

**UNIVERSITY
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LUSAKA**

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**Illegal Immigration and Its Socio-Economic Impact on Natural Resource-Rich
Regions: The Case of Mineral Resources in Luli and Matala Mining Areas,
Mumbwa District, Zambia.**

**A Dissertation Presented to University of Lusaka in Partial Fulfillment for
Requirement of the Master of Arts in Peace and Security Studies**

(MPCS)

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DECLARATION

I, Mwansa Mwansa, do hereby declare that this thesis is my own work. Any published or unpublished work or materials of other persons used have been duly acknowledged and that this work has not previously been submitted at any other University for similar or any other purposes.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to myself for the hard work and determination that I exhibited throughout the course of my study in order to achieve great success. It was certainly not an easy task.

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the issue of illegal immigration and its socio-economic impacts, particularly in the mineral-rich areas of Luli and Matala in Mumbwa District, Zambia. The study aimed to look at a few key areas: firstly, it set out to assess the economic activities and job trends of illegal immigrants working in the mining sector; secondly, it wanted to understand how illegal immigration was affecting the local communities, particularly in terms of social interactions, community unity, and cultural exchanges; and thirdly, it focused on the environmental consequences of illegal immigration, particularly how it contributed to resource exploitation, pollution, and the overall degradation of the area's natural environment.

To gather the necessary information, a descriptive survey design was used. This design allowed for a thorough collection of opinions and experiences from the people who lived through the situation. The data collection process was a combination of both qualitative and quantitative methods, such as interviews that guided respondents through detailed discussions, focus group conversations that brought different voices into the conversation, and structured questionnaires that kept everything in line and easy to analyse.

The findings painted a clear picture. Illegal immigration in the area sparked fierce competition for the precious gold resources. With more people scrambling for the same resources, tensions grew. Alongside this economic scramble, the local communities faced rising social challenges, crime rates went up, creating a sense of unease and fear among locals. Furthermore, the environmental impact wasn't just a minor issue; it was significant. Poor sanitation and substandard hygiene practices from illegal immigrants worsened the already fragile state of the environment, and the area began to feel the weight of its own neglect.

The study concluded with key recommendations. To begin with, the Government should endeavor to increase the number of personnel in the Immigration Department so as to enhance border patrols and monitor border towns more effectively in order to curb the flow of illegal immigrants into the country. It is also crucial to step up awareness campaigns, urging local communities to resist the temptation to harbor or assist illegal immigrants. Instead, the focus should be on reporting them to the authorities, both the Immigration Department and the Zambia Police Service.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

Illegal immigration in resource-rich areas presents complex socio-economic challenges, particularly in areas like Luli and Matala mining areas in Mumbwa District, Zambia, where abundant mineral resources attract diverse populations. The interplay between economic opportunities and illegal immigration creates a dynamic that strains local governance, disrupts social cohesion, and compromises equitable resource utilization. This chapter introduces the research by exploring the contextual framework of illegal immigration in these areas, emphasizing its implications on natural resource management and community livelihoods. The discussion sets the stage for examining the factors driving this phenomenon and the broader consequences that come with it.

1.2 Background information

Illegal immigration presents a complex challenge, particularly in regions abundant in natural resources. These areas, often perceived as hubs of economic opportunity, attract migrants seeking improved livelihoods despite lacking the legal documentation to reside or work. The motivations for illegal immigration are diverse, ranging from aspirations for a better future to the necessity of fleeing economic hardships or political instability in their home countries.

Illegal immigration occurs when individual's cross borders or remain in a country without proper authorization. It is driven by factors such as poverty, unstable political environments, and the need to escape persecution (Mwangi, 2019). However, its consequences are far-reaching. It impacts labor markets, places significant pressure on social services, and poses challenges for governments striving to regulate immigration policies. Additionally, it raises concerns regarding national security, complicating efforts to maintain stable and well-managed borders.

In places like the Luli and Matala mining areas in Mumbwa District, Zambia, the situation takes on a whole new layer of complexity. Located in Zambia's Central Province, Mumbwa is rich in mineral resources. The availability of employment opportunities in the

mining sector attracts a significant number of migrants from various regions. This influx of people contributes to both opportunities and challenges, as the demand for resources continues to grow.

This research will conduct an in-depth analysis of the socio-economic effects of illegal immigration in these mining regions. It will examine the extent to which employment opportunities in Mumbwa attract migrants and the resulting impact on the local economy and communities. The study will assess the relationship between immigration and resource availability, identifying the associated challenges, conflicts, and potential benefits. Furthermore, it will evaluate how resource-rich areas often become centers of socio-economic disparities, considering the implications for both migrants and local populations.



Map of Zambia showing Mumbwa District shaded blue. (Source: gadm.org)

In Zambia's Mumbwa District, the Luli and Matala mining areas have become a haven for illegal immigrants. Most of them are men, lured by the gleaming promise of opportunity within the small-scale and artisanal mining sector. These perpetrators aren't just from Zambia, they come from neighbouring African countries like Tanzania, Somalia,

Zimbabwe, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. They arrive looking for something better, fleeing from the turmoil and struggles of their home countries, seeking hope and a fresh start, whether from economic hardship, political unrest, or the aftermath of conflict (Chinyemba, 2017).

However, there is a notable contradiction in their arrival. While they seek opportunities for a better life, their presence in the country remains unauthorized, placing them in a legally uncertain position. This situation creates challenges not only for the migrants themselves but also for law enforcement authorities responsible for regulating immigration and maintaining legal order. For the authorities, this becomes a major problem for them to try and control. Meanwhile, the local communities feel the strain, as competition for jobs, resources, and even basic services intensifies. Their resources, already inadequate, are now being pulled in every direction, trying to sustain the growing influx. The consequences are visible in the area, a constant reminder that the dream of a better life can sometimes come with unexpected costs.

1.2.1 Statement of the Problem

The gold-rich regions of Luili and Matala in Mumbwa District have attracted migrants from various parts of Africa, including Tanzania, Somalia, Zimbabwe, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Driven by economic hardship and political instability, these individuals seek opportunities in artisanal mining, often operating without permits (Mikula, 2013). Studies by Bolay (2021) and Rutherford (2022) highlight similar migration patterns in West Africa, Sierra Leone, and Mozambique, where mineral wealth serves as a major pull factor for displaced populations.

However, this influx has resulted in significant socio-economic and environmental challenges. Unregulated mining activities have led to severe deforestation, soil erosion, and land degradation, transforming once fertile landscapes into barren wastelands (Phiri, 2019). Additionally, local infrastructure and social services are under strain, as the growing population intensifies competition for limited resources and employment opportunities. These challenges threaten both the sustainability of the region's natural resources and the well-being of local communities.

This research aims to examine the socio-economic and environmental implications of illegal immigration in Luili and Matala's mining areas. Specifically, it seeks to assess the impact of unregulated mining on natural resources, analyze the pressures placed on local infrastructure, and evaluate policy gaps in managing migration and resource exploitation.

1.3 Research Objectives

1.3.1 General Objective

The general objective of this research was to examine the socio-economic implications of illegal Immigration to natural resource-rich areas, with a specific focus on mineral resources in Luili and Matala mining areas in Mumbwa District, Zambia.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

1. To assess the economic activities and employment patterns of illegal immigrants in the mining sectors of the study area.
2. To evaluate the social impacts of illegal immigration on host communities, including cultural dynamics, social cohesion, and community relations.
3. To explore the environmental consequences of illegal immigration in terms of resource exploitation, pollution, and ecological degradation in Luili and Matala mining areas.

1.4 Research Questions

1.4.1 General Question

What are the socio-economic implications of illegal immigration in natural resource-rich areas focusing on Luili and Matala mining areas in Mumbwa District, Zambia?

1.4.2 Specific Questions

1. How do illegal immigrants engage in economic activities within the mining sectors of the study area?
2. Which ones are the social impacts of illegal immigration on host communities, including cultural dynamics, social cohesion, and community relations?
3. What are the environmental consequences of illegal immigration in terms of resource exploitation, pollution, and ecological degradation?

1.5 Significance of the Research

This research holds undeniable significance for a variety of key players, policymakers, local communities, and academics. By uncovering layers of the complex socio-economic impact of illegal immigration in resource-rich areas, particularly in the Luili and Matala mining areas of Mumbwa District, Zambia, it shines a light on the multifaceted nature of this growing issue (Brown & Garcia, 2017). The findings are expected to serve as a roadmap for creating policies grounded in real, raw data that address the obstacles illegal immigration poses to host communities. At the same time, the research has the potential to pave the way for long-lasting development in places blessed with an abundance of natural resources. All the while, this study contributes to the broader academic conversation, deepening our understanding of illegal immigration and the sweeping socio-economic impacts it carries (Clark et al., 2018).

1.6 Scope of the Study

This study took a close look at the socio-economic fabric of the Luili and Matala mining areas in Mumbwa District, Zambia. It went into the demographic details, economic activities, social interactions, and the environmental impacts of illegal immigration in these regions. The aim was to unfold the socio-economic impacts effects caused by this issue. However, it is imperative to note that this study did not address the broader context of immigration policies or legal immigration processes in Zambia.

Additionally, given the limited timeframe of the study, it wasn't able to explore every corner of illegal immigration in the targeted areas (Sikamo, 2016).

1.7 Definition of Key Terms and Concepts

Illegal Immigration: This refers to people crossing borders without the right papers or permission, which violates the laws of immigration.

Socio-economic Implications: These are the negative effects that come from illegal immigration. They can change the way people work, how much they get paid, and the social fabric of a community. It's more than just the economy—it impacts the way cultures blend, how well infrastructure can handle the strain, and even the environment itself (Johnson and Patel, 2020).

Natural Resource-Rich Areas: These are the places that have a treasure chest of natural resources whether it's minerals, forests, water, or good land for farming. People crowd to these areas, often looking for jobs in industries like mining. They're like magnets for migrants, pulling in anyone hoping to earn a decent living (Lindah, 2014).

Mineral Resources: These are precious materials buried deep in the earth that are mined. They hold economic power and are crucial for industries like manufacturing, construction, and energy. For instance, gold, copper, or diamond which are shiny, valuable, and used in just about everything we build or use.

Luli and Matala Mining Areas: These two places in Zambia's Mumbwa District are known for their mining, especially when it comes to extracting valuable minerals such as gold. It's the heart of the region's mining activity, where people come to dig into the earth, hoping to uncover hidden riches.

Host Communities: These are the local people living in areas that illegal immigrants flow into. For example, in places like Luli and Matala, the original residents might find themselves living alongside migrants, experiencing changes in their job market, social networks, and the very way their communities' function.

Sustainable Development: This is all about finding a balance by ensuring we can meet our needs today without running out of resources for tomorrow. This is where economic progress, social equity, and environmental health all have to move in harmony (Martinez & Lee, 2020).

Policymakers: These are the decision-makers who craft the laws and regulations that guide everything from immigration to labor practices, natural resource management, and community development. Whether they are sitting in a local council meeting or at a national government desk, they are the ones who create the rules that everyone else has to follow.

1.8 Limitations of the Study

This study faced several limitations. Limited access to data arose as many illegal immigrants were unwilling to participate due to fear of legal repercussions. Additionally, the study's focus on only two mining areas; Luli and Matala thereby restricting the generalizability of the findings to other regions. Furthermore, the reliability of responses was a concern, as some participants may have provided biased information influenced by their personal interests in the mining sector.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Chapter Introduction

This chapter reviews existing literature to provide a comprehensive understanding of the complex dynamics surrounding illegal immigration and its socio-economic implications in these mining areas. By examining prior studies and theoretical perspectives, it sets the stage for analyzing the broader impacts on local communities, resource governance, and national development.

2.2 The global perspective

Illegal immigration remains a significant issue across the African continent, generating ongoing debate and impacting national economies. Many African countries, already grappling with economic disparities and political instability, experience both internal and external migration pressures. Migrants seeking employment opportunities frequently cross-national borders, particularly in sectors such as mining, agriculture, and domestic work (Adepoju, 2006).

For example, South Africa has experienced substantial migration flows from countries such as Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Malawi. Many of these migrants secure employment in informal mining activities, where they are commonly referred to as "zamazamas." However, their working conditions are often characterized by extreme physical labor, hazardous environments, and legal uncertainties. Additionally, issues such as environmental degradation, violent conflicts, and exploitation by criminal organizations further complicate their situation (Crush, 2017).

Smith (2017), in his study *The Socio-Economic Impact of Illegal Immigration: A Comparative Study of Selected African Countries*, provides an in-depth analysis of the economic and social consequences of illegal immigration in various African nations. The study highlights the strain that illegal immigration places on national resources, including employment opportunities, healthcare systems, education infrastructure, and housing availability. Political leaders, labor unions, and citizens often attribute job shortages, declining wages, overcrowded housing, and rising crime rates to the presence of illegal

immigrants. Smith's research further illustrates that the effects of illegal immigration extend beyond economic concerns, influencing social cohesion and political stability by exacerbating tensions and contributing to civil unrest. The study emphasizes the necessity of implementing policies that are tailored to the specific circumstances of each country, as a uniform approach is insufficient to address the complexities of illegal immigration effectively.

A critical issue associated with illegal immigration is its impact on labor markets. The concern that illegal immigrants contribute to increased job competition in already struggling economies is well-founded. In regions experiencing high unemployment rates, the arrival of undocumented migrants may intensify difficulties in securing employment. Many illegal immigrants have limited formal education and lack specialized skills, which often confines them to low-paying, unskilled labor sectors (Van Niekerk, 2015). These jobs, typically in construction, domestic work, hospitality, and informal trade, are also sought by a significant proportion of unemployed citizens who similarly possess limited skills and qualifications (Van Niekerk, 2015). As a result, illegal immigration may contribute to increased job market saturation and wage suppression, further complicating the economic landscape for low-income workers.

The competition for employment opportunities between local job seekers and illegal immigrants has significant socio-economic implications. Local workers face increasing difficulties in securing jobs as employers prioritize hiring illegal immigrants who accept lower wages. This practice contributes to wage suppression, adversely affecting the earning potential of local laborers. As a result, concerns have been raised regarding the impact of illegal immigration on fair wage standards and employment opportunities for citizens. The presence of illegal immigrants in various sectors of the economy has intensified economic tensions, particularly in low-income communities where job security is already precarious.

The influx of illegal immigrants into lower-tier labor markets has led to a measurable decline in wages. Many of these migrants, facing financial difficulties, accept lower compensation, which contributes to wage stagnation and reduced earnings for local workers (Cohen, 2017). Labor unions have expressed growing discontent over this issue,

asserting that the employment of illegal immigrants undermines efforts to establish equitable labor conditions. Additionally, illegal immigrants are often engaged in informal trade, selling goods such as artifacts, curios, and textiles at lower prices. Local traders have raised concerns that these practices create unfair competition, as illegal immigrants are suspected of evading import duties and customs fees, further exacerbating economic disparities (Cohen, 2017).

In South Africa, challenges related to illegal immigration persist despite efforts toward social integration following the end of apartheid. Carim (2015) notes that since 1994, xenophobic sentiments have remained prevalent, with illegal immigrants and refugees from other African nations facing discrimination and hostility. In urban centers such as Johannesburg, Durban, and Cape Town, foreign traders have been subjected to verbal abuse, physical violence, and destruction of their goods. Many South Africans associate illegal immigration with increased competition for essential resources such as housing, healthcare, and education, leading to the perception that government services should prioritize citizens over non-nationals (Carim, 2015). Chimere-Dan (2006) further observes that these sentiments reflect broader concerns regarding national interests and the allocation of public resources.

The rise of xenophobia is influenced by various social and economic factors. Media representations frequently associate illegal immigrants with issues such as unemployment, crime, and the spread of infectious diseases, contributing to negative public perceptions (Labuschagne & Muller, 2013). During the apartheid era, systemic racial oppression was identified as the primary cause of economic hardships for black South Africans. In the post-apartheid period, however, governance failures and unfulfilled socio-economic expectations have resulted in the attribution of economic and social challenges to illegal immigrants (Labuschagne & Muller, 2013).

Illegal immigration has been linked to an increase in criminal activity, as economic hardships often compel undocumented individuals to engage in unlawful conduct as a means of survival. In post-apartheid South Africa, crime rates involving illegal immigrants increased by 150% following the 1994 elections, indicating the unintended consequences of socio-political transitions (Van Niekerk, 2015). Police data indicates that illegal

immigrants are implicated in approximately 14% of crimes, including arms smuggling, drug trafficking, prostitution, money laundering, and vehicle theft (Carim, 2015). These offenses contribute to broader security concerns, as they are often linked to more serious crimes such as violent assaults and homicide, creating significant challenges for law enforcement agencies and local communities.

In addition to crime-related concerns, illegal immigration places considerable pressure on public services, particularly within the healthcare sector. In rural areas of South Africa, such as the Northern Province and Mpumalanga, healthcare facilities frequently experience resource shortages due to the high demand for medical care from undocumented Mozambican migrants (Solomon, 2005). The introduction of the 1994 policy providing free healthcare for pregnant women and children under six, while intended as a humanitarian measure, has inadvertently intensified the strain on already overburdened medical facilities. The increased demand for services has placed significant pressure on healthcare infrastructure, affecting both the quality and accessibility of medical care for local populations.

Furthermore, undocumented immigrants from Mozambique also contributed to the resurgence of diseases like cholera, malaria, and yellow fever in South Africa's north-eastern regions, ailments once thought to be banished to the pages of history (Solomon, 2005). The secretive nature of border crossings left no room for medical checks or immunizations, transforming these individuals into unknowing carriers of old enemies. Like a silent storm brewing on the horizon, the spread of HIV added yet another layer to the crisis. Labuschagne and Muller (2013) suggested a disturbing connection between undocumented migrants and the rising tide of HIV, as many, separated from their families, turned to purchasing or selling sexual services as a means of survival. The metaphorical floodgates opened, and South Africa, sharing borders with six other nations, struggled to control the pandemic's relentless march.

By the late 1990s, HIV loomed large, with estimates suggesting that 27% of South Africans aged 15 to 60 could be HIV-positive (Solomon, 2005). The implications were staggering, not just for public health but for the economy, which was shaken by these statistics. The unintended consequences of immigration policies and border control

failures painted a sobering picture of how interconnected systems such as healthcare, crime, and governance can crumble when stretched too thin. The echoes of these challenges continue to resonate, a stark reminder that good intentions, without careful planning, can sometimes pave the road to chaos.

The issue of illegal immigration extends beyond healthcare, placing significant pressure on social and welfare services. Across Africa, rapid urbanization has contributed to the proliferation of informal settlements, a problem exacerbated by the continuous influx of undocumented migrants. Many of these individuals arrive in South Africa with limited resources, lacking employment, housing, and financial stability. In Gauteng province, the expansion of squatter camps is directly linked to the increasing population of undocumented migrants. Reports indicate that approximately 80% of these individuals reside in informal settlements, living in makeshift housing under precarious conditions (Schutte, 2013).

A significant challenge within these communities is the difficulty in distinguishing between legal residents and undocumented immigrants. As a result, individuals without legal authorization often gain access to public services and housing that are designated for citizens. This situation places an additional burden on resources that are financed by South African taxpayers.

The increased demand for essential services has led to shortages in multiple sectors. The availability of clean water has decreased, educational institutions have become overcrowded, and public transportation systems are operating beyond their intended capacity. Furthermore, the competition for basic commodities, such as firewood, has intensified, resulting in their scarcity. There are also concerns regarding fraudulent claims for social benefits, with reports indicating that certain undocumented migrants attempt to access pensions and welfare assistance for which they do not meet the legal eligibility criteria (Schutte, 2013). These issues underscore the necessity of implementing more effective policies to regulate migration and ensure the fair allocation of public resources.

2.3 The local perspective (Zambia)

Illegal immigration has significantly impacted resource-rich areas such as the Luli and Matala mining zones in Mumbwa District, Zambia. These regions, known for their substantial gold deposits, have attracted a large number of illegal immigrants from neighboring countries, including Tanzania, Somalia, Zimbabwe, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Many of these individuals engage in artisanal mining without adhering to legal regulations or safety protocols. Their activities have contributed to various socio-economic and environmental challenges, including increased competition for employment with local miners, rising crime rates, and severe environmental degradation due to unsupervised mining operations (Phiri, 2019).

Similarly, Lusaka City has experienced the adverse effects of illegal immigration, particularly in overcrowded informal settlements such as Mandevu, Chibolya, and Matero. Reports from community development officers (CDOs) under the Lusaka City Council indicate that the growing number of immigrants in these areas has placed excessive pressure on social services, including schools and healthcare facilities (Chinyemba, 2017).

In Mandevu, one CDO noted that waste accumulation from businesses operated by both locals and immigrants has contributed to significant environmental pollution, reducing the overall quality of the area. A similar situation is observed in Lusaka's central business district and informal settlements, where illegal street vending has exacerbated pollution concerns. In Matero, another CDO highlighted the issue of illegal sand quarrying by some immigrants, which has led to substantial land degradation and environmental instability (Chinyemba, 2017).

Zambian shopkeepers in Chibolya have expressed concerns regarding taxation and regulatory compliance. Many local shop owners have refrained from openly voicing their frustrations; however, they have indicated that illegal immigrants operating businesses without proper trading licenses are engaging in unfair competition by offering lower prices. Additionally, these illegal businesses often evade regulatory oversight by closing their shops whenever city council inspectors conduct inspections (Phiri, 2019).

In the labor market, competition for employment has intensified, leading to increased tensions. According to Nhkoma (2019:31), local workers have expressed dissatisfaction with the perceived encroachment of illegal immigrants into job opportunities. Many locals feel that these individuals are securing jobs that they themselves are qualified for and seeking. One respondent articulated this sentiment by stating that illegal immigrants are pursuing the same employment opportunities as Zambian citizens. As a result, the employment sector has become highly competitive, with many perceiving the situation as a struggle for economic survival.

Illegal immigration has also been linked to an increase in criminal activities in certain areas of Zambia. Chinyemba (2017) highlights that some illegal immigrants have been involved in illicit activities, including drug trafficking, theft, and prostitution. Reports indicate that women from neighboring countries such as Malawi and Zimbabwe have been engaging in commercial sex work, particularly in bars, while some Congolese immigrants have been associated with theft and drug-related offenses.

Furthermore, the growing number of illegal immigrants has placed additional pressure on Zambia's natural resources and environment. The demand for land, agriculture, and fuel has contributed to deforestation, as forests are cleared to accommodate settlement and subsistence activities. McIntyre and Weeks (2002) have documented similar environmental impacts in countries such as Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Malawi, and Ethiopia, where refugees and displaced persons resort to cutting down trees for construction materials and fuel. These activities have had significant consequences on the sustainability of natural resources in the affected regions.

Ngoma (2020) examined the socio-economic impact of illegal immigration on communities in Zambia. His study highlighted the strain on employment opportunities, public services, and social cohesion resulting from an increasing population. However, the study did not extensively address the environmental consequences, particularly in mining areas. Notably, the influx of individuals seeking improved living conditions has contributed to the depletion of essential resources in these regions.

2.4 Theoretical Framework

There are several theories of international migration that scholars of international migration use. These are the dual labour market migration theory, the world systems approach, the relative deprivation theory, the social capital theory, the new economics of Labour migration theory and the neoclassical economics of migration theory. In this research, the neoclassical economics theory, the new economics of Labour migration theory, the dual Labour market theory and human capital theory were applicable.

The Neo-Classical Theory of Migration

The earliest and most widely recognized explanation for human migration was initially developed to account for the movement of workers during periods of economic growth. Theoretical frameworks from scholars such as Lewis in 1954, Ranis and Fei in 1961, and Harris and Todaro in the 1970s proposed migration as a response to labor market dynamics, conceptualizing it as a process driven by supply and demand. They argued that migration is not a random occurrence but a rational decision-making process based on a cost-benefit analysis, both financial and emotional (Todaro, 2011). People consider whether the potential for higher wages justifies the disruption of leaving their home environment. The theory posits that labor migrates from regions characterized by an abundance of labor and low wages to areas with a higher concentration of capital and higher wages. Wage disparities are identified as key factors that drive this movement across borders.

An example of this can be seen in the migration patterns between Africa and Europe. Africa, with its large, underutilized labor force, contrasts sharply with certain European countries facing aging populations and declining workforces, creating a demand for labor. This disparity is a significant factor motivating African workers to seek opportunities in Europe. However, while some European economies may require additional labor, not all European countries are in a position to absorb this influx. Several nations are experiencing sluggish economic growth and high levels of unemployment, particularly among their own youth populations (Samers, 2010). This presents a complex situation where there is a demand for labor, but the capacity to fully integrate migrants remains limited.

While this theory provides a solid foundation, it does not present a complete picture. Wage gaps are certainly an important factor, but the reality of migration is more complex. There are various obstacles involved in migration, including the cost of moving, the risks associated with relocation, and the psychological barriers of venturing into the unknown. These challenges are significant and often prevent many from migrating. Furthermore, migration is not solely driven by poverty. In fact, it is often individuals who are relatively better off who possess the resources to make such moves, while the poorest remain unable to migrate. This suggests that the theory highlights one aspect of migration while overlooking other important factors.

In conclusion, while this theory was groundbreaking in its time, it does not address the full range of factors influencing migration. It suggests that migration is primarily motivated by the pursuit of higher wages, but it fails to account for the multitude of other reasons that drive individuals to leave their homes. Migration is not only an economic decision but also a deeply personal one, influenced by a variety of social, emotional, and practical considerations.

The New Economic Theory of Migration

The new economics of labor migration theory builds upon the principles of neoclassical economics, but it also challenges some of its key assumptions. This perspective shifts the focus from an individual rational actor to a broader view that considers the household or family unit, which works together by pooling resources, managing risks, and making collective decisions. Migration is no longer solely about individuals seeking higher wages; it is about managing uncertainty, diversifying risks, and responding to failures in the local economy (Stark and Bloom, 1985).

In this framework, a family acts as a collective unit where some members remain in the local economy, while others migrate to foreign labor markets, where economic conditions may differ. This strategy allows the family to mitigate potential economic setbacks, such as poor harvests or a failing local market, by receiving remittances from abroad (Lauby and Stark, 1988).

In wealthier nations, households often have access to safety nets such as private insurance or government assistance programs to help cushion against financial setbacks.

However, in many developing countries, such safety nets are either weak or nonexistent. For families in such circumstances, migration becomes an essential strategy to protect against economic failures, acting as a form of financial support in times of crisis. Additionally, while families in developed countries can often borrow capital to fund new ventures, such as purchasing modern agricultural equipment, families in poorer nations face limited access to credit markets or may encounter prohibitive borrowing costs (Lauby and Stark, 1988).

Agriculture serves as an example of this. Farmers often invest in their crops not just for immediate sustenance, but as a long-term strategy to secure a better future. However, when crops fail due to adverse weather conditions or pests, their efforts may be significantly undermined. In such cases, migration becomes a critical survival strategy, allowing families to spread their risks and continue working toward long-term goals (Taylor, 1986).

In this context, migration is viewed as a way for families to manage risk, maintain stability, and improve their prospects despite adverse local conditions. While the neoclassical view of migration often emphasizes individual decision-making, the new economics of labor migration emphasizes the role of the family in navigating economic challenges and seeking opportunities for improvement through collective action.

Dual labor market theory

Illegal immigration presents a complex challenge, particularly in regions abundant in natural resources. These areas, often perceived as hubs of economic opportunity, attract migrants seeking improved livelihoods despite lacking the legal documentation to reside or work. While various migration theories attempt to explain these patterns, Dual Labor Market Theory (DLMT) provides the most comprehensive framework for understanding illegal immigration in resource-rich areas such as Luili and Matala. Unlike theories that focus on individual decision-making, DLMT shifts the focus to the structural economic forces that drive migration. As Piore (1979) argues, migration is primarily a response to labor market needs in host economies, rather than a direct consequence of poor conditions in migrants' home countries. In the case of mining communities, the demand

for low-cost labor in unregulated mining operations serves as the primary pull factor attracting migrants.

Illegal immigration occurs when individuals cross borders or remain in a country without proper authorization. The Neoclassical Theory of Migration and the New Economics of Labor Migration (NELM) emphasize the role of income disparities and household strategies in migration decisions. However, Dual Labor Market Theory challenges these perspectives by asserting that migration is not primarily driven by individuals seeking higher wages or families diversifying risk, but rather by structural labor shortages in host economies. In regions like Luili and Matala, the mining industry relies on a workforce willing to accept low wages and precarious working conditions jobs that native workers often avoid. The theory suggests that rather than addressing these labor shortages by improving wages and conditions for local workers, employers turn to undocumented migrants who are more willing to fill these roles due to limited employment alternatives in their home countries.

The gold-rich areas of Luili and Matala in Mumbwa District have attracted individuals from various parts of the continent, including Tanzania, Somalia, Zimbabwe, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. These areas, known for their mineral wealth, have become destinations for migrants seeking to escape economic difficulties and political instability in their home countries. However, while economic hardship in sending countries is a factor, DLMT suggests that it is insufficient to explain why migrants specifically settle in resource-rich areas like Mumbwa. The fundamental driver of migration is the persistent labor demand in mining, a sector that inherently depends on informal, low-wage labor. The presence of undocumented workers in artisanal mining is therefore not a byproduct of migration decisions alone, but a necessary condition for the continued functioning of the industry.

The economic opportunities presented by gold mining serve as a significant incentive for relocation. Upon arrival, many individuals engage in artisanal mining activities, often without the necessary permits, in pursuit of financial stability and improved livelihoods (Mikula, 2013). From a Dual Labor Market Theory perspective, this labor force is essential to the functioning of the informal mining sector. Artisanal mining is characterized by harsh

working conditions, low wages, and a lack of legal protections, making it an unattractive employment option for local workers. According to DLMT, the existence of these undesirable jobs creates a structural dependency on foreign labor, as employers struggle to recruit local workers who view such work as socially and economically demeaning. Rather than focusing on individual migration choices, this theory highlights how economic structures perpetuate an ongoing demand for undocumented workers.

A key concept within DLMT that explains this phenomenon is structural inflation. Wage structures in labor markets are not solely determined by supply and demand but are also shaped by job prestige and social hierarchy (Massey et al., 1993). In resource-rich regions like Luili and Matala, employers cannot simply raise wages to attract local workers without disrupting the broader wage structure across different employment sectors. Increasing wages for low-status jobs in mining would create pressure to adjust wages across higher-tier jobs, making labor costs unsustainable for employers. Consequently, hiring undocumented migrants who are willing to work for lower wages becomes the most practical solution for maintaining profitability in artisanal mining operations (Lucci and Martins, 2015). The reliance on migrant labor is therefore not a temporary response but a structural necessity within the local economy.

Another crucial factor reinforcing the role of Dual Labor Market Theory in this study is the issue of motivational challenges at the lower end of the occupational hierarchy. Many of the jobs in the artisanal mining sector lack career mobility, status, or long-term security. According to Paolin and Perrin (2001), the lowest-tier jobs in any labor market present inherent motivational issues, as they offer limited prospects for advancement. In Mumbwa District, mining jobs occupied by undocumented migrants fall into this category—difficult, hazardous, and largely informal, making them unattractive to native workers. DLMT asserts that such positions will always remain vacant unless filled by foreign labor, as locals prefer jobs with higher status and mobility. This theory, therefore, explains why mining operations consistently attract undocumented migrants despite the risks involved.

Migrants, however, often have different motivations. Many enter the mining industry as target earners, aiming to accumulate wealth to improve their social standing in their home countries. They engage in low-wage labor with the intention of sending remittances,

purchasing land, or financing other investments back home (Samers, 2010). The disparity in living standards between sending and receiving regions means that wages considered low in Zambia may still be attractive to migrants from poorer regions. This further illustrates Piore's argument that migration is not simply about escaping poverty, but rather about responding to labor market structures that create a continuous demand for foreign workers willing to take on undesirable jobs. Unlike the Neoclassical Theory, which assumes individuals migrate to maximize income, DLMT recognizes that migrants often take low-paying jobs that native workers reject, knowing that the earnings still hold significant value in their home countries.

Therefore, the case of illegal immigration in Luili and Matala mining areas aligns most strongly with Dual Labor Market Theory. The influx of migrants is not simply a result of economic distress in their home countries but is largely driven by the mining sector's structural dependence on a low-cost, flexible labor force. The unwillingness of local workers to engage in artisanal mining due to low status and harsh conditions creates a persistent labor gap that undocumented migrants readily fill. Unlike other migration theories, which emphasize individual agency and household strategies, DLMT provides a more systemic explanation—one that highlights how economic structures perpetuate ongoing demand for cheap migrant labor. As a result, illegal immigration in these resource-rich areas is better understood not as an individual choice or household strategy, but as a structural outcome of economic forces that continuously generate demand for foreign workers in mining.

Human Capital Theory

This theory was developed by Larry (1962) and is regarded as a variant of the neo-classical economic theory of migration when viewed at the individual level of preference. According to the article, this theory emphasizes the significance of socio-demographic characteristics of individuals as key factors influencing migration decisions at the micro level (Lucia, 2011). The theory posits that individuals act rationally, migrating with the objective of optimizing their opportunities and outcomes.

It further highlights that human capital factors such as skills, age, marital status, gender, occupation, labor market status, preferences, and expectations play a significant role in determining who migrates and who does not. Additionally, the theory states that the willingness or enthusiasm to migrate tends to decrease with age but increases with higher educational attainment. This perspective can also provide insight into why African youths form the majority of those engaging in irregular or illegal migration journeys. Although middle-aged individuals are also involved in such movements, the majority are youths (Thomas, 1999).

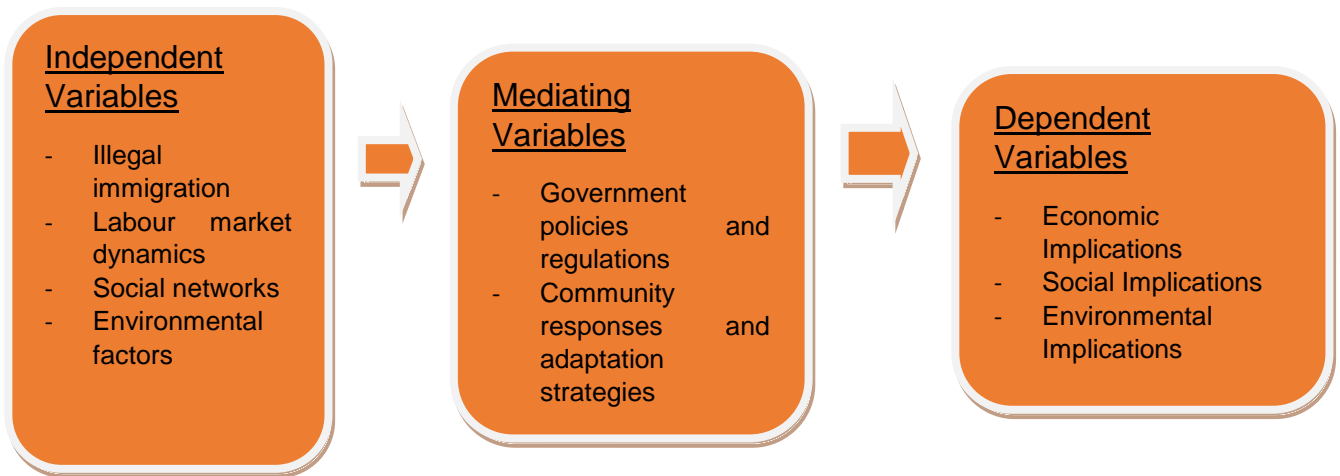
The Network Theory of Migration

The network theory of migration provides a comprehensive explanation for the reasons behind the migration of Africans to Europe. This theory highlights that migration persists over time and across spaces, even in the absence of wage differences or specific recruitment policies (Massey, 1993). Scholars suggest that migration networks, including diaspora communities, play a significant role in shaping migrants' decisions about their destinations. These networks are crucial in facilitating illegal migration, as they provide necessary support systems, such as connections with family, friends, human traffickers, and other resources. Without such support, migration would be financially prohibitive and far riskier (McKeon, 2004).

The network theory is particularly relevant to the ongoing migration trends of Gambians and other African migrants. Many of these individuals are motivated by aspirations of success in Europe, coupled with the restrictive migration policies in European countries, which make legal migration increasingly difficult. This theory also helps to explain why migration flows are not evenly distributed across different countries (Lucci and Martins, 2015).

The migration theories discussed not only explain the reasons behind migration but also explore how migrants adjust to their new environments. By examining these theoretical frameworks and the factors contributing to illegal migration on a global scale, this research aims to analyze how these theories are reflected in the findings.

2.5 Conceptual Framework



elucidate the complex dynamics of illegal immigration and its socio-economic implication in natural resource-rich areas.

Illegal Immigration: Refers to the movement of individuals across national borders without the required legal authorization or documentation. This phenomenon is often driven by a combination of factors, including the pursuit of economic opportunities, escape from political instability, and the pressures resulting from environmental changes.

Labor Market Dynamics: This term describes the relationship between the supply of labor and the demand within a country's economy. It is shaped by various factors, such as the nation's economic growth, the structure of industries, and advances in technology, which together determine employment patterns and wages.

Social Networks: These are the interconnected relationships that play a key role in the migration process. They help facilitate migration by sharing information, mobilizing resources, and providing social support to migrants.

Environmental Factors: This encompasses elements like the availability of natural resources, the degradation of the environment, and the sustainability of ecosystems. These factors often influence migration patterns, livelihood strategies, and the resilience of communities in areas rich in natural resources.

Dependent Variables:

- **Economic Implications:** This involves the effects of illegal immigration on the host country's economy, which includes factors like labor market performance, wages, productivity, and overall economic growth.
- **Social Implications:** These refer to the impacts on the social fabric of host communities, such as changes in social cohesion, cultural dynamics, and community relations. It also includes shifts in local identity due to the presence of immigrant populations.
- **Environmental Implications:** This includes the effects of illegal immigration on environmental sustainability, including resource depletion, pollution, and ecological degradation, particularly in areas rich in natural resources.

Mediating Variables:

- **Government Policies and Regulations:** Immigration laws, labor market regulations, and environmental policies, as well as law enforcement measures, play a crucial role in shaping the circumstances and outcomes of illegal immigration.
- **Community Responses and Adaptation Strategies:** These are the responses and coping mechanisms of local communities to the challenges posed by illegal immigration. This could involve efforts to integrate migrants, enhance social cohesion, and implement strategies for environmental conservation.

Conceptual Relationships: It is proposed that illegal immigration directly and indirectly affects labor markets, social networks, and environmental conditions, influencing economic, social, and environmental outcomes. The relationship between illegal immigration and its socio-economic impacts is shaped by government policies and local community responses, which together guide the overall migration process.

CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

Chapter Three outlines the research methodology employed in this study to examine the socio-economic implications of illegal immigration in the Luili and Matala mining areas of Mumbwa District. This section provides a detailed framework for the research design, data collection methods, and analysis techniques used to ensure the study's objectives are achieved. By focusing on these methods, the chapter ensures that the findings are reliable and reflect the complexities of illegal immigration in resource-rich regions.

3.2 Research Approach

This study employed a mixed-methods approach, combining both qualitative and quantitative research techniques to explore the socio-economic effects of illegal immigration in the Luili and Matala mining areas of Mumbwa District, Zambia. The qualitative methods provided a deeper understanding of the subjective experiences, perceptions, and social dynamics associated with illegal immigration, while the quantitative methods enabled the analysis of demographic, economic, and environmental data (Johnson & Onwuegbuzie, 2004).

3.3 Research Design

A case study approach was adopted to investigate the socio-economic impacts of illegal immigration to natural resource-rich areas, specifically focusing on the Luili and Matala mining areas of Mumbwa District, Zambia. According to Kombo and Tromp (2006), case studies aim to provide a detailed, contextual, and holistic description of a specific unit. This design facilitated an in-depth examination of the challenges posed by illegal immigration in resource-rich areas, with Mumbwa District serving as the focal point of the study. However, the study did not cover the entire District but rather concentrated on the areas where illegal immigrants were most prevalent. To this end, an embedded case study approach was utilized, involving multiple levels of analysis. Yin (2003) advocated for the inclusion of sub-units within case studies, as this enhances the depth and rigor of inquiry. He further highlighted that this approach is particularly well-suited to studies

aimed at describing and explaining the characteristics, context, and processes related to specific phenomena, such as illegal immigration in areas rich in natural resources. For the purposes of this research, Luli and Matala were chosen as sub-units because these locations are known for their significant populations of illegal immigrants.

A qualitative research methodology was adopted for the study, as described by Leedy and Ormrod (2005:94), who emphasized that this method is particularly effective in addressing complex phenomena. This approach seeks to describe, understand, and explain phenomena from the perspectives of the participants. To achieve these objectives, interviews and open-ended questions within questionnaires were employed to gather detailed insights from participants. Case studies are particularly suited for addressing "how" and "why" questions (Myers, 2009), which aligned with the study's goals. Consequently, descriptive and explanatory qualitative techniques, as emphasized by Mouton (2001), were deemed the most appropriate. Pacho (2015) also noted that qualitative analysis is particularly useful in studies involving purposively selected participants, which applied to this research. Furthermore, qualitative research often aims to develop theories grounded in the data (Bendasolli, 2013).

Atieno (2002:16) observed that qualitative analysis is effective in managing and simplifying data while retaining the complexity and context of the phenomenon being studied. Pacho (2015) similarly pointed out that qualitative research allows for the incorporation of new elements into the research process, offering adaptability to emerging findings. Open-ended questions, in particular, provide opportunities to uncover fresh insights or even identify additional objectives for the study. Moreover, qualitative research is inherently flexible, enabling researchers to explore unexpected findings as they emerge.

Despite its strengths, qualitative research has certain limitations. It does not yield statistical frequencies for linguistic features within findings (Atieno, 2002). Both rare and common phenomena are treated with equal attention, which can limit broader generalizations (Atieno, 2002:17). Additionally, while comparisons with other studies are possible, qualitative findings cannot be generalized to wider populations due to their focus on specific case studies. Another challenge is the time-intensive nature of qualitative

research, which requires conducting interviews, transcribing data, and categorizing and coding responses from both interviews and open-ended questionnaires (Pacho, 2015).

While qualitative research provided significant insights into the socio-economic impacts of illegal immigration, quantitative data also played a crucial role in complementing the findings. Quantitative data allows for the collection of numerical information on the scale of illegal immigration, such as the number of migrants, their demographic characteristics, and the economic impact on the local community. This data could be gathered through surveys or census-like methods and analyzed using statistical tools to establish patterns or trends. According to Creswell (2014), the combination of qualitative and quantitative approaches, often referred to as mixed methods research, enhances the reliability and validity of the findings by providing both depth and breadth to the research outcomes.

In this study, quantitative data was used to supplement qualitative findings by offering measurable evidence of the extent and nature of illegal immigration in the Luili and Matala areas. This dual approach allowed for a more comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon, facilitating the exploration of relationships between illegal immigration and various socio-economic factors, such as local employment, resource exploitation, and community well-being. As noted by Johnson and Onwuegbuzie (2004), incorporating both qualitative and quantitative data provides a more holistic understanding of complex issues like illegal migration. Quantitative analysis could thus complement the case study findings by offering objective measurements that reflect the scale and scope of the impacts observed in the research.

3.4 Study Population

The study involved a population of 500 individuals representing various stakeholder groups directly or indirectly impacted by illegal immigration in the Luili and Matala mining regions. This population size was determined based on estimates from local community records, government documents, and data obtained from Non-Governmental Organizations operating in the area. The stakeholder groups comprised 200 illegal immigrants, mostly from other African nations, participating in artisanal mining activities; approximately 150 residents from the Luili and Matala areas; 50 government officials from agencies such as Immigration, the Ministry of Mines and Minerals, the Zambia Revenue

Authority (ZRA), labor, environmental, local council, and community development offices; 50 representatives from NGOs and civil society organizations; and 50 researchers and experts specializing in immigration, labor markets, and environmental issues.

To ensure a broad and inclusive representation of perspectives and experiences regarding illegal immigration in the study regions, a combination of purposive sampling, snowball sampling, and random sampling methods was used to select participants from each stakeholder group (Creswell & Creswell, 2017)

3.5 Sample Size

The study aimed to include 200 participants. This sample size was determined to meet both qualitative and quantitative research needs, ensuring sufficient representation from the various stakeholder groups involved in illegal immigration and its socio-economic implications in the Luili and Matala mining areas. The sample was distributed as follows: 70 participants were selected from illegal miners and laborers working in the area, 50 participants consisting of community leaders, business owners, and local residents, 30 participants from immigration, labor, and environmental regulatory agencies, 30 participants from organizations supporting the community and advocating for change in the area, and 20 participants with experience in immigration and socio-economic issues related to mining. The sample size was determined based on qualitative research principles of saturation (Guest et al., 2006) and quantitative power analysis (Soper, 2020).

3.6 Sampling Techniques

For this study, Luili and Matala mining areas were selected as the study sites. Respondents from these settlements were purposefully chosen, including both illegal immigrants and Zambians who interacted with them either directly or indirectly. The researcher used direct observation and local knowledge to identify participants among the immigrants and Zambians who had regular contact with them.

To select participants from each stakeholder group, a combination of purposive sampling and random sampling was utilized (Babbie, 2016). Simple random sampling was employed to select the illegal immigrants, while purposive sampling was used for the selection of key informants. The sample size for illegal immigrants was evenly distributed to avoid overrepresentation and ensure an unbiased interpretation of data (Pacho, 2015).

As noted by Frerichs (2008) in the context of rapid surveys, “subjects in the population are sampled by a random process, using either a random number generator or a random number table, so that each person remaining in the population has the same probability of being selected for the sample.”

3.7 Data Collection/Instruments

Data was collected using a variety of methods and tools, as follows:

Surveys: Structured questionnaires were distributed to obtain quantitative data on the demographic details, economic activities, and environmental perceptions of the participants.

Interviews: Semi-structured interviews were conducted to gain a deeper understanding of participants' experiences, views, and perceptions regarding illegal immigration and its socio-economic effects.

Focus Group Discussions (FGDs): These were organized to encourage group interactions, allowing participants to share collective perspectives and insights on the research topic.

Documentary Analysis: Relevant documents, reports, and records from government agencies, NGOs, and community organizations were reviewed to supplement the primary data collected and to provide additional context (Bowen, 2009).

3.8 Data Analysis

The collected data was analyzed using a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods. The researcher first employed qualitative techniques to interpret and explain the phenomena under investigation, addressing the research questions. Data gathered through observations, interviews, and open-ended questionnaires were analyzed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the socio-economic impacts of illegal immigration in natural resource-rich areas in Mumbwa District, particularly focusing on the Luili and Matala mining areas. To facilitate the qualitative analysis, formal systems for data coding and categorization were applied. Following the guidelines of Ryan and Bernard (2000), the researcher utilized coding techniques to identify key ideas within the data, grouped similar information into categories, and related various themes to one another. This process allowed for a deep interpretation of the findings in line with the research objectives.

In addition to the qualitative analysis, quantitative data was incorporated to strengthen the research findings. The researcher gathered numerical data through structured surveys to capture measurable aspects of illegal immigration, such as the number of migrants, demographic characteristics, and the extent of their socio-economic contributions or challenges in the mining areas. Statistical analysis was used to quantify the impact of illegal immigration, providing objective data on trends, patterns, and correlations. The integration of both qualitative and quantitative data enabled a more robust analysis, facilitating a comprehensive understanding of the socio-economic implications of illegal immigration in Mumbwa District.

From this combined analysis, conclusions were drawn regarding the socio-economic effects of illegal immigration in the resource-rich areas of Mumbwa, particularly in Luili and Matala. The findings also led to the formulation of recommendations aimed at

addressing the issues arising from illegal immigration and suggesting strategies for mitigating and controlling the phenomenon in the mining areas.

3.9 Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations were a central aspect of the research process, with particular attention paid to informed consent, confidentiality, and the respect for participants' autonomy and privacy. Furrow (2004, p.43) defines ethics as "a morality or a position of doing what is right both morally and legally." Participants were informed about the purpose and nature of the study, and consent was obtained prior to the interviews. Furthermore, the researcher ensured that participants voluntarily agreed to participate in the study, with the freedom to withdraw without facing any negative consequences. Participants were reassured that their responses would remain confidential and anonymous. In line with Crow & Wiles (2008), pseudonyms were used to maintain confidentiality and anonymity of interviewees, especially those from informal settlements.

3.10 Conclusion

This chapter has provided an overview of the methodology used in this study, including the research design, study population, sample size, sampling methods, data collection tools, data analysis techniques, and ethical considerations. The next chapter will present the findings derived from the field data, following a comprehensive analysis.

CHAPTER FOUR: PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents findings of the study. The findings will be presented according to research objectives. The chapter will begin by presenting the demographic characteristics of respondents.

A. DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Demographic characteristics of respondents

The aim of this section is to describe the demographic and social characteristics of respondents. Demographic variables include age and sex while social variables take an account of education, marital status and main occupation. These variables are discussed in the following sub-sections.

4.1.2 Gender of respondents

The analysis revealed that 130 of the respondents representing 65% of the total respondents were men while a total of 70 respondents representing 35 % were female. The table below presents the result.

Table 4.1 Gender of respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	130	65
Female	70	35
Total	200	100

4.1.3 Age of Respondents.

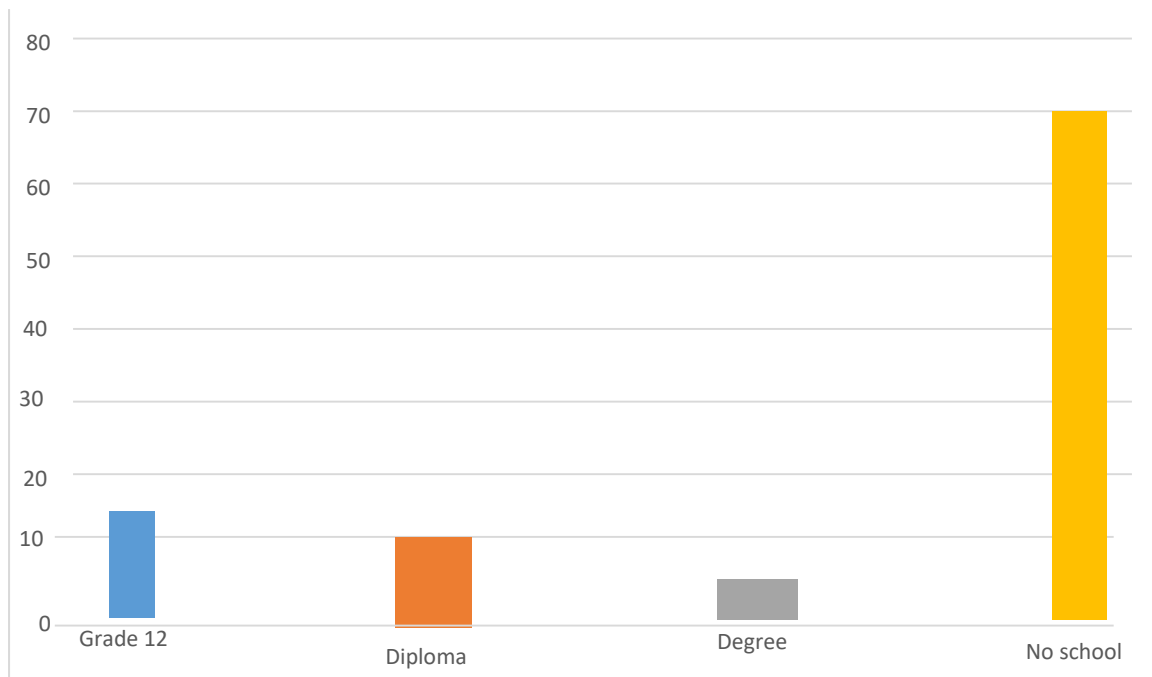
The results revealed a fascinating breakdown of respondents' ages. Firstly, the group aged between 18 and 24 years made up 20% of the respondents, a total of 40 individuals. Then, we saw the next group, those between 25 and 31 years, who accounted for 30%, or 60 people. A little ahead, in the 32 to 38-year range, 52 respondents participated, making up 26%. Finally, the 39 and above age bracket came in with 48 respondents, representing 24%. It's almost like a journey through the years, from the youthful energy of the younger group to the seasoned wisdom of the older ones. The chart below, neatly laid out, paints a picture of this age distribution, offering a glimpse into the diverse range of people who took part in this study.

Table 4.2 Age of respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
18-24	40	20
25-31	60	30
32-38	52	26
39-above	48	24
Total	200	100

4.1.4 Education level of respondents

FIGURE 4.1 EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF RESPONDENTS



The figure above shows that most respondents (70%) that participated in the research did not possess any educational qualification at all. 15% of the respondents possessed a Grade 12 Certificate, 10% of respondents possessed a diploma, and 5% have a degree.

B. QUESTION ONE RESPONSES

4.2 Economic activities and employment patterns of illegal immigrants in the mining sectors of the study area

The first objective of this study was to assess the economic activities and employment patterns of illegal immigrants working in the mining sectors of the area under review. To gather insights on this matter, the researcher conducted interviews while also handing out questionnaires to a wide range of respondents. These efforts brought back diverse views,

each shedding light on the role of illegal immigrants in the local mining industry, with all its complexities and contradictions. After that what follows are the results, which bring to the surface some surprising, if not unexpected, truths about the economic heartbeat of this region.

4.2.1 Competition over employment opportunities

The study findings revealed that there was increased competition between locals and illegal immigrants over limited jobs in Luili and Matala Mining Areas in Mumbwa District. The figure below summarizes respondent's views regarding this finding;

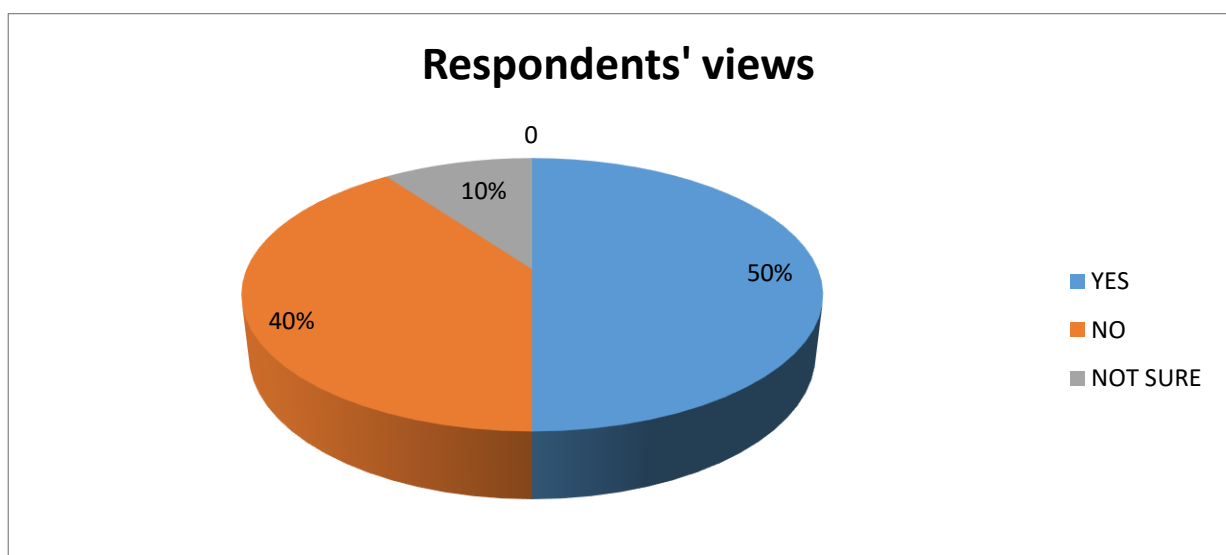


Figure 4.2 Respondents views on competition over employment opportunities

As seen in the figure above, a large portion of the respondents recognized the growing competition for jobs between local residents and illegal immigrants. In fact, half of them (50%) agreed that this competition was real, while 40% disagreed, and 10% weren't sure. These results show that, overall, most people believe that illegal immigration has an effect on the local labor market, though opinions differ on just how deep that effect runs.

The study also uncovered that illegal immigration has a big impact on job prospects for locals. One of the main reasons is that illegal immigrants are often willing to work for less

pay in jobs like those in the mining sector. Local workers, on the other hand, usually expect higher wages. This wage gap creates an enticing option for employers, who might opt to hire illegal immigrants instead of local workers, leading to job displacement. While some local residents might see benefits, like lower prices for goods and services, the hardest-hit groups are the most vulnerable, women, youth, low-skilled workers, and those living in underprivileged areas. The increased job competition can make life even harder for these groups, catalysing poverty and inequality within the community.

On top of the job competition, the study also pointed out that the influx of illegal immigrants has escalated the battle for housing. As the population grows, affordable housing has become scarcer. The scramble for living space has pushed rental prices higher, leaving low-income locals struggling to find decent places to live. With both job and housing competition rising, local residents, particularly the poorest, are left holding the short end of the stick. These pressures only widen the gap between the haves and the have-nots, leaving the most vulnerable members of the community in a more difficult position than ever before.

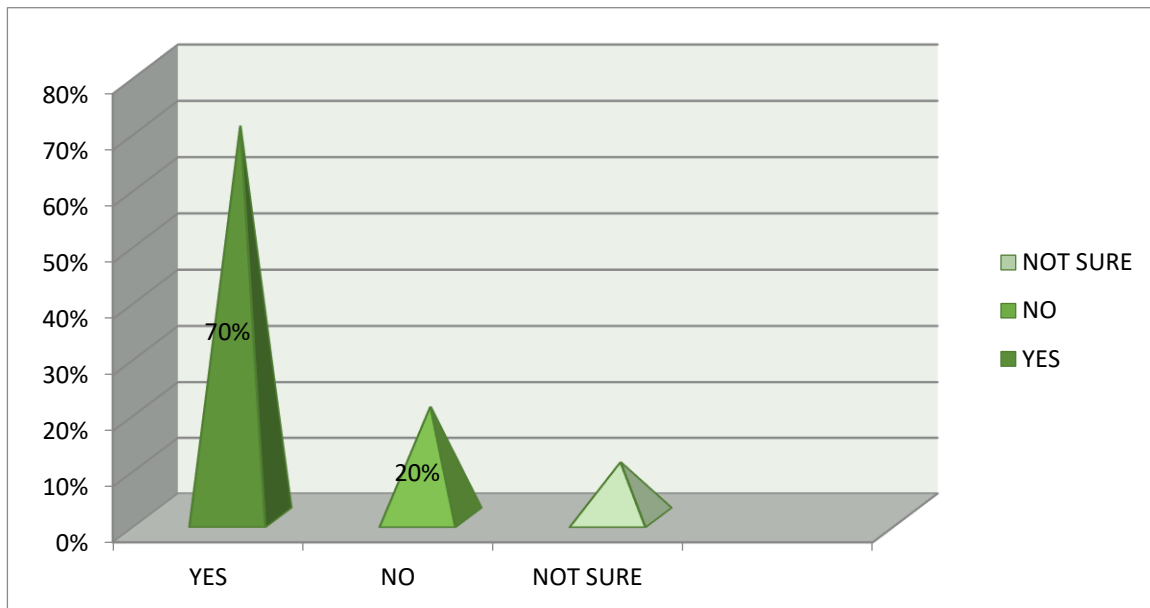
One respondent had this to say;

‘Some illegal immigrants in the study area secure low paying jobs which the locals may want. This brings about competition between the local people and the immigrants. Illegal immigrants are mostly poorly educated and therefore compete for jobs with the lower classes of the host country’s population’.

4.2.2 Competition over resources

The findings highlighted that the economic implications of illegal immigrants in the study area are increased competition over gold mineral resource. Respondents were asked on whether they experienced any competition over mineral resources with the coming of illegal immigrants in the area. The figure below summarizes this finding;

Figure 4.3 Respondents' views on Competition over resources



From the figure above, it's clear that most respondents experienced competition over resources with the arrival of illegal immigrants in the area. In fact, 70% of those surveyed admitted that they had experienced this competition, while 20% disagreed, and 10% weren't sure what to think about it.

Interestingly, the study also uncovered that not all illegal immigrants ended up working in the mines. Some of them, who didn't find a place in the mining industry, turned to other ways of making a living in the informal sector. It was almost as though, when one door closed, they just found another one to open. The majority of those interviewed were involved in small-scale businesses, trading goods like clothes and groceries in informal settlements. One respondent shared, "You'll find a lot of the illegal immigrants from African countries in the informal business sector, selling everything from artefacts and curios to knitted items and groceries."

Regardless of the challenges and hardships, these immigrants somehow find a way to keep the wheels of commerce turning. Their determination to carve out a living in the informal sector is almost symbolic of their resilience and adaptability in a world that may not always be welcoming.

4.2.3 Reduced Local residents' wages

The study results also showed that the influx of illegal immigrants meant that mines in Mumbwa had enough supply of cheap labour which led to a reduction of wages for local residents. The table below summarizes this finding;

Table 4.3: Reduced local residents wages

Has the coming of immigrants affected your wages?	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
YES	60	86%
NO	10	14%
TOTAL	70	100%

The findings clearly show that the influx of immigrants into Mumbwa has had a noticeable impact on wages, especially for illegal miners and labourers. A majority of respondents, 60 out of 70—made it clear that the arrival of immigrants significantly affected their earnings. To be exact, that's 86% of those surveyed who agreed with the statement, while only 10, or 14%, disagreed. One respondent pointed out that the sheer number of immigrants eager to work at the bottom of the labour market has brought wages down. "The fact these illegal immigrants are willing to accept lower pay just to survive, wages in

some sectors have dropped so much that locals are no longer able to make a living," the respondent noted.

This statement suggests a clear reality where local workers are caught in the middle of a growing labour market, one where the competition is fierce and wages are compressed. Ironically, those who were once at the heart of the workforce now find themselves struggling to make ends meet as they face the wrath of lower wages. What was once a steady livelihood for locals has now been reduced to a desperate effort to stay afloat, with wages that barely match the cost of living.

C. QUESTION TWO RESPONSES

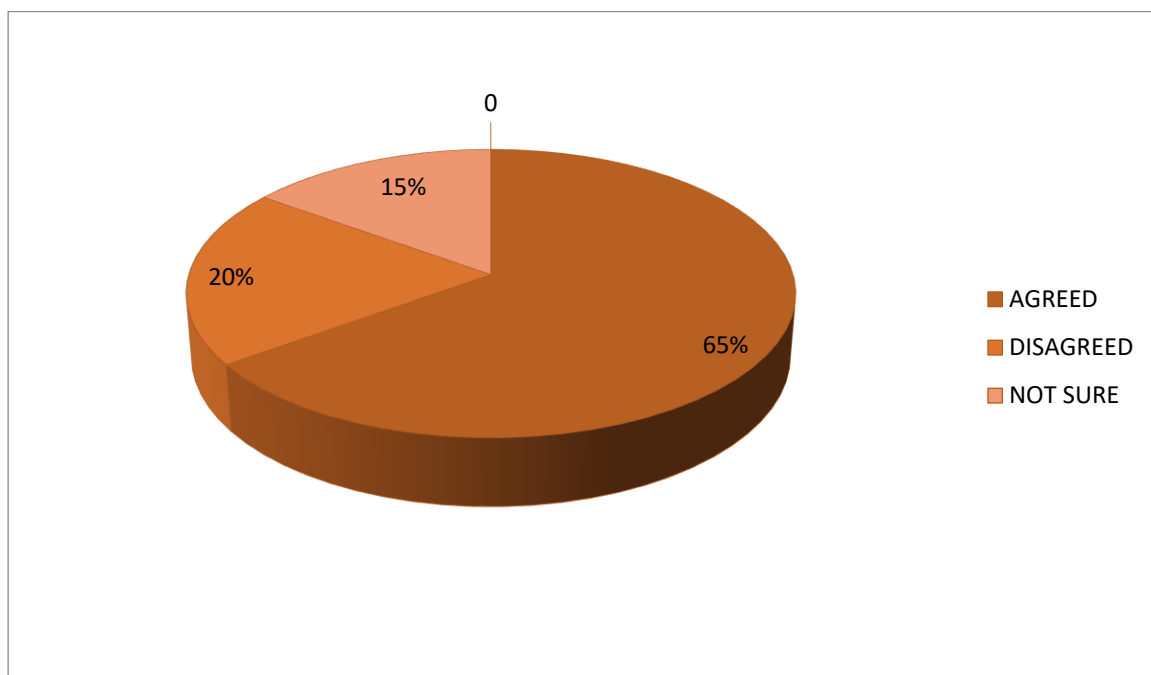
4.3 Social impacts of illegal immigration on host communities

The second objective of the study sought to evaluate the social impacts of illegal immigration on Luili and Matala mining areas, including cultural dynamics, social cohesion, and community relations. In order to realize this objective, the researcher conducted interviews and distributed questionnaires to respondents. The findings are presented below;

4.3.1 Social cohesion problems

Illegal immigration can have a number of social impacts on host communities. The study found out that increased influx of illegal immigrants in Luili and Matala mining areas led to the increasing diversity of social, cultural, and ethnic groups in host communities made it difficult to maintain social cohesion. This can lead to tensions and disorders in urban areas with large immigrant populations. The figure below summarizes respondents' views on whether they experienced social cohesion problems as a result of the coming of illegal immigrants;

Figure 4.4 Respondents' views on social cohesion problems



From the findings above, it is absolutely clear that many respondents stated that the influx of illegal immigrants had created a lot of social cohesion problems. This is clear because 65% of them agreed, 25% disagreed while 10% of them were unsure. One respondent noted; “illegal immigrants place enormous strain on the health systems. Clinics are flooded by these illegal immigrants who reside illegally in these areas.”

4.3.2 Strain on social services

It was also reported that the influx of illegal immigrants in the research area had led to a strain on social services. The influx of illegal immigrants in Luili and Matala mining areas of Mumbwa District strained the ability of local municipality to provide basic services like water, sanitation, and electricity. The table below summarizes this finding;

Figure 4.4 Respondents views on strain on social services

Response	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE

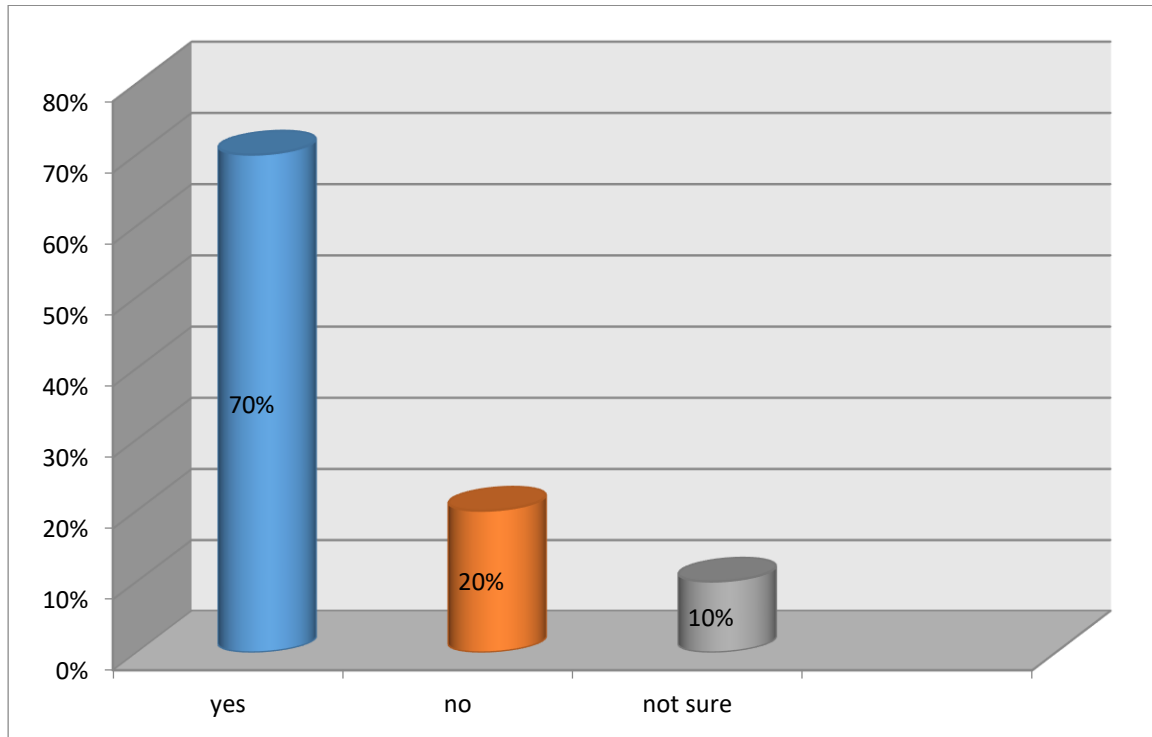
YES	170	85%
NO	30	15%
TOTAL	200	100%

The findings above clearly show that many respondents agreed that the influx of illegal immigrants in Luili and Matala mining areas strained the ability of local municipality to provide basic services like water, sanitation, and electricity. From the table, it can be seen that 170 respondents who represented 85% of the respondents said yes, and 30 respondents who represented 15% of the respondents disagreed.

4.3.3 Communication problems

Another social impact of illegal immigrants in Luili and Matala mining areas is Language barrier. It was revealed that Illegal immigrants had a difficult time learning the language due to a lack of resources for language education and integration programs. The figure below summarizes this finding;

Figure 4.5 Respondents' views on communication problems

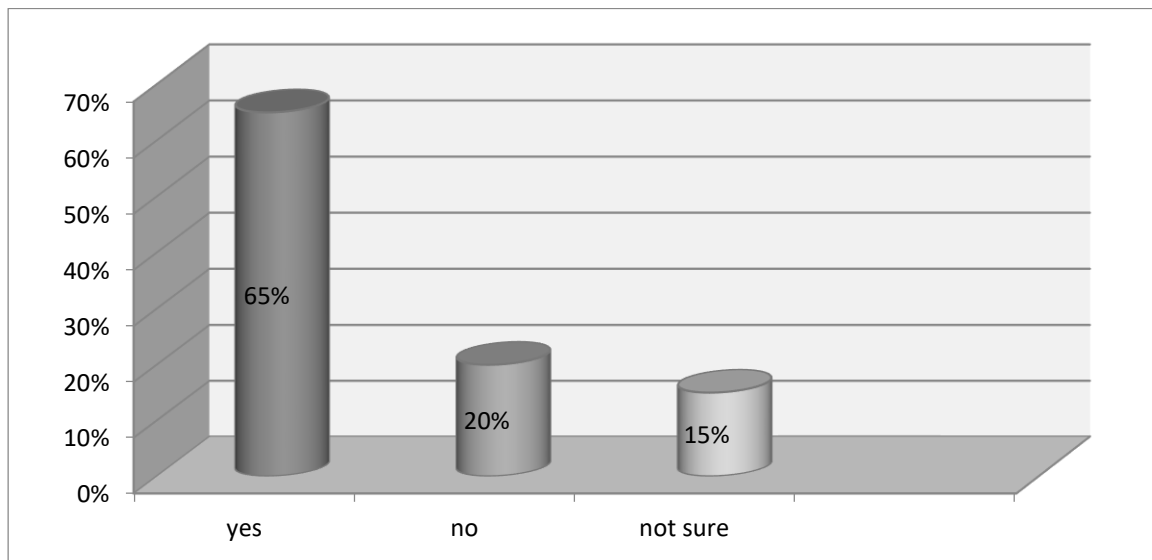


From the figure above, it is clear that many respondents agreed that illegal immigrants in Luli and Matala mining areas faced communication challenges and could not effectively interact with locals due to language barriers. This is evidenced by the majority 70% who agreed, while 20% disagreed and 10% were unsure.

4.3.4 Adaptation problems

It was also found that Illegal immigrants in the study areas faced adaptation problems. Migrants must adapt to the new culture, customs, social values, and language of their host community. This can affect their sense of belonging and inclusion. The figure below summarizes this finding;

Figure 4.6 Respondents views on adaption problem

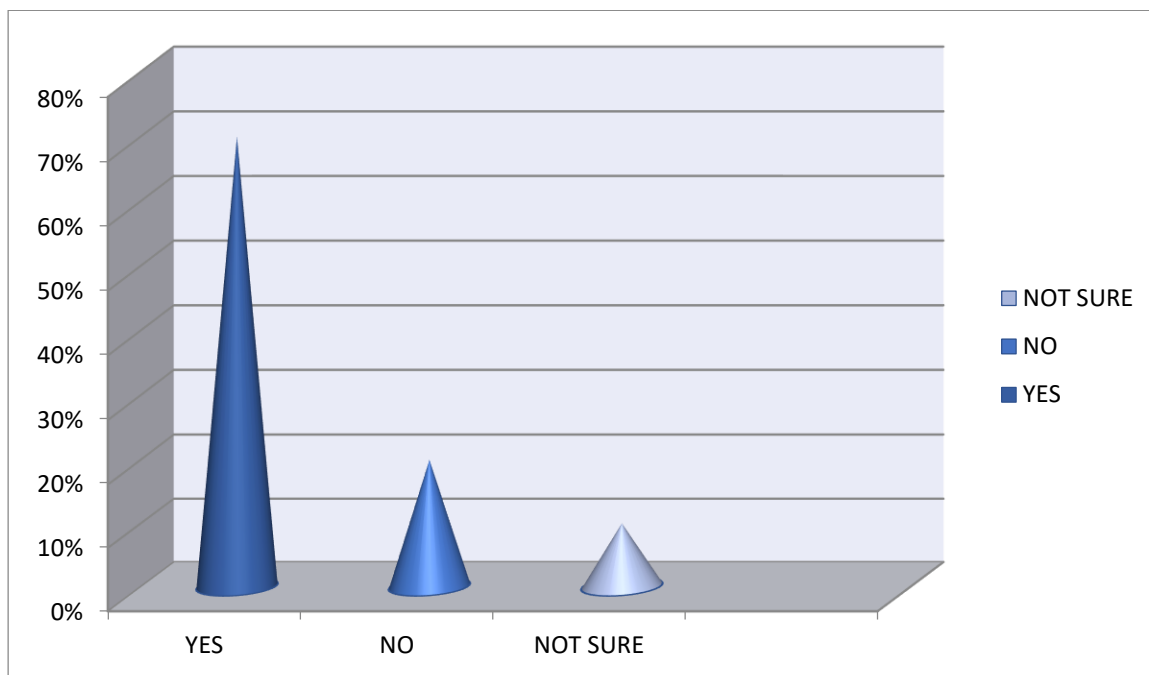


From the figure above, it's clear that many respondents agreed that illegal immigrants in the study areas faced significant challenges when trying to adapt. The majority, a solid 65%, acknowledged these struggles, while 20% disagreed, and 15% were left uncertain. The numbers really speak for themselves.

4.3.5 Change in family relationships

When it comes to family relationships, it came to light that illegal immigrants in the area often experienced shifts in how their families functioned. A few participants openly shared that migration had completely reshaped their family dynamics. These changes were not just about physical distance but extended to deeper aspects such as how family members interacted, the roles they played, and even their values and cultural practices. The shifting of these once stable foundations sometimes led to painful outcomes, like divorce, separation, and in some cases, abandonment. For these individuals, migration had become not just a journey across borders, but a personal transformation that affected the very core of their family structures. These stories underscore a bitter truth: the price of migration often includes the breakdown of relationships that once seemed unshakable.

Figure 4.7 Change in family relationships



The figure above clearly shows that a large portion of respondents noticed a shift in family relationships due to immigration. A solid 70% of them agreed that there was a change, 20% disagreed, and the remaining 10% were uncertain about it.

4.3.6 Crime

When it comes to crime, the study's findings reveal a troubling consequence of illegal immigration in the area: an increase in criminal activity. In Mumbwa District, many residents have linked the rise in crime to the presence of immigrants. The table below lays out the responses from the participants on this issue, highlighting the concerns raised about the growing connection between immigration and criminal offenses in the community.

Table 4.5 Respondents views on crime

Is there increased crime in the area as a result of influx of illegal immigrants?	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE

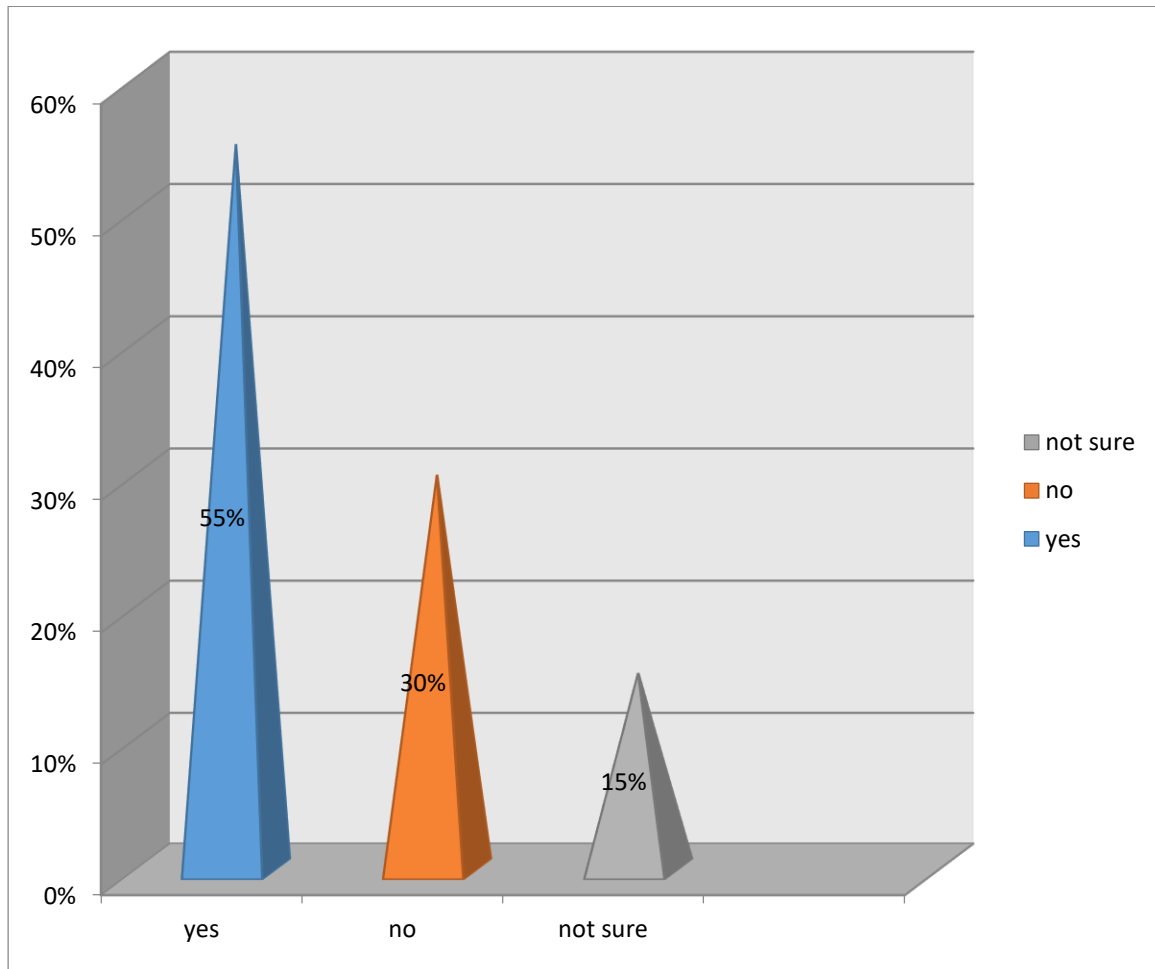
YES	140	70%
NO	60	30%
TOTAL	50	100%

The findings presented above clearly indicate that the area under study has indeed experienced a notable increase in criminal activity, a direct consequence of the growing number of illegal immigrants. As seen in the table, a significant portion of respondents, 140 individuals, or 70% agreed that the rise in criminal acts is linked to the influx of illegal immigrants, while 60 respondents, or 30%, disagreed with this view.

4.3.7 Health risks

The study equally revealed that illegal immigration also brings with it serious health risks to the host communities. These health dangers are difficult to manage, as many illegal immigrants live under the radar, making it nearly impossible to properly detect and address the spread of diseases like cholera, malaria, and Sexually Transmitted Infections. This troubling reality casts a shadow over the community, complicating efforts to keep public health in check. The figure below provides a visual summary of this alarming finding, highlighting the gravity of the situation.

Figure 4.8 Respondents views on health risks



Results from the figure above showed that indeed increased number of refugees in the study area meant an increased risk of contracting diseases. 55% of respondents agreed, 30% disagreed and 15% were not sure.

D. QUESTION THREE RESPONSES

4.4 Environmental consequences of illegal immigration

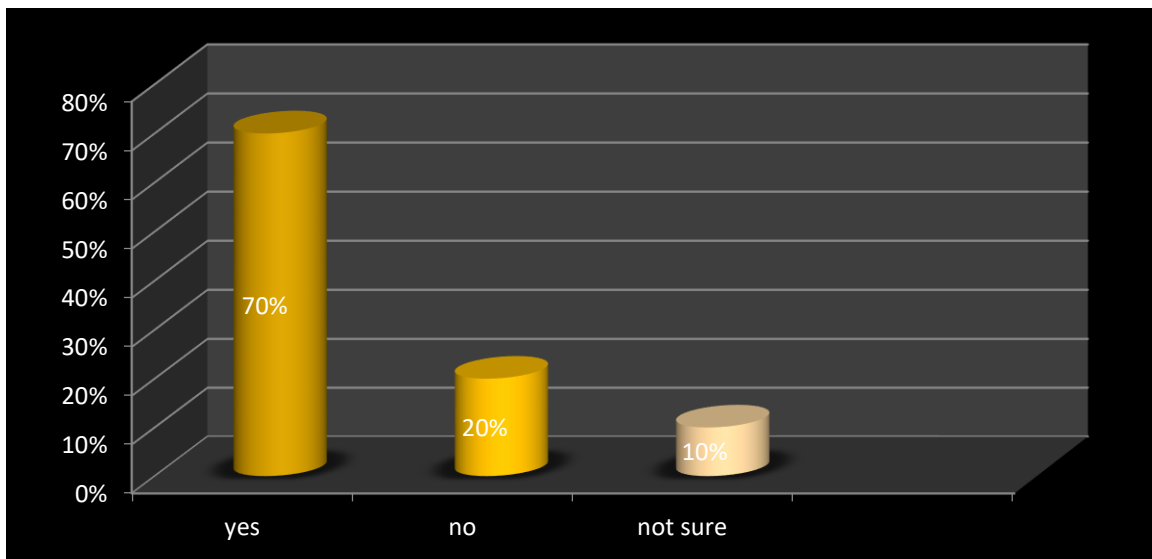
The third objective of this study set out to explore the environmental consequences of illegal immigration, particularly in relation to resource exploitation, pollution, and ecological degradation in the Luli and Matala mining areas. To gather responses on this, the researcher conducted interviews and distributed questionnaires to participants.

4.4.1 Poor Hygiene and Mannerism

What emerged from the data was quite telling. One major finding was that the influx of illegal immigrants into the mining areas had put a significant strain on sanitation systems. As more people arrived, the already limited facilities couldn't keep up with the growing demand. Hygiene, or rather the lack of it, quickly became an issue. The mining areas seemed to be drowning in the consequences of this unregulated growth. Sanitation, once manageable, now struggled under the weight of overcrowding, with waste piling up in places it shouldn't. The result was poor hygiene habits that exacerbated the situation.

The following figure captures this finding, which paints a picture of the mounting sanitation crisis.

Figure 4.9 Poor hygiene and mannerism



Looking at the figure above, it's pretty clear that most respondents agreed with the idea that many illegal immigrants have poor hygiene. A whopping 70% were on board with this, while only 20% disagreed, and 10% weren't so sure. What the study found, though, was even more telling. The presence of illegal immigrants in the area had stirred up quite a sanitation problem. This issue had created some tension between the immigrants and the host community. One participant explained it this way;

"These illegal immigrants live in terrible conditions. They've got poor hygiene, no manners, and they crowd into small houses like sardines in a tin. It's a huge concern for us, the locals, because this overcrowding puts everyone at risk of catching diseases that could spread like wildfire."

The overcrowded living conditions described in the study present a concerning reality for the affected communities. The areas in question are densely populated, which significantly contributes to the challenges faced by residents. The rapid spread of diseases within these areas highlights the serious health risks posed by the living conditions. The situation goes beyond mere hygiene concerns; it presents a potential for small issues to escalate into much larger, more critical problems. The density of the population in these areas increases the vulnerability of residents to health crises, underlining the need for effective management of living conditions and public health strategies.

4.4.2 Strain on the natural environment

The findings of the study indicate that illegal immigration in Luili and Matala mining areas in Mumbwa District has significantly contributed to the area's population growth, which has, in turn, exacerbated environmental challenges. As more individuals migrate to the region, the pressure on local resources has increased substantially, leading to a heightened demand for essentials such as land and fuel. Unfortunately, this rising demand has resulted in environmental degradation. A notable consequence has been the clearing of land for settlements, agriculture, and, in the case of illegal immigrants, for firewood. In their efforts to meet basic needs for warmth and shelter, many individuals have resorted to cutting down trees, causing damage to the local ecosystem. This deforestation leads to a loss of biodiversity and long-term changes to the landscape that are difficult to reverse.

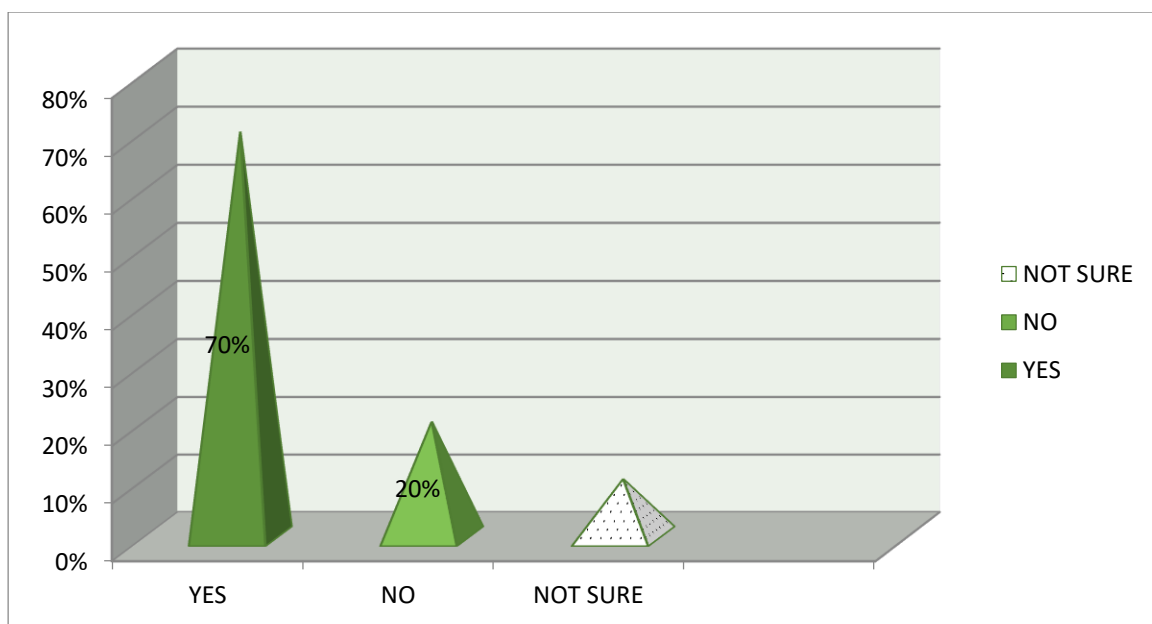
When the population in an area exceeds the capacity of available resources, the region experiences significant strain. The environment, unable to meet the needs of the growing population, is unable to sustain the increased demand. This results in a cycle of resource depletion and pollution, which negatively impacts the land. A key immediate consequence

is the depletion of water resources, which, once a reliable source of sustenance, becomes scarce. This scarcity affects both local communities and surrounding ecosystems. As resources become more limited, poverty levels rise due to increased competition for dwindling resources, leaving the affected population with fewer opportunities to improve their circumstances.

In areas where resources are already limited, an influx of people exacerbates the situation, particularly when infrastructure is inadequate. Environmental issues such as pollution become more pronounced as the population increases. With more people, the amount of waste generated also grows, much of which is improperly disposed of, contaminating the air, water, and soil. These environmental issues have direct consequences for the health and well-being of the population, who are already struggling to meet their basic needs. Ultimately, the environmental consequences of overpopulation are not only immediate but also shape the future in ways that may be difficult to reverse.

The figure below gives a snapshot of the study's findings, illustrating the delicate balance between population growth and environmental sustainability. It is a huge reminder that, if we don't tread carefully, the consequences could be more severe than we ever imagined.

Figure 4.10 Respondents' views on strain on the natural environment

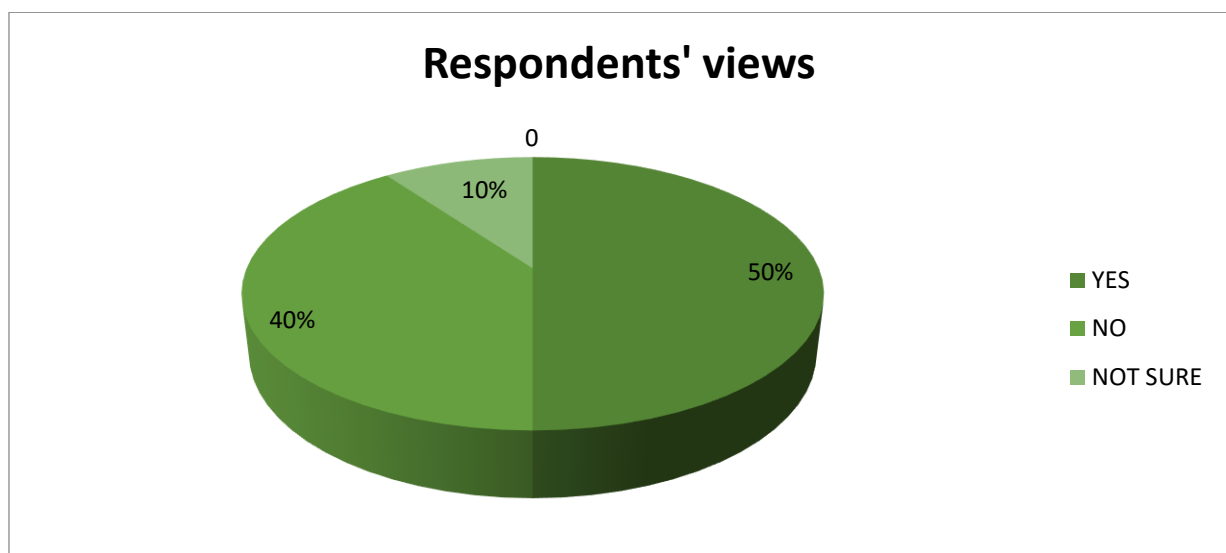


From the figure above, it is clear that many respondents agreed that the influx of illegal immigrants in Mumbwa had put a strain on the natural environment. 70% of the respondents said yes, 20% refused and 10% were unsure.

4.4.3 Environmental degradation and pollution

During the study, it was also revealed that as a result of coming of illegal immigrants in the mining areas of Mumbwa there was increased environmental degradation and pollution. The figure below summarizes this finding;

Figure 4.11 Respondents views on environmental degradation



The data collected clearly indicates that many respondents associate environmental degradation in the study area with the presence of illegal immigrants. Half of the individuals surveyed (50%) believe that illegal immigration contributes to environmental damage, while 40% disagree, and the remaining 10% are uncertain about the connection. One illegal immigrant involved in mining noted, "We dig even one-kilometer tunnels and many others branching out." These tunnels, which may take weeks or months to complete, often result in no productive output but instead lead to a damaged landscape. The lack of formal training in proper mining techniques means the work is not only ineffective but also environmentally harmful. Due to the absence of appropriate

knowledge, these mining efforts often dig deeper into the land, disregarding the environmental consequences.

Illegal mining, particularly led by immigrants, frequently begins with the clearing of large areas of forest. This deforestation disrupts critical wildlife habitats, causing significant damage to ecosystems that rely on these areas for survival. Furthermore, as trees are felled and the earth is disturbed, the land loses its capacity to absorb carbon. Rather than acting as a carbon sink, the land now contributes to the emission of greenhouse gases, exacerbating climate change both locally and globally. The environmental impacts extend beyond the immediate destruction of plant and animal life, affecting the foundational elements of the environment: air, water, and soil, thereby disrupting the region's livability.

Soil erosion is a significant consequence of deforestation. As tree cover is removed, the exposed soil becomes highly vulnerable to erosion from wind and rain. The depletion of essential nutrients reduces soil fertility, rendering the land unfit for agricultural use or other productive purposes. Once degradation occurs, restoring the land to its original state becomes a difficult and costly process. The long-term effects of such degradation are not limited to the immediate area, as they have wider implications for surrounding ecosystems and future generations. If these unsustainable practices continue, the environmental consequences will be severe and far-reaching.

The environmental degradation resulting from illegal mining is a critical issue. The land, left damaged and unproductive, continues to deteriorate as these harmful practices persist. Addressing this problem requires immediate and decisive action to protect natural resources and prevent further environmental harm. Effective land management strategies and the promotion of sustainable practices are essential for restoring the affected areas and safeguarding the environment from further damage.

CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

5.1 Introduction

The previous chapter presented the findings of the study. This chapter discusses the findings comparing them with existing studies.

5.2 Economic Impacts of Illegal Immigrants in Luili and Matala Mining Areas in Mumbwa District

In the previous chapter, the economic impact of illegal immigration in the Luili and Matala mining areas of Mumbwa District was analyzed. One significant economic consequence that emerged from the findings was the intense competition for resources. The research indicates that illegal migrants, particularly those with semi-skilled or unskilled labor, are often willing to accept lower wages due to their limited options. This situation leads to a reduction in wages, ultimately diminishing job opportunities for the local population.

Illegal migrants, especially those in border regions, are frequently vulnerable to exploitation by employers. Due to their uncertain legal status, these migrants are often willing to work for less pay, sometimes enduring long working hours of up to 50 hours a week. Employers, seeking cheap labor, exploit this vulnerability as migrants fear deportation and are hesitant to demand better conditions or pay. This dynamic creates a cycle where migrants are subjected to poor labor conditions, and their fear of legal repercussions prevents them from asserting their rights.

Migrants with limited skills are often drawn to sectors such as construction, where low wages are common. Female migrants are frequently employed in domestic labor, performing tasks that are essential but often go unnoticed. These workers, though performing critical roles, tend to work in private settings where their labor is not recognized or properly compensated.

Historical data supports this pattern. For instance, during the period of 1999-2000, the informal trading sector in Zambia hosted around 500,000 illegal migrant traders who bypassed import duties and sold goods at lower prices than local traders, thereby

outcompeting them (Chiranga, 2013). Similarly, a study by Chipatu (2011) in Lusaka found that illegal immigrants often secure low-paying jobs that would otherwise be sought by the local population, intensifying competition for employment. Lindah (2014:7) also noted that "illegal immigrants are mostly poorly educated and therefore compete for jobs with the lower classes of the host country's population."

Muyunda and Yangsheng (2008) argued that urban areas are negatively impacted by the rapid influx of refugees. They explained that the arrival of illegal immigrants disrupts the way of life in the host communities. These impacts are often unexpected, and immigrants compete with local residents for limited resources. Although the researchers acknowledged the adverse effects of illegal immigration, they did not specify whether these impacts were political, social, or economic.

A similar study by Crisp (2003) examined the situation of refugees in the Middle East, particularly in Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria, where the arrival of Iraqi refugees significantly increased food and fuel prices and created new strains on housing markets and public services. The influx of refugees placed a burden on the economies of the host countries. However, Crisp focused on the national level and did not analyze how these effects were felt in specific regions within the host countries.

Further insights into the economic activities and employment patterns in Mumbwa show that illegal immigrants are intensifying competition for jobs in the local mines. This finding is corroborated by a study conducted by Mensah et al. (2015) in Ghana, which noted that while the arrival of illegal immigrants led to an increase in employment opportunities, competition for positions between the immigrants and local communities intensified.

The same study Mensah et.al (2015) revealed that the economic boom caused by the presence of immigrants also led to a rise in the cost of living. Local landlords gained significant benefits, while renters struggled to afford accommodations. The prices of essential goods such as meat, salt, soap, and kerosene saw substantial increases. These price hikes were particularly challenging for city dwellers whose wages did not include cost-of-living allowances.

5.3 Social Impacts of illegal immigrants in Luili and Matala Mining Areas in Mumbwa District

The study on the social effects of illegal immigration in the Luili and Matala Mining Areas of Mumbwa District revealed several pressing issues, chief among them being a rise in crime. The inability of some illegal immigrants to secure formal employment often pushes them into criminal activities, thereby posing a security risk in these areas. Specific incidents, including cases of human trafficking and drug trafficking, were reported.

This observation is supported by existing literature. Danso and McDonald (2000) note an increase in criminal activities among migrants, although they argue that there is no definitive evidence showing that foreigners are disproportionately responsible for such crime. Hussein (2000) provides anecdotal evidence linking illegal immigrants to crimes such as armed robbery, drug trafficking, and money laundering. Hussein (1996) once pointed out that illegal immigrants were tied to around 14% of criminal activities, and some of those offenses escalated into much graver crimes, like rape and murder. It's not hard to see why illegal immigration raises alarms. Rezouni (2010) backs up this view, arguing that illegal immigration is often seen as a serious security threat, mainly because it's linked with organized crime, drug smuggling, human trafficking, and even, in some cases, terrorism.

However, it is not all just crime. Many illegal immigrants, when they can't find jobs in the formal market, start small businesses. This can stir up competition with local businesses, leading to tensions and, in some instances, even giving rise to xenophobic attitudes. As Rezouni (2010) points out, the presence of these migrants doesn't always sit well with the host communities. This is especially evident in places like Mumbwa, where the surge in illegal immigrants has strained local resources. The local municipality, already struggling to meet demands, now faces an even heavier load, things like water, sanitation, and electricity are becoming harder to supply.

Other studies echo this concern. Adedeji (2016) highlights that both legal and illegal immigration can stretch social infrastructure, from healthcare to education. Cross-border migration often brings with it a darker side, diseases like HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted

infections (STIs), and tuberculosis. Migrants often end up putting further pressure on already overloaded health systems, especially those without proper documentation who fear deportation and avoid seeking treatment. This only worsens the health risks for others. Carael et.al(1995) argue that the speed at which diseases spread in migration hotspots is alarming, with STIs taking root and spreading more quickly than one might expect.

With regards to the the social fabric, it's clear that illegal immigration also fuels tensions between immigrants and host communities. In Mumbwa's Luli and Matala mining regions, language barriers and a lack of social cohesion have become major obstacles. Immigrants and locals often struggle to connect, and communication feels like it is in vein. It is not easy to build a bridge of understanding when you don't speak the same language.

This is a point Rezouni (2010) picks up as well. Immigrants, especially the undocumented, often find themselves on the receiving end of suspicion and prejudice. These negative perceptions of immigration can make it tough for immigrants to feel like they truly belong. And when they're constantly faced with distrust, integrating into the local community becomes a daunting task. Mwangi (2019) provides similar findings in Kenya, where both legal and illegal immigrants face acceptance challenges. Locals are often reluctant to embrace immigrants, fearing they'll lose access to vital resources like land.

The irony here is definite, on one hand, there are economic ties, like the trade between Kenyans and Somalis, growing stronger. On the other, social integration remains stubbornly out of reach. Ediev, Coleman, and Scherbov (2014) observed this in Kenya, especially toward Somali migrants from the North-Eastern region and Somalia. These immigrants often carry a heavy burden of stereotype, unjustly linked to terrorism. Despite this, economic interactions continue to flourish, yet social integration remains a bitter pill that the community can't seem to swallow.

The situation becomes even more complicated when we look at property rental. According to Mwangi (2019), many Kenyans hesitate to rent to Somalis, while Somalis are often more open to renting to Kenyans. This shows just how deep-rooted xenophobia

can be, even in the face of economic opportunities. Despite all the evidence of cross-cultural interaction and potential for integration, the shadow of prejudice still looms large, clouding efforts to create harmony.

5.4 Environmental impacts of illegal immigrants in Luili and Matala mining areas

The previous section focused on the environmental consequences of illegal immigration in the Luili and Matala mining regions, pointing out that the poor sanitation and hygiene issues are some of the most pressing problems. The absence of solid waste management systems has led to people dumping waste haphazardly, creating a mess that's both unsightly and unhealthy. This lack of order not only puts local residents at risk but also visitors who might find themselves in these areas.

This situation lines up with what other researchers have found. Asuamah (2023) pointed out that as illegal immigrants move through the region, they often leave behind traces of human waste and discarded toilet paper scattered across the landscape. This careless behaviour contaminates nearby water sources, which are crucial for wildlife, creating a ripple effect that harms the ecosystem. Beyond that, these unsanitary conditions ruin the visual charm of the place, something that could have been a prime location for tourism or conservation. The clash between careless human activity and the effort to keep the environment clean presents a tough challenge for local communities working hard to preserve their surroundings.

Illegal immigration isn't just a hygiene issue, though. It has also contributed to environmental harm through illegal mining activities. Without any consideration for environmental regulations, these miners cause a lot of damage. They often rely on dangerous chemicals, like mercury and cyanide, to pull gold out of the earth. Mercury is especially troublesome because it poisons water sources, wrecks soil quality, and ends up in the food chain, creating risks that can last for generations as examined by Chipatu (2011). This toxic trail doesn't stop at the spot where the mining happens. It flows downstream, contaminating communities and ecosystems that rely on these water bodies for survival.

The damage doesn't end with polluted water. The reckless removal of vegetation to make room for mining operations leads to large-scale deforestation. The trees, once standing strong, are now gone, leaving behind a scar on the landscape. This loss of greenery speeds up soil erosion, making the land harder to use for farming or natural regrowth. It's a vicious cycle: the less vegetation there is, the harder it becomes for the area to recover. The loss of trees also weakens the local biodiversity, leaving the environment vulnerable and less able to bounce back from future challenges.

All of these environmental effects serve as a glaring reminder of the need for urgent, effective solutions to prevent further damage. The situation in the Luili and Matala mining areas is a clear call for action, one that can no longer be ignored.

CHAPTER SIX: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Introduction

This chapter represents the overall conclusion of the study and their implications. It also provides recommendations of what needs to be done to address the identified challenges created as a result of illegal immigrants.

6.2 Conclusion

The goal of this study was to explore the socio-economic impacts of illegal immigration in the Luili and Matala Mining Areas of Mumbwa District, Zambia. The findings showed that the arrival of illegal immigrants significantly affected the region in multiple ways, from the economic to the cultural, and even the environment.

When it comes to the economy, the presence of immigrants didn't just add more people to the population; it also created competition. Local residents found themselves battling for the same limited resources such as gold minerals, jobs, housing, and basic services like water and electricity. This created a situation where the locals, already struggling to make ends meet, found it even harder to get by. Unemployment rates soared, the cost of living shot up, and the gap between the rich and the poor grew wider. For the most vulnerable members of society, this only made things worse, deepening their economic woes and leaving them caught in a vicious cycle of poverty.

Additionally, the strain on public services, particularly health and education, was like adding fuel to an already raging fire. With more people in the area, the demand for hospitals, schools, and other essential services went up. Consequently, overcrowding became the new norm, and resources began depleting. Hospitals were overflowing, classrooms were packed, and the quality of care and education began to crumble under the pressure. What's worse, this meant that locals had less access to the services they relied on, leaving them feeling frustrated and hopeless.

Culturally, the influx of immigrants brought an interesting mix of diversity, but it wasn't all smooth sailing. While different cultures can add colour and flavour to a community, it also

created a stir. The local people found themselves trying to understand and accept cultural differences that, at times, seemed like an impossible task. Tensions started rising, and instead of blending together, people found themselves pulling apart. Community bonds, once strong and coordinated, began to weaken as residents struggled with the ever-changing demographic landscape.

The impact of illegal immigration on families was another challenging situation. Many of the migrants left their families behind, only adding to the burden on both the workers and the ones they left behind. Long separations, children missing out on school, and the lack of a parental presence during critical years were just some of the painful consequences. It painted a picture of family life that, while perhaps overlooked by many, carries long-term emotional and psychological costs that can ripple through generations.

As for the environment, the toll was hard to ignore. The rapid increase in population only worsened the already fragile state of the local environment. The overburdened land could not keep up with the demands placed on it leading to problems like pollution, poor waste management, and deteriorating sanitation. Unregulated mining activities made matters worse with forests being destroyed, soil erosion taking place, and water sources getting contaminated. The environment itself felt as though it was gasping for breath, caught in between the growing demands of the human presence and the natural world's ability to cope.

Finally, the findings of this study point to a web of interconnected challenges, each one feeding into the other. The influx of illegal immigrants may have brought some short-term economic benefits to certain individuals, but the long-term impacts on the region's economy, culture, public services, family life, and environment paint a more complex and troubling picture. As the dust settles, it becomes clear that the effects of illegal immigration are far-reaching, and the consequences of ignoring these challenges will only grow more difficult to address in the future.

6.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made;

- i. There is a need to sensitize the locals on the risks of harboring illegal immigrants and also raise awareness among local communities about the importance of reporting illegal immigrants to the relevant authorities, such as the Immigration Department or the Zambia Police Service.
- ii. The Government needs to develop policies promoting formal employment opportunities for locals.
- iii. The Government should Implement environmental protection mechanisms and Laws in Mining areas.
- iv. The Government should consider increasing the number of personnel in the Immigration Department to enhance border patrols and monitor border towns more effectively, thereby reducing the influx of illegal immigrants into the country.
- v. Lastly, considering the aggressive damage caused by illegal immigrants to the society, economy as well as the environment, it is therefore vital to introduce severe punishment to the perpetrators.

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Appendix 1

Questionnaire for respondents



STUDY TITLE: Illegal Immigration and its Socio-Economic Implications to Natural Resource-Rich Areas: The Case of Mineral Resources in Luili and Matala Mining Areas in Mumbwa District, Zambia.

INTRODUCTION

Dear respondent,

I am a post graduate student at the University of Lusaka pursuing a Post-graduate Master of Arts program in Peace and Security Studies. I am currently undertaking a research study on Illegal Immigration and its Socio-Economic Implications to Natural Resource-Rich Areas in Luili and Matala Mining Areas in Mumbwa District, Zambia.

You have been selected to participate in this study. I am therefore humbly requesting you to fully participate by providing responses to the questions asked.

The information collected will be used for academic purposes only, and all information will be treated in confidence. Therefore, your identity will be anonymous in reporting the findings of this research.

INSTRUCTIONS

Use a tick to indicate your choice for multiple choice questions in the spaces provides

Write down your responses in the spaces provided

Use a tick to indicate your choice for multiple choice questions in the spaces provides

Write down your responses in the spaces provided for open ended questions

SECTION A

Details of participant

Gender.....

Age.....

Marital Status.....

Occupation.....

Education level.....

SECTION B: Economic Impacts of Illegal Immigrants

1. What are some of the economic activities that illegal immigrants engage themselves in Luili and Matala Mining Areas in Mumbwa District?

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2. How do illegal immigrants affect the local economically?

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SECTION C: Social impacts of Illegal immigrants

3. What social impacts do illegal immigrants pose in Mumbwa mining areas?

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4. Have you witnessed rise in crime as a result of illegal immigrant in the area?

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5. How does illegal immigration affect social relations between immigrants and locals?

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.....

SECTION D: Impacts of Illegal Immigration on the Environment

6. Does the influx of illegal immigrants affect the environment?

Yes () No ()

7. If your answer to the question above is yes, in what ways do illegal immigrants affect the environment?

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8. In what ways do illegal immigrants affect sanitation in the area?

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Appendix 2

Interview Guide for illegal immigrants

1. What is your age group?

(a) Below 20 years []

(b) 21 - 40 years []

(c) 41 - 60 years []

(d) Above 60 years []

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2. What is your nationality (country of origin)?

If married, what is the nationality of your spouse?

3. What is your highest level of education?

4. When did you come to Zambia?

5. Did you come alone into Zambia or did you come with any your family members (wife/husband and/or children)?

6. Why did you leave your country of origin?

7. Why did you choose to come to Zambia and not any other country?

8. How did you come to Zambia?

9. How long have you lived in Luli and Matala area?

10. What is your monthly income?

(a) Less than K1000 [] (b) K1000 to K5000 [] (c) Above K5000 []

11. At your place of work, how do Zambians treat you and other foreigners (if any)?

12. Apart from your job, do you have any other income generating ventures?
13. If yes, specify.
14. In your other income generating ventures you mentioned above, what competition do you face with Zambians?
15. With the income that you make, do you remit some of it to your family members back home?
16. If yes to the Question above, how often and how do you send the remittances?
17. How do you associate with Zambians in your residential area?
18. Do you wish to go back to your country of origin? (a) Yes [] (b) No []
19. Give reasons to your answer to question 19 above.
20. What challenges do you face as an illegal immigrant in Luili and Matala mining area?
21. What would you recommend the government of the Republic of Zambia to be doing to improve the welfare of the illegal immigrants?

Thank you for your time.

Appendix 3

Interview Guide for Locals

1. What is your age group?
 - a) Below 20 years []
 - b) 21to 40 years []
 - c) 41to 60 years []
 - d) Above 60 years []
2. If married, what is the nationality of your spouse?
3. What is your highest level of education?
4. How long have you been staying in Luili and Matala mining area?
5. What made you settle in this area- Luili and Matala mining area?
6. Are you in any formal employment?
7. If yes to the question above, what is your monthly income?
 - a) Less than K1000 [] (b) K1000 to K5000 [] (c) Above K5000 []
8. Do you have any illegal immigrants at your place of work?
9. If so, how do you associate with the illegal immigrants at places of work?
10. Apart from your job, do you have any income generating ventures?
11. In your income generating ventures (especially small businesses), what competition do you face with illegal immigrants to this area?
12. How do Zambians associate with illegal immigrants in your residential area?

13. What reasons would you give for the high number of illegal immigrants in this area?
14. How would you rate the behaviour of most illegal immigrants?
- (a) Very good [] (b) good [] (c) Troublesome []
15. Give reasons for your response to the question above.
16. What challenges do you face in relation to the increasing number of illegal immigrants in your residential area?
17. Which ones are the social impacts of illegal immigration on host communities, including cultural dynamics, social cohesion, and community relations?
18. What are the environmental consequences of illegal immigration in terms of resource exploitation, pollution, and ecological degradation?
19. What do you think should be done to reduce the socio-economic implications of illegal Immigration to natural resource-rich areas such as this area?
20. What recommendations would you suggest in order to arrest the challenge of illegal immigration in this area?

Thank you for your time.