play. This was a major challenge for participants, as they had to sometimes restrict their children from playing due to the busy streets.

Kidnapping was also another risk factor that children faced on the streets. Participants revealed that working near a taxi rank put their children in danger. It was found that taxi drivers could be highly dangerous and most of them had girls with them while vending. Particularly in the eThekweni district, street vending locations were frequently fraught with danger, from crime to car accidents. These risks were present for children who played close by or went with their mothers. Most participants expressed that this affected their work, as they had to constantly make sure that their children were always safe. According to Roy (2004: 2), children who were constantly exposed to prospective risks could develop a lifelong fear which could have negative effects on their mental health and general wellbeing.

5.2.5. THE PHYSICAL AND PSYCHO-SOCIAL EFFECTS OF CHILDREN BEING ON THE STREETS WHILE THEIR MOTHERS VEND

The fourth objective was based on determining the effects of street life on the children of women vendors. The study demonstrated that the children of women vendors experienced a substantial impact on their mental, physical, and social well-being. Children of Women vendors are influenced by their circumstances. As they navigate the challenges of street life, children's psycho-social development is often avoided.

5.2.5.1 Psychological and social challenges

The children of female street vendors often contend with the cultural issues surrounding street vending. These children frequently encounter discrimination and bullying from their peers because of their mother's employment. This type of social

exclusion might result in feelings of isolation and low self-esteem in children. Cross and Balkin (2000: 10) proposed that such discrimination can increase these children's psychological issues. This is consistent with Sekgabo and Maripe (2019: 50) findings which emphasised the substantial implications of societal perception on a child's self-worth.

Berhanu and Abeshe (2019: 364) highlighted that children raised in such situations develop heightened vigilance and resilience, but they may also grow vulnerable to trauma and emotional discomfort. Berhanu and Abeshe (2019: 365) further observed that children growing up in such environments frequently exhibited symptoms of stress, anxiety, and sadness.

5.3.6. SYSTEMS AND MECHANISMS THAT MAY ENABLE THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF WOMEN VENDORS AND THEIR CHILDREN

The fifth objective focussed on determining the systems and mechanisms that may enable the safety and well-being of women vendors and their children. The study revealed three mechanisms that may be used to enable the safety and well-being of women vendors and their children. The three mechanisms were namely: the need for facilities to keep children safe, support from authorities and a worker union for women vendors.

5.3.6.1 The need for facilities to keep children safe

The study found that the need for facilities to keep children safe whilst mothers work was important, as they work long hours. Most vendors said that they sold in town, which was far from local day-care centres. Furthermore, the study found that many women vendors were not able to keep their children in some day-care-centres due to the inability to afford this. Some expressed that their children's safety was a priority. However, the income they received out of vending was insufficient to pay for the daycare centres for their children. It was also discovered in the study that women vendors raised this matter with authorities, however, there was no action taken.

5.3.6.2 Support from the Authorities

Women expressed that support from the authorities was important. They stated that when their needs were communicated, the authorities created problems by either removing them from their stalls or confiscating their goods.

They felt that authorities did not support them, nor did they allow them to exercise their legal rights as women vendors. Women expressed that support from authorities such as regular check-ups were important so that the operations of the business could be more functional.

5.3.6.3 A work union for women vendors

Women vendors mentioned that having a worker union could ensure that their concerns and needs were taken into consideration. Women vendors believed that the union's main objective was to fight for the rights of workers and ensure that they were protected within the work environment. According to women vendors, street vending is not governed and is often neglected. It was for that reason that most women vendors perceived a worker union to be significant.

5.4 CONCLUSION

The current study provided insight into the experiences and challenges faced by women vendors and the psycho-social effects that street life had on the children of women vendors in the eThekweni district. The advantage of these findings was that if systems were put in place, women vendors could work effectively and efficiently and could also be able to provide safety and protection for their children. The major findings indicated that women vendors and their children faced a lot of challenges on the street while vending. These challenges included the lack of infrastructure, a lack of resources, violence, and crime as well as gender inequality. Women street vendors worked in unpleasant environments with no access to clean water, electricity, and sanitation.

Participants said that due to a lack of proper infrastructure, they had to use plastic and poles to secure their goods. This assisted them on rainy and windy days. For women

vendors to access toilets, they had to leave their stalls and either cross the road or walk a distance. Through this study, it was discovered that children are influenced by the environment they spend time in. In this study, children experienced physical challenges, social challenges as well as psychological challenges.

They were exposed to hazardous risks and challenges that hindered their growth and development as children and youth. The study also found that these children were prone to the risk of kidnapping and traffic road accidents. One of the major challenges that women street vendors expressed was mostly the safety of their children. Women vendors of these children worked in fear and worry as they constantly had to make sure their children were safe.

Children contracted several illnesses, such as flu, sinuses, skin rashes and skin irritations, due to the unclean environment that children were exposed to. Children also experienced social challenges such as being bullied, mocked, and mistreated by their peers in school. Their peers would remind them that their mothers worked on the streets. Participants expressed that this resulted in their children isolating themselves from others. For women vendors there was a need for facilities to keep their children safe, to prevent or rather protect them from the hazardous environment.

5.5 RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENHANCE THE WELL-BEING OF FEMALE STREET VENDORS AND THEIR CHILDREN

- The findings from the study highlight the need for street vending authorities to take part in providing clean water, electricity, infrastructure and sanitation for women vendors and their children. Government officials need to take the initiative of observing the eThekweni area in need of support regarding necessary resources and services. The government should implement rules and regulations for the vending business to avoid conflicts and unnecessary commotion (Mukamba 2021: 124).
- There is a need for health support, considering that women face multiple social inequalities within the informal sector. Women need to be made aware of how to deal with gender inequalities. This may be done through women

empowerment, to remind women of their abilities, strengths, and capabilities despite the gender imbalance.

- The necessity of introducing awareness campaigns to street vending businesses to teach women and children about the risks of being on the streets, and how to prevent abuse, harassment, and maltreatment.
- Awareness around sexual abuse should be considered as children are exposed to that risk on the streets. The strategy would be to mainly focus on children and youth as they are mostly affected. Providing health services may assist in preserving the well-being of children and youth (Mashudu 2015: 60).
- Programs and strength-based activities are necessary to keep children active and prevent them from being involved in drugs and other substances.
- Child and care workers to apply the role of assistance with the development of children and youth on the street. This can also be done by offering strength-based programs and providing awareness.

5.6 AREA FOR FUTURE STUDIES

While the present study explored experiences of women vendors and the psychosocial effects of street life on children of women vendors in eThekweni district, there is a need to explore the effectiveness of local authorities and government officials towards meeting the needs of the children and women that take part in street vending. Lastly, there is also a need to explore the levels of knowledge and skills of the child and youth care workers and social workers in terms of providing care, facilitating strength-based programs to improve the lives of children and their families on the streets. The Role that they may play to change the street vending life to a positive life.

5.7 LIMITATIONS

This was a qualitative study with a purposive sampling strategy, and no claims were made about the representativeness of the participants. Although this study made important findings regarding the research objectives, it has a few limitations, as follows: This study concentrated on one residential care facility. Although data was collected to saturation, research with similar groups in other residential care facilities

will be beneficial. Studies in different residential care facilities with a similar sample group will provide greater support for the shared experience of residential care life for adolescents in the eThekweni region. Examining samples from different organisations in the eThekweni region would also have allowed for the exploration of different perceptions of residential care life in the region.

To obtain the adolescents views, the researcher sampled a residential care facility in the eThekweni region. Nevertheless, the social worker assigned to aid the researcher in participant recruitment actively dissuaded the researcher from recruiting adolescents with a history of recent traumatic experiences, to prevent triggering their unhealed traumatic experiences. This sampling limitation reduced the number of potential participants and may have excluded some important voices that could add to the results. However, this was considered necessary to protect the well-being of potential participants.

5.8 CONCLUSION

The study aimed to explore the experiences of women vendors and the psycho-social effects of street life on the children of women vendors in the eThekweni district. It provided insight of the experiences of women vendors and their children and the challenges they face on the streets while vending. The findings revealed varied challenges when street vending and having to take care of a child. The findings also revealed a need for facilities to keep the children of women vendors safe and a need for support from the street vending authorities. The advantage of the finding is that it can assist the local authorities, government officials and other parties involved in the sector to improve the lives of the children and women on the streets. The finding will assist in acknowledging the inequalities and risks factors that are found on the street vending business.

“No matter how you measure it, women and children bear the brunt of poverty. But it is also clear that women are our greatest hope for ending it. If you change the life of a child, you don’t just change that individual, you change their family and their community” (Gayle 2011: 1).

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LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A: Gatekeeper's Letter



02 May 2022

City Hall

263 Dr Pixley ka Seme St

Durban 4000

Request for Permission to Conduct Research

Dear Ward Councilor

My name is Thobeka Shezi, a Child and Youth Care Masters student at the Durban University of Technology. The research I wish to conduct for my Masters dissertation, involves the effects of street life on children of women vendors in eThekweni district.

I am hereby seeking your consent to conduct a research study in the eThekweni Community, mainly with female street vendors who are mothers and have to vend while taking care of their children. I also kindly request permission to use a nearby community facility or church to be able to conduct interviews.

Aim of the study: To explore the experiences of women vendors and the psych-social effects of street life on children of women vendors in eThekweni district.

Objectives of the study:

1. To understand the experiences and challenges faced by women vendors in eThekweni district.
2. To explore what risks their children face on the streets whilst in the care of their mothers.
3. To enquire how these children's physical and psycho-social well-being is affected by having to be on the streets whilst their mothers vend.
4. To understand the support systems and mechanisms may enable the safety and well-being of women vendors and their children.
5. To make recommendations that can support the well-being of female vendors and their children.

Inclusion criteria: Mothers) aged 21-50.

Female street vendors with at least one child aged 7-15 years

Indigenous speaking participants are included.

Those willing to participate.

Exclusion criteria:

Mothers who are below 21 and above 60 are excluded.

Female street vendors with children above 15 years

Those unwilling to participate.

I have provided you with a copy of my proposal which includes copies of the data collection tools and consent and/ or assent forms to be used in the research process, as well as a copy of the approval letter which I received from the Institutional Research Ethics Committee (IREC).

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me [0618702757] email address: 21816430@dut4life.ac.za. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Thobeka Yolanda Shezi

Durban University of Technology student

Appendix B: Letter of Information



LETTER OF INFORMATION

Title of the Research Study: An exploratory study on the experiences of women vendors and the psycho-social effects of street life on children of women vendors in eThekweni district.

Principal Investigator/s/researcher: Thobeka Yolanda Shezi, Completed degree in Child and Youth Care Work.

Co-Investigator/s/supervisor/s: Dr Raysuyah Bhagwan. PHD in Public management.

Brief Introduction and purpose of the study

This consent form is intended for the study participant who is eligible to participate in this study. Participating in this study is entirely voluntary. This form provides information describing the purpose, procedures, benefits, discomforts, risks if any, and precautions associated with this study. To decide whether you wish to participate in this research study, you should understand enough about its risks and benefits to be able to make an informed decision. The purpose of the study is to explore the experiences of women vendors and the psycho-social effects of street life on children of women vendors in eThekweni district.

Good day, how are you?

I am a student at DUT doing research for my Masters in Child and Youth Care Work.

I would like to invite you to participate in the study as you are one of the identified female vendors who trades around the central area eThekweni that can assist me through my research.

What is Research?

Research is a systematic search or enquiry for generalized new knowledge.

Summary of research, aim and objectives.

Street vending has become an income generator for the unemployed women trading in Durban, acting as a responsive strategy to their socio-economic status quo. For this study a qualitative research method will be utilized. The study will take place in Durban Central, Albert Park. The objectives of the study are to understand the challenges faced by women vendors

whilst caring for their children. To explore what risks factors children and youth face on the streets whilst in the care of their mothers. To enquire how these children's physical and psycho-social well-being is affected through this experience. To understand the support systems and mechanisms may enable safety and well-being of female vendors and their children. To make recommendations that can support the well-being of female vendors and their children.

Outline of the Procedures: The interviews will be approximately 45-60 minutes. The interviews will be held in Albert Park, Durban central. Eligible participants are expected to share their experiences and their thoughts regarding the research study. The recordings will be kept in a safe place and confidentiality will be maintained in the process of conducting interviews. Participants have a right to withdraw if they no longer wish to be part of the study.

Risks or Discomforts to the Participant: By participating in the study, participants are not going to be at risk or feel uncomfortable in any way.

Explain to the participant the reasons he/she may withdraw from the Study: The participants have a right to withdraw from the study at any point without punishment.

Benefits: There are no benefits to participating in this study, instead you will be able to gain self-esteem and confidence in participating in the study.

Remuneration: There will be no payment made for your participation.

Costs of the Study: You will not be charged or expected to contribute to fiscal terms for participating in this study.

Confidentiality: For Privacy and confidentiality, real names will not be utilised. For consideration ethical issues, the semi-structured interview questions will be structured in a way that questions will only relate to the research and will not be required one to give any names or any form of identification.

Research-related Injury: No research-related injuries are anticipated, however if there are any incurred injuries to participant's compensation will be provided Reward.

Storage of all electronic and hard copies including tape recordings: Collected data will be stored in a lockable office cabinet, where only the researchers and the supervisor can access it. All research related material will be stored for five years. After being used electronic data will ultimately be deleted and hard copies shredded.

Persons to contact in the Event of Any Problems or Queries: The Institutional Research Ethics Administrator on 031 373 2375. Complaints can be reported to the following email: researchdirector@dut.ac.za. Supervisor's details: Dr Bhagwan. Contact: 0313732197 Email: BhagwanR@dut.ac.za. Co-Supervisor: Dr Fathima Dewan Contact: 0313732197 Email: Fathimad@dut.ac.za.

Appendix B2 Letter of Information (IsiZulu)



INCWADI YOKUBANDAKANYA

Isihloko socwaningo: Ucwangingo ngokuhlola ulwazi olunzulu labesifazane abathengisayo kanye nomthelela impilo yasemgaqweni enayo egqodweni nangokwehlalo yezingane zabesifazane abathengisayo bebebanakekele endaweni yaseThekwini.

Umcwangingi omkhulu: Thobeka Yolanda Shezi, Ophothule IDegree KwiChild and Youth Care Work.

Umhloli omkhulu nesekele mhloli: Dr Raysuyah Bhagwan. PHD in Public management.

Isingeniso kaye nenjongo yalolucwaningo: Ielifomu linikeza ulwazi lwenhloso yalolucwaningo, uhlelo, inzuzo, ukungaphetheki kahle kanye nobungozi uma bukhona nangendlela obungagwenywa ngayo. Ukuze Ubone ukuthi uyavuma na ukuba ingxenye yalolucwaningo kumele ubenokuqonda ngobungozi nezinzuzo zalolucwaningo. Inhloso yalolucwaningo ngokuhlola ulwazi olunzulu labesifazane abathengisayo kanye nomthelela impilo yasemgaqweni enayo egqodweni nangokwehlalo yezingane zabesifazane abathengisayo bebebanakekele endaweni yaseThekwini.

Ngiyabingelela, ngabe niyaphila?

Igama lami nginguThobeka Yolanda Shezi, ngingumfundi o wenza Ibanga lesihlanu esikhungweni semfundo ephakeme EThekwini (Dut). Ngenza Masters In Child and Youth Care.

Ngingathanda ukunimema ukuba nibe Ingxenye yalolucwaningo njengoba ningabanye besifazane ababonakele ngenxa yokuba nolwazi lokuthengisa khona endaweni yaseBerea, EThekwini.

Yini ucwaningo?

Ucwangingo uhlelo lokucwaninga noma lokuqoqa ulwazi olusha

Ucwangingo olufingqiwe kahle nezihloso zalo: Ukudayisa kokudla emigwaqeni bekuyindlela yokwenza imali kubantu besifazane abangenayo Imisebenzi bekusebenzisa njenge nhloso yokulwa nobubha. Indawo lapho kuyobekubanjelwe khona lolucwaningo laseBerea Durban Central EAlbert Park. Uhlobo lokwenziwa kwalolucwaningo kuzobe lwiQualitative approach. Lapho kubhekwa khona ulwazi olunzulu kulaba abayingxenye yalo. Izinhloso zalolucwaningo ukuqonda ubunzima obubhekene nalabantu besifazane abadayisa emigwaqeni bebebanakekela lizingane zabo. Ubhekisisa ubungozi lizingane ezincane nenhla ebhekene nabo emigwaqeni bekunye nomama bazo. Ukwazi ukuthi Imiqondo, Imizimba, kanye nokubandakanya nabanye kunabuthelala uni. Ukwazi Izindlela zosizo ezingasiza

ukugcina bephephile futhi benakekekile laba besifazane nezingane. Ukuza Iziphakamiso eziphatelene nokulekelela nokuphatheka wenzingane nabesufanzane.

Indlela uhlelo oluzohamba ngayo: Sicela imizuzu engu 45-60 yokuba ugcwalise uhla lwemibuzo yocwaningo. Loluhla lwemibuzo yocwaningo luyokwenziwa khona epaki engage Durban Central. Kwabayingxenywe yocwaningo kulindeleke ukuba baveze Imibono novo lwabo olunzulu mayelana nesihloko. Sicela ukunazisa ukuthi Izikulumo zizocuswa, sizoziniseka ukuthi ugcinwa lokho uyizimfihlo futhi kuvikelekile. Uma ususayinile Ifomu lezivumelwano Izinhlelo zizokwenziwa ukuhlelela ama

Inzuzo: Akukho zinzuzo kulolucwaningo, kuphela abayingxenywe bazothola okukhulu ukuzethemba nokuveseleleka.

Izizathu zokushiya Ucwanningo kothe wazibandakanya: Uvumelekile ukuphuma ocwaningweni noma inini ngaphandle kwesijeziso.

Imikomelo: Akukho mikomelo etholakala kulolucwaningo.

Izindleko zalolucwaningo: Akukho zindleko okulindeleke ukuba uzikhokhe kulolucwaningo

Imfihlo: Siyacela ukuba ungadaluli noma ubhale igama lakho neminingwane yakho ephepheni lemibuzo. Uhlelo locwaningo kanye nokuhlelwa kwemimuzo ngeke zoze kuvele iminingwane yakho njengoba lokho kuyimfihlo.

Ubungozi ngenxa yocwaningo: Ngenxa yendlela yalolucwaningo Abukho ubungozi obulindelekile nakulimala okulindelekile ngenxa yokuzibandakanya. Akukho nkokhelo eyokhishwa kulabo abakhala ngesimo esinjalo.

Ukugcinwa kwezobucwepheshe kanye namakhophi nalokhuokucushiwe: Lokhukuzogcinwa endaweni ephephile ukhiye unikwe umhloli omkhulu

Bantu ongaxhumana nabo uma Kukhona ofuna ukukubuza noma uma kubanekinga: Isikhungo socwaningo: 031 373 2375. Ukubikwa kwezikalazo: researchdirector@dut.ac.za. Imininingwane kaMhloli wocwaningo: Dr Bhagwan. Inamba yocingo: 0313732197 Ukubikwa kwezikalazo: BhagwanR@dut.ac.za. Umhloli wocwaningo: Dr Fathima Dewan Inamba yocingo: 0313732197 Ukubikwa kwezikalazo: Fathimad@dut.ac.za.

APPENDIX C: CONSENT FORM



CONSENT

Full Title of the Study:

Names of Researcher/s:

Statement of Agreement to Participate in the Research Study: I hereby confirm that I have been informed by the researcher, Thobeka Shezi about the nature, conduct, benefits and risks of this study - Research Ethics Clearance Number: _

- I have also received, read and understood the above written information (Participant Letter of Information) regarding the study.
- I am aware that the results of the study, including personal details regarding my sex, age, date of birth, initials and diagnosis will be anonymously processed into a study report.
- In view of the requirements of research, I agree that the data collected during this study can be processed in a computerized system by the researcher.
- I may, at any stage, without prejudice, withdraw my consent and participation in the study.
- I have had sufficient opportunity to ask questions and (of my own free will) declare myself prepared to participate in the study.
- I understand that significant new findings developed during the course of this research which may relate to my participation will be made available to me.

Full Name of Participant

Date

Time

Signature

I, Thobeka Yolanda Shezi herewith confirm that the above participant has been fully informed about the nature, conduct and risks of the above study.

Full Name of Researcher:

Date:

Signature:

Full Name of Witness:

Date:

Signature:

Full Name of Legal Guardian:

Date:

Signature:

Appendix C2 Consent form (IsiZulu)



ISIVUMELWANO

Isihloko esiphelele socwango:

Amagama omcwangini:

Isivumelwano sokuba yinxenye yocwango

- Nginesiqiniseko sokuthi umcwangini uThobeka Yolanda Shezi ungazisile ngendlela uncwango elizohamba ngayo, isimo kanye nobungozi balolucwango.
- Ngilitholile, ngafunda futhi ngaqonda ulwazi olubhalwe ngaphezulu oluchaza kabanzi ngalolucwango.
- Ngiyazi imiphumela yalolucwango, ebandakanya imininingwane yami, ububili, iminyaka kanye nobuhlanga angeke buvezwe kwimiphumela yalolucwango.
- Ngokubheka izimo ezidingwa ilolucwango, ngiyavuma ukuthi ulwazi olutholakala umakwenziwa lolucwango lucubungulwe ngenqondomshini ngumcwangini.
- Ngingayeka ukuba ingxenye yalolucwango noma inini kungasavumi.
- Ngilitholile ithuba elanele lokubuza imibuzo futhi ngilungele ukuba yinxenye yalolucwango.
- Ngiyaqonda ukuthi ulwazi olusha oluzotholakala ngizonikezwa ngokuba ngibeyinxenye yalolucwango.

Igama

Usuku

Iskhathi

Uphawu lwesivumelano

Mina, Thobeka Yolanda Shezi ngiyaqinisekisa ukuthi ngiludlulsile ulwazi olugcwele ngendlela uncwango oluzohamba ngayo, isimo kanye nobungozi balolucwango.

Igama lomcwangini

Usuku

Uphawu lwesivumelwano

Igama lofakazi

Usuku

Uphawu lwesivumelwano

Igama lomgadi elisemthethweni

Usuku

Uphawu lwesivumelwano

Appendix D: Interview Guide

Warm Greetings!!!

1. Please can you share with me how you got into vending?

Probe: what were the reasons for this?

2. Can you share with me some of the difficulties you face as a woman vendor?

Probes: physically, psychologically, socially and financially.

3. Describe your experience of vending together with caring for your child or children whilst vending.
4. What are some of the problems your children face whilst in your care on the street?
5. How are the children affected by being on the streets: physically, emotionally and socially?
6. What are the risks that children of women vendors face?
7. What can be done to support and protect the well-being of women vendors and their children?

Appendix D2: Inthavyu sisekelo (IsiZulu)

Ngibingelela ngenkulu imfudumalo!!!

1.Ngicela ungichazela kabanzi ukuthi waqala kanjani ukudayisa emgwaqeni?

Kabanzi: Ngabe zithini izizathu zakho ngalokhu?

2.Ngicela ungichazela ngezinye izinqinamba obhekana nazo njengoba ungumuntu wesifazane ophila ngokuzidayisela lapha emgwaqeni?

Kabanzi: Ngokwenyama, ngokwenqondo, ngangendlela yokuzibandakanya nabanye abantu kanye nangasezimalini.

3.Ngichazele ngovo lwakho ekudayiseni emqwaqeni kanye nokubakhona kwengane noma kwezi ngane usadayisa.

4.Yiziphi izinqinamba omhlangabezana nazo nezingane ngenkathi kumele unakekele umtwana emqwaqeni?

5.Ingabe izingane zithola muphi umthelela ngokuzithola zisemgwaqeni, ngokwenyama, ngokomoya, nangokuzibandakanya nabanye?

6. Ibona buphi ukungozi enizithola kubona nomtwana ngengoba nidayisa emiqwaqeni nengane?

7. Yikuphi ekungenziwa ukuze kutshengisele ukuselelelwa nokuvikeleka okungenziwa ngengoba ungumuntu wesifazane kanye nomtwana wakho?

Appendix E: Ethical clearance



13 March 2023

Ms T Y Shezi
Lot 91 Sunnyside Park
Adams Mission
4100

Dear Ms Shezi

An exploratory study on the experiences of women vendors and the psych-social effects of street life on children of women vendors in eThekweni District
Ethical Clearance number IREC 241/22

The DUT-Institutional Research Ethics Committee acknowledges receipt of your gatekeeper permission letter.

Please note that FULL APPROVAL is granted to your research proposal. You may proceed with data collection.

Any adverse events [serious or minor] which occur in connection with this study and/or which may alter its ethical consideration must be reported to the DUT-IREC according to the DUT-IREC Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's).

Please note that any deviations from the approved proposal require the approval of the DUT-IREC as outlined in the DUT-IREC SOP's.

It is compulsory for a student or researcher to apply for recertification on an annual basis. The failure to do so will result in withdrawal of ethics clearance. It is the responsibility of the researcher and the supervisor to apply for recertification.

Please note that you are required to submit a Notification of Completion of Study form together with an abstract to the DUT-IREC office on completion of your study.

Yours Sincerely

Prof J K Adam
Chairperson: DUT-IREC

Appendix F: Recruitment poster

DUT
DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
INVOLVED TOGETHER NIINI YEZIBUCHIWEHESHE

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

PARTICIPATE IN A RESEARCH STUDY!

Collecting data on experiences of women street vendors and the psycho-social effects of street life on children of women vendors.

We are looking for volunteers to help us explore the experiences of women street vendors and the psycho-social effects on the street life on children of women vendors.

 - Please contact : **Thobeka Yolanda Shezi** -
tytshezi6@gmail.com

If you are interested 


Inclusion Criteria :

- Mother aged 21-50
- Street vender with atleast one child aged 7-15 years.
- Indigenous speaking participants are included, those who are willing to participate.


What To Expect :

- One on one interviews.
- The dialogue will be recorded for data analysis.
- Duration of the interview may take up to 45 minutes.


Study Setting:

Durban Central, Albert Park.
Diakonia Avenue .PC-4001




Confidential :

- A letter of information will be issued to allegable participant that explains their right to confidentiality.
- The confidentiality will be maintained through one on one sessions.
 - The recorded dialogue will kept in a safe place.

BAZAART

Appendix G: Permission to conduct interviews

Appendix B Gatekeeper's Letter

02 May 2022

City Hall
263 Dr Pixley ka Seme St
Durban 4000

Request for Permission to Conduct Research

Dear Ward Councilor

My name is Thobeka Shezi, a Child and Youth Care Masters student at the Durban University of Technology. The research I wish to conduct for my Masters dissertation, involves the effects of street life on children of women vendors in eThekweni district.

I am hereby seeking your consent to conduct a research study in the eThekweni Community, mainly with female street vendors who are mothers and have to vend while taking care of their children. I also kindly request for permission to use a nearby community facility or church to be able to conduct interviews.

Aim of the study: To explore the experiences of women vendors and the psych-social effects of street life on children of women vendors in eThekweni District.

Objectives of the study:

1. To understand the experiences and challenges faced by women vendors in eThekweni district.
2. To explore what risks their children face on the streets whilst in the care of their mothers.
3. To enquire how these children's physical and psycho-social well-being is affected by having to be on the streets whilst their mothers vend.
4. To understand the support systems and mechanisms may enable the safety and well-being of women vendors and their children.
5. To make recommendations that can support the well-being of female vendors and their children.

Inclusion criteria: Mothers) aged 21-50.
Female street vendors with at least one child aged 7-15 years
Indigenous speaking participants are included.
Those willing to participate.

Exclusion criteria:
Mothers who are below 21 and above 60 are excluded.
Female street vendors with children above 15 years
Those unwilling to participate.

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I have provided you with a copy of my proposal which includes copies of the data collection tools and consent and/ or assent forms to be used in the research process, as well as a copy of the approval letter which I received from the Institutional Research Ethics Committee (IREC).

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me [0618702757] email address: 21816430@dut4life.ac.za. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Thobeka Yolanda Shezi
Durban University of Technology

Cllr Mngonyama Mzekutho Rotas

COMMISSIONER OF OATHS
ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY
EX OFFICIO DISTRICT OF DURBAN IN
TERMS OF SECTION 6 OF ACT 16 OF 1963
(AS AMENDED) CITY HALL SECRETARIAT
Dr Pixley Kaseme Street, Durban, 4001

Appendix B: Letter of Information

Page