

CHAPTER 3 Study Design and Methodology

This chapter examines the research paradigm, research design, target population and research sampling methods and techniques that were used in studying the contestations in urban expansion into rural land. It also examined the key data collection methods and the data analysis procedures that were used in the study. Further, it also analysed ethical considerations and the limitations of the study and the strategies that were implemented to circumvent the same.

A study paradigm is a researcher's worldview or the perspective, thinking or school of thought or a set of shared beliefs that informs the meaning and interpretation of data and which informs the methodological paradigm which he or she employs in the inquiry (Kivunja & Kiyini, 2017; Kamal, 2019). A study paradigm is the lens through that the researcher examines the research project and that will determine the methods used in data collection, how data is analysed, how the researcher defines knowledge and the best way to acquire the knowledge (Kivunja & Kiyini, 2017).

This study was hinged upon the pragmatism research philosophy/ paradigm. This paradigm is a departure from a mono-paradigmatic approach to research in which a study is based on positivism or interpretivism only. This worldview provides methods of research that are seen to be most appropriate for studying the phenomena at hand (Kivunja and Kiyini, 2019). This paradigm is based on the proposition that researchers should use the methodological approach that works best for their research problem that is being investigated and hence it embraces plurality of methods in a study (Kaushik & Walsh, 2019.) In other words, the pragmatism approach advocates for the use of methods that works better depending on the situation under study and thus, the choice of mixed methods to come up with a better understanding of the research problem.

The pragmatism research paradigm assumes that knowledge is based on experience and each person's knowledge is unique as it is created by his or her unique experience (Kaushik & Walsh, 2019). This study paradigm advocates a relational epistemology, non-singular reality ontology, a mixed methods methodology and a value laden axiology (Kivunja & Kiyini, 2019). This study paradigm was thus, of paramount importance to this study as it allowed the researcher to get realistic information by applying appropriate methods that suits the situation at hand.

This study was based on a mixed approach, that is, it embraced both qualitative and quantitative research methods. The use of both methods enabled the researcher to gather valuable, realistic and representative information about the causes and effects of contestations in urban expansion into communal lands of Guruve Growth Point. The mixed paradigm approach is in line with Figurehosa (2009)'s sentiments who argued that the mixed paradigm demands that in science, researchers should endeavour to utilise multiple methods that have complementary strengths and non-overlapping weaknesses to ensure valid information is obtained. Qualitative methods were used in establishing the views and opinions of experts and practitioners at Guruve Rural District Council, local traditional leaders, the District Development Coordinator and Ministry of Lands officials and the communal land holders. In using the qualitative approach, key informant interviews, surveys and interviews shall be used. Quantitative research is a study that employs statistical tools to analyse numerical data. They ask who, what, when, where, how many, and how much, among other things (Kivunja & Kiyini, 2017). This approach was used in establishing the effects of the contestations in urban expansion into communal lands by establishing the number of stands that were developed versus those that could have been developed, the number of families who have been affected and relocated and the number who have been compensated.

The researcher used a case study approach in carrying out this study. Guruve Growth Point was scrutinized describing and explaining the circumstances surrounding the contestations in acquisition of communal land for urban expansion. The use of a case study research design enabled the researcher to get valuable and detailed information since the approach enabled the researcher to thoroughly study the problem focusing on the circumstances taking place in a single area. Mugweni *et al.* (2010) supported the use of a case study research design as he asserts that it enables one to use the multimodal approach in research (triangulation) as it promotes the interrogation of the unit of analysis through content analysis, observation, focus group discussion, interviews and archival data.

The population for this study included rural households occupying the land earmarked for Guruve Growth Point expansion, Council officials, traditional leaders and officials from Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water and Rural Resettlement and the District Development Coordinator's office. The selection of the population was since the above are the main parties who are involved in the land contestations. The Ministry of Lands officials are the custodians of the communal land since their Ministry is responsible for administering the

Communal Lands Act, the District Development Coordinator's office comes into play as the office representing the Ministry of Local Government and Public Works, to that the local authority (Council) is accountable and deals with concerning land acquisition issues. The officials of the local authority come directly into conflict with the rural households as they are acquiring land and implementing Council development plans. Thus, the involvement of all these parties will help in the examination and analysis of the problem at hand.

The researcher used purposive or judgmental sampling to select the key interviewees for the study. Purposive or judgmental sampling is a technique of sampling in which the researcher selects the instances to be included in the sample by his discretion and depends on the researcher's experience (Kumar, 1989). Key informant interviews involve interviewing a select group of individuals who are likely to provide needed information, ideas, and insights on a particular subject (Kumar, 1989). Ten key informants who include two traditional leaders, one local Councillor, 3 officials from Guruve Rural District Council, the District Development Coordinator, the District Land Officer and former Chief Executive Officer for Guruve Rural District Council were purposively sampled for interviews.

The researcher used probability sampling to select adult respondents from rural households. The target population of the research rural households communal land surrounding Guruve Growth Point. The selection of the sample size determines to a greater extent the reliability and accuracy of the outcome of the research (Asiama, 2015). In determining the sample size for the study, the researcher used the Alain Bouchard sampling formula. The researcher found this formula to be much useful since it was used by Asiama (2015) in a study with population characteristics and data collection tools more like this study. The Alain Bouchard sampling formula was used as shown below:

$$\text{Sample Size } (n) = \frac{(Z\alpha/2)^2 * p(1-p) * N}{[(E^2)*N] + [(Z\alpha/2)^2 * p(1-p)]}$$

Where: N =Population size (600 households for this study)

p=the estimated frequency for the sample size n (proportion of success 50% in this study)

E=Tolerable error (10% in this study)

$Z_{\alpha/2}$ =Value for the confidence interval according to the precision required (1.96 or 90% for this study).

Therefore, the sample size for the study is 62 households. Proportional stratified random sampling was used from the list of households in the communities Nhemachena and Chimanikire and Musokeri and structured questionnaires with both close-ended and open-ended questionnaires shall be administered.

The researcher used purposive and snowball sampling techniques that are variants of the non-probability approach in selecting participants for focus group discussions. Participants for the focus group discussions were chosen using the purposive selection technique. Two focus group discussions were held. The first one was held at Guruve Hotel and it consisted of three village heads and the local councillor while the second one was held at Chimanikire Primary School and it consisted of six rural land occupants. The composition of the focus group discussions was meant to get wider views from discussions with both local traditional leadership and the rural households. The numbers were however limited due to COVID-19 regulations.

A questionnaire survey is one of the primary data collection techniques that was used in the study. Questionnaire surveys are used in collecting data to determine a general trend in people's opinions, experiences and behaviour and are useful to find small amounts of information from a wider selection of people in the hope of making a general claim (Driscoll, 2011). The researcher administered questionnaire survey on rural households inhabiting communal land bordering Guruve growth point. The questionnaire survey focused on soliciting the rural households' opinions, feelings and preferences regarding alienation of their land by the Rural District Council for the purpose of expanding Guruve growth point. In the questionnaire, emphasis was on the causes of the contestation in the process of land acquisition by the local authority and their suggestions on how the local authority can expand its boundaries without their resistance.

Another data collection method that was used by the researcher is focus group discussion. The researcher gathered two groups of participants, the first one consisting of 3 traditional leaders and the local councillor and the second one consisting of six rural land occupants. Focus group discussions were important to this study because they helped to validate the data from questionnaires and key informant interviews and to give detailed formation about the on-going contestations in acquisition of communal land for urbanisation (Adam, 2014).

Key informants are individuals who possess special knowledge, status or communication skills, that are willing to share their knowledge, and skills with the researcher and who have access to perspectives or observations that the researcher might not have accessed easily (Muzeza, 2014). Key informant interviews were held with the District Development Coordinator (DDC) of Guruve District, the Chief Executive Officer of Guruve Rural District Council, the former Chief Executive Officer of Guruve Rural District Council and two officials from the Department of Spatial Planning. The key questions that were asked in the key informant interviews were related to the interviewees' perception towards the causes of the conflicts in acquisition of communal land for urban expansion, the adequacy of the existing legal framework in Zimbabwe in providing guideline in acquisition of communal land and the strategies that can be implemented to ensure a conflict free land acquisition process. This is another primary data technique that was used by the researcher. Direct field observation and field visits shall be conducted to the areas that are in conflicts with the local authority as it is trying to expand its boundaries. Photographs of agricultural activities currently being conducted shall be taken.

This study also involved extensive reading of already existing information. The secondary data that was collected include information on the number of families that were previously affected by urban expansion, information on relocation and compensation modalities for the affected people and information on procedures followed in the previous relocation efforts. Moreover, the researcher reviewed the legal instruments that guide land acquisition and urban expansion in Zimbabwe. In addition to that the researcher did an analysis of how the contestations have affected physical developments in Guruve Growth Point by analysing the deployments on maps on areas with conflicts and comparing them with those on areas that did not have conflicts.

Data analysis was defined by LeCompte & Schensul in Kulich (2004) as the process used by a researcher to reduce data to a story and its interpretation. The data analysis process involves organisation of data, summarisation and categorisation of data and identification of patterns and links within the data (Kawulich, 2004). The researcher analysed qualitative primary data using the interpretative or the hermeneutics approach. Hermeneutics approach involves continually interpreting the words and texts to understand their meaning and their directives (Kawulich, 2004). The researcher formulated themes from the data coded from questionnaire surveys, key informant interviews and focus group discussions to interpret the meaning of the findings in line with the literature and the study

objectives. Quantitative data shall be analysed by means of Microsoft Excel and using this software, tables, graphs and pie charts are going to be plotted.

The researcher used the content analysis approach to analyse secondary data. Content analysis is a data analysis tool used to make inferences by interpreting and coding textual material from existing documents and publications (Philipp, 2014). The researcher used content analysis tool to analyse the legal statutes that govern acquisition of land for urban expansion in Zimbabwe, the maps and photographs about the developments taking place at Guruve Growth Point and documents and publications on strategies that can be employed to address the contestations for land acquisition for urban expansion.

The researcher ensured that the results of the study are useful and valid and meet all the main types of validity that are content validity, external validity, internal validity and utility validity. Validity is about the degree of truthfulness of the study (Mahajan, 2017).

Content validity is a type of validity in which different elements, skills and behaviours are adequately and effectively measured (Mohammad, 2013). To improve content validity, research instruments should be scrutinised to see whether they are adequate to answer the research problem. The researcher engaged experts in the field under study to review the research instruments and the data obtained from surveys. Based on the reviewers' comments, the unclear and obscure questions were revised and the complex items reworded. Ineffective and non-functioning questions is discarded, and the questions can be face validated by these experts (Mohammad, 2013).

Internal Validity is concerned with the congruence of the research findings with the reality (Mohammad, 2013). It deals with the degree to that the researcher observes and measures what is supposed to be measured. The researcher ensured internal validity through triangulation, peer examination of research tools, adopting participatory modes of research and working to minimise researcher's bias. Triangulation strengthens the validity of data findings as the researcher uses several sources other than surveys alone to collect data. Peer examination improves validity of survey as it allows nonparticipants to comment and review the research tools and research findings. Member checks allowed research participants to confirm and validate the results and the interpretations. This provides the participants room to correct biases and to validate the results (Mohammad, 2013).

By working to improve content validity and internal validity, the researcher ensured that the study met the utility validity and external validity criterion. Utility validity is the degree of usefulness of the study findings to administrators, managers and other stakeholders (Lynch, 1996). Utility validity intends to inquire whether the research works and generates enough information for the decision-makers regarding the effectiveness and appropriateness of the research findings while external validity is concerned with the applicability of the research findings in other settings or with other objects (Mohammad, 2013). Thus, when the content of the study is valid and internal validity is achieved, the results of the study can have utility to stakeholders and be applicable and generalised in other contexts.

Reliability deals with the consistency, dependability and reliability of the results obtained from the research (Mohammad, 2013). The researcher used five techniques to improve the reliability of the research results. These are audit trial, triangulation and investigator's position, pilot testing and advance notification (Guba & Mirriam in Mohammad, 2013). These three techniques addressed both aspects of reliability that is internal and external reliability. Investigator's position technique entails that to increase reliability of the research; the investigator should clearly explain the different processes and the phases of the research including the rationale of the study, design of the study and the subjects. This enabled the researcher to obtain truthful information and enhance participation and henceforth response rate. Triangulation, that is the use of other data collection tools such as observation and focus group discussion in addition to surveys increases reliability as it also increases validity of the findings. Audit trial technique ensured that the researcher describes in detail and clearly the research processes including how data is to be collected, analysed and how different themes are to be derived. This will help in replication of the research and thus, contribute to its external reliability.

In addition to the above three techniques, the researcher pilot tested the questionnaires and key informant and interview questions. This helped to improve reliability of the results to be obtained as errors is corrected before the actual research is carried out. Lastly, the researcher gave advance notices to research participants so that they prepare for the interviews and focus group discussions. This helped to ensure that the researcher obtains reliable responses. The researcher took into cognisance many ethical principles in upholding participants' rights. The first principle that was observed is the voluntary participation of the participants. The researcher made it clear to the participants that their participation is voluntary that they have freedom to withdraw from the study at

any time without any unfavourable consequences and that they are not harmed because of their participation or non-participation (Bhattacharjee, 2012). Thus, the researcher ensured that all participants in the questionnaire surveys, focus group discussions and key informant interviews participant by their own consent and voluntarily.

The other principle that was observed in carrying out this study is anonymity and confidentiality. To protect the image of respondents, actual names of the respondents shall not be written in data presentation. This was done so that so that the research report will not identify a given response with a specific respondent (Bhattacharjee, 2012).

Moreover, another principle that was considered by the researcher is the disclosure of the aim of the research, its outcomes and beneficiaries. This is in line with the sentiments echoed by Bhattacharjee (2012) who said that researchers have an obligation to provide some information about their study to potential subjects before data collection to help them decide whether they wish to participate in the study. The researcher ensured that all research participants, that is communal land occupants and key informants were aware of the purpose and possible outcomes of the research before data was collected.

The researcher also observed the World Health Organisation and Ministry of Health and Child Care COVID-19 prevention guidelines while conducting the research. These guidelines included maintaining of social distances during interviews and focus group discussions and limiting the number of people gathering for discussions and wearing face masks and frequent use of hand sanitizers. This was done so as not to jeopardize the health of the research participants.

The COVID-19 pandemic is one factor that affected the outcome of this study. The prevailing COVID-19 and lockdown regulations resulted in strict travel bans and limitations on gatherings. Most of the targeted respondents in the study area did not own electronic gadgets such as smart cellphones and laptops that would enable the researcher to administer questionnaires electronically. The researcher had to conduct door to door visits and to seek the assistance of traditional leaders to administer the questionnaires to ensure that the response rate is high.

Moreover, lack of interest to participate in the research is another challenge that was encountered by the researcher. Since the contestation between Council and communal land occupants is a very sensitive issue, some respondents were

sceptical to participate. The researcher had to seek the buy in of local leadership and to ensure that the purpose of the study is well explained to the respondents. Time is another factor that limited the outcome of this study. The researcher was working with limited time and among various commitments. Thus, the researcher used a sample instead of administering questionnaires to the whole population and some few individuals is invited for focus group discussions. The views and opinions of the selected sample is generalized to the whole population.

The research used a mixed paradigm approach that is both the qualitative and quantitative research paradigms. The study design is a case study and both primary and secondary data collection methods shall be used. The researcher shall use the hermeneutics approach in analysing data and graphs and bar charts to present analyse quantitative data. Anonymity, confidentiality, disclosure of the aim, outcome and beneficiaries of the research and voluntary participation are key ethical considerations that are going to be observed.