

**UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN**



**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

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the award of the degree of Master of Social Science in Social Development**

**PROJECT TITLE**

**Exploring the Livelihood Strategies of Unemployed Black Female Migrant  
Youth Living in Cape Town, South Africa**

**Faculty of the Humanities 2020**

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## PLAGIARISM DECLARATION

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**Course:** SWK 5001W

### Declaration

I know that plagiarism is wrong. Plagiarism is to use another's work and pretend that it is one's own.

This project is my own work. I have not permitted anyone to use my work for his or her academic writings. I have used the Harvard convention for citation and referencing. Each contribution to and quotation in, this report from the work of other people has been credited, cited and referenced.

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**Date:** 7 February 2020

## ABSTRACT

Unemployment among youth within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region is one of the major factors that has contributed to migratory movements. Today many youths are leaving their home countries within the region, in search of employment opportunities in stronger economies like that of South Africa. However, the local unemployment rates hinder their chances of employment.

This qualitative study explored the livelihood strategies of unemployed black female migrant youth living in Cape Town, South Africa. The study interviewed twenty unemployed black female migrant youth between the ages of 25 and 34 to understand their experiences and perceptions of a) factors or conditions that forced them to immigrate to Cape Town, b) challenges they encountered in trying to secure employment, and vulnerabilities experienced, and c) the livelihood strategies they employed and available social service support.

The findings reveal that unemployed black female migrant youth have immigrated to Cape Town for various reasons including political instability, social influences, poor economic conditions, and social factors such as marriage and poverty in their home countries. When they arrive in Cape Town, they face many obstacles in securing employment because of either their nationality or documentation status. They are also vulnerable due to lack of basic needs, living in overcrowded homes, and being in informal settlements where they build temporary shelters. To overcome the challenges they face, they engage in different livelihood strategies such as accessing free government clinics or hospitals for their healthcare. They are dependent on their spouses for support and engage in part-time employment. Besides, they have had limited information about any government or non-governmental organisations that provide support for unemployed black female migrant youth.

The need for well-established social networks for unemployed black female migrants, where they can be received and assisted in integrating into society through legitimate channels, is relevant. There need to be centres that offer free English-language training for migrants who are not conversant in English. Established non-governmental organisations or government agencies need to provide facilities that could assist undocumented immigrants who have prolonged their stay in Cape Town. There is also a need to establish support centres that specifically target unemployed black female immigrants. The South African government should enforce sensitization and educate the public and stakeholders about the legitimacy of asylum-seeker permits issued to immigrants. If implemented in conjunction with policy measures, this could increase black female immigrant youth's ability to secure employment. The enforcement of the development of entrepreneurial skills programmes, which specifically

target unemployed black female youth migrants in Cape Town, is another potentially beneficial strategy.

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## **ACRONYMS**

SADC- Southern African Development Community

IOM- International Organisation for Migration

DRC - Democratic Republic of Congo

NYP- National Youth Policy

UN-United Nations

UNESCO-United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

UNDP- United Nations Development Programme

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# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1. GENERAL ORIENTATION OF THE STUDY**

This study explored the livelihood strategies of unemployed black female migrant youth from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) living in Cape Town. This chapter presents the background problem of the study. It also presents the rationale and significance of the study, research questions, and clarifications of the main concepts used in the study.

### **1.2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

In the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Region, South Africa has been the main recipient of economic immigrants in search of employment opportunities from neighbouring countries. These countries have unstable political environments, while the economies of others are struggling, which affects the socio-economic opportunities for citizens. Most immigrants relocate to South Africa, which is not only the economic hub of the region but of the continent as well. After 1994, South Africa experienced massive movements of immigrants from politically unstable neighbouring countries (Mazars, 2013). Today, immigration into South Africa has not decreased nor stopped, and the dynamics that drive immigrants are still the same. From various literature documented, it is evident that immigrants mainly move for economic reasons. The World Youth Report (2013) mentions inequalities in employment opportunities, income, and standards of living between young immigrants' home countries and their desired destination as some of the reasons that drive, in particular, international immigrants. This could be the preserved reasons that young immigrants coming into South Africa similarly face. In this case, it is not surprising that the immigrants who are trying to secure opportunities are mostly young people, including women. Another important matter of concern is that young women are now taking up independent decisions to immigrate. Mbiyozo (2018) reveals in his study that immigrants into South Africa used to comprise single male labourers, but now women too are immigrating in proportionate numbers. He further points out that women now immigrate independently i.e. minus partners or spouses, and that South Africa's immigration policies target men and are gender-neutral. Since immigration has been associated mostly with men in South Africa, scholars barely study livelihood strategies of unemployed black female youth in South Africa, despite the increase in the number of female immigrants as mentioned earlier. Therefore, there exists a gap in knowledge in documented

evidence that explores the livelihood strategies of unemployed black female migrant youth in South Africa.

Although immigrants in South Africa are economically driven, there are several challenges that they encounter. The country experiences high rates of youth unemployment, which, among other challenges, affects the employment search and livelihood strategies for black female migrant youth. Crush (2011) argues that migrants are underemployed and unable to find jobs matching their qualifications, which leads them to engage in low-paying jobs. He further observes that migrant women, in particular, are vulnerable and engage in low-paying jobs, irregular jobs, and potentially exploitative jobs, which are frequently in the informal sector. As mentioned above, indigenous South African youth experience challenges and hardships in securing employment. This is a concern that affects immigrant livelihoods in Cape Town since black female migrant youth experience vulnerabilities such as the shock of unemployment. The term “shock of unemployment” expresses the unexpected reality of being unemployed, as the immigrants came to South Africa to seek employment. The study undertaken focuses on exploring the various livelihood strategies they adopt as they strive to secure employment in South Africa.

### **1.3. RATIONALE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

The study captures the everyday livelihood strategies of unemployed black female immigrant youth and how they overcome the vulnerability of unemployment in Cape Town. The findings will provide guidelines on how policies and strategic frameworks focused on unemployed black female immigrants in South Africa are proposed, drafted, and documented. This will further enable the government and other stakeholders to target and implement strategic initiatives that will promote the participation and inclusion of immigrants in sectors in which they face marginalisation. For example, the healthcare system will be able to identify and reduce access barriers that deter immigrants from benefiting from available healthcare services. Non-governmental organisations and government entities will be able to establish education, training, and skills development centres that will offer skills to black immigrant youth relevant to the current labour demands in the country. These include programmes in language training that will increase the probability of immigrants to secure employment. This study focuses on livelihood strategies of unemployed black female migrant youth as motivated by the revelations that female immigrants are increasing in number, the high rates of youth unemployment in South Africa, and how the migrants cope with the challenge of sustaining their livelihood. It

must be noted that documentation of research on livelihood strategies of unemployed black female immigrant youth in South Africa is limited.

#### **1.4. MAIN RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

- What perceived factors or conditions force black female migrant youth to move to Cape Town?
- What perceived challenges do black female migrant youth face in their efforts to secure employment in Cape Town?
- What perceived vulnerabilities do black female migrant youth face due to unemployment?
- What livelihood strategies do black female migrant youth employ to overcome unemployment and poverty?
- What social service support systems are available to assist unemployed black female migrant youth?

#### **1.5. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

- To examine the perceived factors or conditions that force black female migrant youth to move to Cape Town;
- To ascertain the perceived challenges that black female migrant youth face in their efforts to secure employment in Cape Town;
- To gauge the perceived vulnerabilities that black female migrant youth face due to unemployment;
- To examine the livelihood strategies that black female migrant youth employ to overcome unemployment and poverty;
- To determine the social service support systems that are available to assist unemployed black female migrant youth.

#### **1.6. MAIN ASSUMPTIONS**

The study explores the livelihood strategies of unemployed black female migrant youth living in Cape Town. The study operates under the assumption that it will be possible to gauge the experiences and perceptions of the challenges they face in securing employment opportunities, and the strategies they use to survive.

## **1.7. CLARIFICATION OF TERMS**

### **Youth**

For the purpose of this study, the definition of youth is based on the mandate of the National Youth Commission Act (1996), the National Youth Development Policy Framework 2002-2007, and the National Youth Policy (NYP) 2015-2020, which defines young people as those falling within the age group of 14 to 35 years.

### **Migrant**

The term refers to persons and family members moving to another country or region to improve prospects for themselves and /or their family (International Migration and Law, 2004).

### **Documented Migrant**

A migrant who arrives in a country using legal channels and remains in the country with his/her admission criteria (International Migration and Law, 2004).

### **Undocumented Migrant Workers**

Migrant workers or members of their families without authorization to enter, yet who stay or engage in regular employment in a country (International Migration and Law, 2004).

### **Unemployment**

Unemployment pertains to the measure of the proportion of people who are economically active and available for work but cannot find a paid job (Giddens, 2009:1136).

### **Social exclusion**

The term Social Exclusion refers to the fact that despite the welfare and general wealth of a country, there remains a group excluded from the mainstream benefits of the society, and prevented, in some way, from fully enjoying the general prosperity (Davids et al., 2009).

## **1.8. STRUCTURE OF RESEARCH REPORT**

Chapter 1 discusses the main problem of the research concerning the livelihood strategies of unemployed black female migrant youth. It explores the rationale and significance of the study, main research questions, objectives, assumptions, and the main terms used in the study.

Chapter 2 documents a literature review of other similar studies concerning immigrants and the livelihood strategies they employ. This chapter discusses the theoretical framework of this specific study.

Chapter 3 gives a detailed systematic explanation of the methodology applied by the researcher during the study.

Chapter 4 discusses and analyses the main findings of the research. This chapter describes how the unemployed black female migrant youth explore various strategies in order to sustain their livelihoods in Cape Town.

Chapter 5 provides the main conclusions of the study as drawn from the findings of the research. The recommendations of the study reflect the needs that the unemployed black female migrant youth raised. This concerns how they felt about receiving assistance in securing employment in Cape Town, South Africa. In addition, the recommendations provide direction to both the government of the Republic of South Africa and non-governmental organisations.

## **CHAPTER TWO: ACCESSIBILITY OF IMMIGRANT YOUTH TO LIVELIHOOD RESOURCES**

### **2.1. INTRODUCTION**

This chapter reviews the literature on immigrant youth's access to livelihood resources. The review includes education opportunities, networks, skills acquisition, access to healthcare, employment, and access to social and financial support. The discussion looks at the regional and global trends that immigrants' experience. The factors that influence immigrants to leave their home countries are discussed. Furthermore, the unemployment status of youth in South Africa is briefly addressed and the challenges that immigrant youth are faced with are discussed in detail. The chapter also presents the three theoretical frameworks that are linked to the study namely, The Social Exclusion Theory, Capabilities Approach, and Sustainable Livelihood Approach. Finally, this chapter discusses policies and legislature such as the African Union Migration Framework, the Southern African Development Community Treaty, and the Green Paper on International Migration in South Africa, the South African Refugees Act 1998, and Immigration Act, 2002.

### **2.2 Global Migration Trends**

The process of migration is perceived to be about people searching for opportunities or improving their well-being in a foreign land and is seen as a means to sustain one's livelihood. Keeley (2009) comments that a large number of individuals historically and globally have been immigrating for economic reasons with the view of establishing an improved life in a new country. People decide to leave their home countries in search of employment, or for better social services being provided by the host migrating country. According to the United Nations General Assembly (2014) the number of migrants internationally is approximately two hundred and thirty-two million individuals who mostly come from the global south, mainly migrating in the hope of securing decent work to improve their livelihoods. Migration has also been associated with development because migrants tend to relocate to countries they assume will be beneficial to their livelihoods, and better than their home countries in terms of economic opportunities.

#### **2.2.1. Migration Trends in the SADC Region**

Migration within the SADC region has been an ongoing process. According to the SADC Labour Migration Policy (2013) many migrants within the region were working on mines,

plantations, and commercial farms in Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, and Lesotho. The report mentions that the majority of migrants came to South Africa because colonialists had written up contracts that allowed them to work on the mines. Williams (2002) notes that cross-border migration involving searches for employment within the SADC region, was in existence before the 1990s. The SADC region has had international borders that were poorly managed yet favoured male migrants as compared to their female counterparts; therefore making it more challenging for female migrants to cross the border and seek opportunities in foreign countries. The SADC Labour Migration Policy (2013) mentions that the region before the 1960s had no border control between countries and was gender-biased as female immigrants could not migrate legally in search of opportunities. Moreover, many Africans from other countries across the continent migrated to the southern region for reasons such as employment and entrepreneurship. Mazars (2013) comments that economic migrants are the fastest-growing cohort globally, estimated to be eighty-six million, and individuals have always been motivated to move and seek improved conditions for their well-being and families. Mafukidze (2006) argues that the Southern African region in the past years has been the main migration destination for Africans from other countries, and these migrants have different skills ranging from being skilled professionals, job seekers, and merchants.

### **2.2.2. Feminisation of Migration**

The process of migration involves both men and women, even though many previously documented studies on migration have mostly focused on male migrants. For example, Lutz (2010:1) in her article cited Mirjana Morokvasic, who commented that ‘Rather than “discovering” that female migration is an understudied phenomenon, it is more important to stress that the already existing literature has had little impact on policy making, on mass media representation of migrant women, but also on the main body of migration literature, where male bias has continued to persist...in spite of growing evidence of women’s overwhelming participation in migratory movements’ (Morokvasic 1984: 899). However, recently there have been new insights on female migration that resulted in scholars taking an interest and documenting the welfare of female migrants. According to Dodson et al. (2008) the number of female migrants has increased globally and these migrants are leaving their home countries independently and not as dependents, nor accompanying their spouses. They further cited that in the Southern African region, females have always been involved in cross-border migratory movements even though they have been in the minority. For instance, the emancipation of women globally has strongly motivated migration amongst women in search of employment

opportunities. Francis (2002) in support, mentions that women are migrating independently due to the high demand for them in the labour market and their wish for financial independence. Hence, black female migrant youth face a similar situation when exploring employment opportunities in Cape Town.

### **2.2.3. Determinants of Migration into South Africa**

Many reasons motivate migrants to leave their home countries to settle either temporarily or permanently in a foreign land. Some of the reasons include political instability, conflicts, high unemployment rates in a country, and poor economic conditions. Therefore, although migration is perceived to be a well-planned endeavour by the individual involved in the process, in reality, this might not be the case. Cross et al. (2006) in their findings argue that immigrants do not always plan their movements because there are unexpected conditions that individuals may be faced with that motivate them to leave. Two distinctive categories have been identified that influence individual migration; these are known as the ‘push and pull factors.’

#### ***Push Factors***

Giddens (2009) elaborates that push factors are conditions like war, political oppression, and famine that occur within the country of origin, which then force individuals to move. The mentioned push factors force individuals to be exposed to all forms of exclusion, such as poverty and lack of conducive shelter leaving them with no other choice, but to migrate. For example, in a study conducted in Ethiopia (among young people), poverty was mentioned as the reason for immigrating to South Africa, as they perceived that they could improve their lives and build assets. These young people came from communities that had high shortages of farmland (which is a great asset to sustain one’s well-being) and limited prospects to support their livelihoods (Kefale and Mohammed, 2016). Armed conflicts within a country is another major push factor that has affected young immigrants. The DRC has been experiencing ongoing civil wars within selected provinces, which have resulted in massive displacements of individuals both internally (within the country) and externally (outside the country). According to the Economic Report for Africa (2005) conflicts in the Katanga, Orientale, South Kivu, North Kivu, and Maniema provinces in DRC, have resulted in a large number of individuals being displaced, as they are attacked by armed groups including the Mai-Mai and FDLR (Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda).

### ***Pull Factors***

Pull factors relate to conditions that attract immigrants, for instance, the wealth of an economy such as that of South Africa as compared to other countries within the continent and region. Lekego (2006) notes that South Africa is the most diversified economy on the African continent and gives examples of the country's healthcare and academic infrastructure, which can be compared favourably to those in Europe. The level of economic development and accessible social services are likely to motivate black female migrant youth from neighbouring countries to pursue opportunities in Cape Town. Report findings documented by the Solutions for Youth Employment (2017) explains that young people are motivated to move due to educational (tertiary) aspirations out of the country. This implies that to a certain extent, young people who have access to a better educational background are more likely to immigrate. Furthermore, the difference in the remuneration of an individual's income as compared to the immigrating host country is another factor to consider. Young people realise that the same job they were designated to do in their home country offers a higher wage in the new host country. Sweeney Research (2009) recommends that young people compare the differences of their wages from their home countries to the new host destination.

#### **2.2.4. Brief History of Labour Migration in South Africa**

South Africa is a well-known destination amongst immigrants within the SADC region due to its level of advancement. According to the International Migration and Development (2014) South Africa among other countries in the region hosts the largest number of immigrants of approximately two point four million who usually come in search of employment opportunities. Kitimbo (2014) argues that the system of labour migrants in South Africa can be traced back to the colonial era when migrant labourers in the mining companies were relatively cheap because native individuals, during that period, did not aspire to occupy jobs in manual labour. Moreover, due to the history of South Africa's immigrant labour system, the employment dynamics in South Africa have changed, and for example, black female migrant youth are susceptible to all forms of vulnerabilities as they find it challenging to secure employment. It is worth mentioning that both the pull and push factors they are exposed to in their countries of origin, greatly affect their well-being. This results in them immigrating and settling in Cape Town either as documented or undocumented migrants.

### **2.2.5. Documented Migrants**

The documentation status of immigrants in host countries is a mandatory process that demands all migrants to meet the requirements for their specific duration of stay. Kok et al. (2006) in their writings mention that since the 1990s, the Southern African region has seen an increase in the number of legal-cross border movements and the majority includes people moving temporarily for various non-work-related reasons such as tourism, visiting relatives, medical attention and education. Otherwise, South Africa presumably offers a wide range of employment opportunities to individuals, and all immigrants require legal documents so that they may engage in income-generating activities. For instance, when immigrants are seeking to work and stay in the country, depending on their circumstances for migrating, they are issued with either work permits or asylum-seeker permits. These aforementioned documents are both legal and allow migrants to engage in the labour force without any restrictions. However, in some cases, despite immigrants possessing the legality to live and work in South Africa, the authenticity of the documents is questioned. In his policy brief, Landau (2005) argues that asylum-seeker permits are not fully recognised because only a limited number of employers or even governments, healthcare workers, and the police recognize the legality of the documents. He further elaborates that this is because of the physical nature of the document, which is often duplicated and used in irregular and illegal practices. The above-mentioned challenge may affect employment prospects amongst unemployed black female migrant youth in Cape Town.

### **2.2.6. Irregular Migrants**

Research has shown that there are incidences where individuals leave their home countries for another, which could be a result of experiencing hardships and therefore seeking opportunities elsewhere. When one migrates to a new country, all foreign persons must be provided with the legal documents to be in a country. However, other migrants cross the border with legal documents, but prolong their authorised duration of stay and are therefore declared undocumented. For example, Crush et al. (2005) comment that undocumented migrants are mostly motivated by the economic conditions back home and, at times, desperation. Consequently, they come into the country through illegal channels. When migrants are illegal in the host country, they are faced with unforeseen circumstances such as the predicament of illegally staying in the country while striving to make a living, or having to return home. These too could be challenges facing undocumented black female migrant youth.

### **2.2.7. Youth Unemployment in South Africa**

Youth unemployment is one of the major problems that South Africa is currently facing. This is despite the country's economy growing fast after it implemented the neo-liberal economic system (Cloete, 2015). Cloete explains that this system opened up the economy and permitted South Africa to engage in free-trade policies and the importation of cheap products. Despite opening up the country's economy, many young people in South Africa still face the predicament of high rates of unemployment. According to the National Youth Policy (NYP) 2015-2020, young people are faced with numerous challenges such as joblessness, poverty, and inequality, which are delaying them from contributing to the mainstream economy. Furthermore, the document elaborates that the country's high rate of youth unemployment is due to the skills shortage among the youth, which is a result of a combination of reasons including matric dropouts and young people lacking technical skills. On the other hand, young people who have limited skills to offer on the job market, are left with limited options, such as securing employment in the informal sector, which too faces numerous challenges. These often involve law-breaking activities, limited access to credit facilities (formal and informal), inadequate capacity building, and the absence of business development programmes (Yu, 2013). For those young people who have dropped out of school, the chances of securing employment are very low. Various studies have indicated a correlation between unemployment and educational attainment among youth in South Africa. This is supported by Dagume and Gyekye (2016) who in their study reveal that young people with the least education qualification, (i.e. matric drop-outs), are among the highest unemployed compared to those with a much higher educational attainment, (i.e. matric or tertiary level).

Several studies reveal that unemployment is unequally distributed among race and between genders. According to the National and Provincial Labour Market Statistics (Q1: 2008–Q1: 2015) there exist disparities in the unemployment rate between population groups and gender in the South African labour market, with statistics indicating that young black women are the most vulnerable. Furthermore, the difference in unemployment opportunities is linked to the historical labour system that was in place during the Apartheid regime; this system segregated employment opportunities amongst races (blacks, coloured, whites), and offered black individuals either low- income jobs or denied them the opportunity to work in the country. Unemployment was predominantly high amongst the coloureds and blacks (i.e blacks were offered low paying jobs or no jobs at all), in contrast to the white race who had high rates of reserved professional jobs. This inevitably led to the black race suffering both high

unemployment and lower- incomes for those employed (Leibbrandt et al.,2010). The above-explained youth unemployment challenge in South Africa has had negative implications on the employment prospects of black female youth migrants in Cape Town. This is because they (young female black migrants) fall into the category of persons that experience high levels of unemployment in South Africa.

#### **2.2.8. Challenges of Youth Unemployment and Black Female Youth Migrants Nexus**

Migration and youth unemployment are intertwined in Cape Town. Migrant youth are faced with unemployment amongst the youth in South Africa, regardless of gender. Todaro (1997) comments in his writings that unemployment amongst the youth affects both genders and both learned and unlearned individuals. In other words, whether the black female migrant youth are educated or not, they still have to strive hard to secure employment in Cape Town. Unemployment exposes migrants to numerous vulnerabilities such as language barriers, indecent work, exploitation such as low wages, the contraction of communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS, and xenophobic attacks. Moreover, migrants also face challenges in accessing basic social services such as healthcare, education opportunities, acquiring skills, support systems and social networks, which are available to many other individuals in Cape Town. (It must be noted that not all immigrants, including black female migrant youth, in any host country face the above-mentioned challenges). Another factor to consider when addressing the link between unemployment and migrants is human capital.

What immigrants have to offer in the country of destination either has a positive or negative impact on employment prospects for both native individuals and immigrants. Drinkwater (2017) in his writings notes that immigrant human capital determines whether an individual will be unemployed or not and that unemployment rates among immigrants differ based on their educational qualifications and skills; their skills may not be of value in the new host country. Language barrier and fluency in the host country is a very important factor that determines the possibility of securing employment (Drinkwater, 2017). This implies, for example, the level of language proficiency for non-English speaking black female immigrants affects their ability to secure employment, as they may encounter challenges in articulating themselves in the new host country, leading them to be unemployed.

### **2.2.9. Healthcare and Migrants**

Access to healthcare is a fundamental human right for the well-being of any individual in society. However, access to healthcare amongst immigrants who are unemployed and marginalised is a huge problem. For example, they might be faced with problems regarding their documentation status or have limited money to spare for healthcare in times of illness. Falola and Afolabi (2007) note that good health is a necessary human right, and for migrants, the situation is uncertain because of the long process of integration and citizenship in the host country. Various documented studies have indicated that immigrants are likely excluded in accessing healthcare facilities due to, for instance, language differences and bad reception from healthcare practitioners in the host country. In support, Mutombo et al. (2016) in their findings of a study on immigrants' health vulnerabilities in Southern Africa, reveal that to a certain extent, negative attitudes of health personnel to immigrants, (a result of a lack of information about immigrant rights to health) and language barriers, hinder immigrants access to healthcare services. Similarly, Vearey and Lumez (2010) in their study reveal that migrants experience bad treatment by nurses and even, at times, are denied treatment because they are foreign. The issue of immigrant access to healthcare can be a complex and dynamic matter, for instance in the case of South Africa. It is argued that access to healthcare is problematic for both immigrants and internal immigrants (people who migrate from other towns within South Africa), otherwise, the most important matter of concern in the study, is the fact that once one is classified an "immigrant," one then encounters barriers in accessing health care. Vearey et al. (2017) in their review, argue that foreign nationals and internal immigrants in urban communities encounter problems in accessing healthcare that arises from language, exclusion by healthcare professionals, and a lack of documents. As a result of the limited access to healthcare, elaborated on by immigrants themselves. Black female migrant youth are likely to suffer from different health conditions such as stress, emotional problems, and high blood pressure (HBP). These illnesses are mainly triggered by unforeseen circumstances such as unemployment, which affect their livelihoods in Cape Town.

### **2.2.10 HIV/AIDS and Migrants**

The HIV/AIDS epidemic in the Southern-African region is the highest in the world and a major cause of death (Haacker, 2002). The disease is associated with mobile populations and immigration, which have contributed to the spread of the virus (Brummer, 2002). He further argues that, due to the high rates of HIV/AIDS among the general population, immigrants are no longer agents of spreading the disease, but are now at a high risk of contracting the disease,

as the immigrant population is more vulnerable to contracting the virus as compared to non-immigrants. The high rate of infection could be associated with the fact that immigrants don't have one stable home; they are constantly changing their dwellings, which affects their social well-being. For example, Abdool and Karim (2005) mention that in Uganda a study on immigrants reveals that individuals who haven't lived in one place for more than ten years, and have moved dwellings within five years, have a high probability of contracting the HIV/AIDS virus as compared to their counterparts who don't change dwellings. Furthermore, various studies have indicated that immigrants are vulnerable to HIV/AIDS infection because of the inequalities they encounter as they try to socially integrate within their host countries. Such inequalities include a lack of support, exploitation, poverty, uncertainty about employment, and limited access to healthcare (Asia Pacific Migration Research Network and United Nations Development Programme, 2004). On the matter of access to healthcare, (which is a matter of interest in the contraction of HIV/AIDS), Salama and Dondero (2001) argue that, for example, forced migrants (i.e. those who have had to leave because of push factors, such as the war in their home country) are vulnerable and more prone to infection of HIV/AIDS and its effects. They argue this vulnerability is worsened by poor social and economic conditions that migrants are exposed to, such as poor access to available health programmes.

### **2.2.11 Violence and Xenophobic Attacks**

Immigrants in South Africa are often perceived to be robbing employment opportunities from the locals. Crush and McDonald (2000) note that both skilled and unskilled immigrants are labelled as threats to local jobs in the country. They argue that immigrant workers and refugees frequently find themselves entangled in discrimination, intolerance, and violence. Violence and xenophobic attacks on foreign nationals have caused much fear among immigrants, which affects their hope of finding employment. As a result, black female migrant youth are exposed to living in fear and lack the confidence to search for employment because of the perceived misconception that they are most unlikely to secure employment in Cape Town. Cross et al. (2006) mention that a large number of South Africans perceive foreigners from other African countries to be a threat to the economy, and accountable for violent criminal behaviour. This could be another reason why black female migrant youth face difficulties when searching for employment opportunities in Cape Town. According to Chisholm (2007) three public-opinion surveys conducted by the Southern African Migration Project (SAMP) in 1997 observed that South Africans were not tolerant of outsiders living within the country, and supported forceful methods of regulating immigration. Besides, migrants face isolation, exclusion, and insecurity

and are prone to xenophobia and discrimination because of language barriers, cultural norms, and inadequate knowledge of the host country (Migration and Youth, 2014). These aforementioned exclusions, which are a consequence of xenophobic tendencies, result in immigrants finding themselves in exploitative and low paying jobs as a livelihood strategy.

### **2.2.12. Exploitation, Low Wages and Low Paying Jobs**

Migrants often have low-paying jobs and constantly exploited. It is very common to find young educated migrants employed in jobs for which they are overqualified. Cortina, et al. (2014) mention that many migrants face de-skilling and are engaged in degrading jobs even though they possess higher education or skills training. Exploitation at workplaces is another common vulnerability among migrants. Carballo and Nerukar (2001) highlight in their presentation that migrants are more likely to occupy jobs that are not permanent require few skills and are mostly unattractive to the local labour force. Misra (2007) argues that despite international agreements ratified by several countries to protect migrant workers' rights, many countries do not apply nor implement them. He further stresses that the unequal treatment in terms of worker's rights and irregular migration greatly increases the vulnerability of migrant workers to exploitation. Besides, it is observed that many countries enforce immigration laws that are contrary to the economic realities and demand for cheap labour. This harms immigrant workers who end up crossing borders through irregular channels in search of employment opportunities. The result of immigrant exposure to the exploitative labour system might drive them to aspire to educational opportunities in the host country.

### **2.2.13. Educational Opportunities**

Education plays a pivotal role when it comes to an individual's work opportunities. Hence, the desire that many have towards attaining any form of learning either through tertiary institutions or skills' development centres. Giddens (2009) defines education as a social institution that allows and supports the attainment of knowledge, skills, and the expansion of individual prospects that take place in many social settings. He further notes that education is significant as persons with advanced education have skills that are relevant for higher wages in industries. Furthermore, UNESCO (2016) comments that education creates an important role in establishing resilient links between, for instance, increasing economic activities and the promotion of social inclusion, which results in having a sustainable and inclusive economy. Consider an example from this study where the unemployed black female migrant youth would require new skills (by enrolling in educational institutions), which could enable them to

integrate into the labour system. Education is also a tool that contributes to preventing poverty and sustaining development. It plays a significant role in finding ways to eliminate poverty, the realisation of sustainable development goals, and is vital towards the foundation for human development (Singh, 2014). If education opportunities were made available to black female migrant youth, this would help facilitate a way for them to secure employment in Cape Town. Once they've acquired more knowledge, this will enable them to adapt more easily and have a stronger chance of finding suitable employment. For instance, educational opportunities available in Cape Town for immigrants include the availability of funding through certain tertiary institutions and training centres. Since black female migrant youth are at a prime age, they too have the desire to learn further because they view education as a pathway to better employment opportunities, and perceive it to be a source of a more satisfying income in Cape Town. This would enhance their chances of employment since potential employers recognise local institutions and there is an urgent need for certain skills in the country.

#### **2.2.14. Skills Acquisition**

The need to acquire new skills among immigrants in a new country is necessary for them to sustain their livelihood. Immigrants may face challenges in securing employment, as their skills may not be relevant in the new country. Dustmann and Glitz (2011) elaborate that migrants acquire additional skills in the host country because the skills obtained in their home countries are not always recognised in the host country's labour market. In support, Chiswick and Miller (2009) note that once immigrants reach their desired country of choice, they may realise that their knowledge and skills are not applicable in the labour market. In some cases, immigrants might not be proficient in communicating in the host country's language and would require learning a new language so that they can integrate into the labour system. For example, in Ontario Canada, unemployed and employed immigrants in strategic sectors are provided with an opportunity to participate in Specialised Language Training Pilot Projects (Myers and Conte, 2013).

Immigrants tend to learn new skills in an informal manner, which could be the most accessible means available to them through their networks. These newly acquired skills are acquired either through socializing or through the workplace. Hagan et al. (2014) observe that informal learning is not structured and information is attained through social interactions and working environments, where there are individuals that are more experienced. Similarly, black female

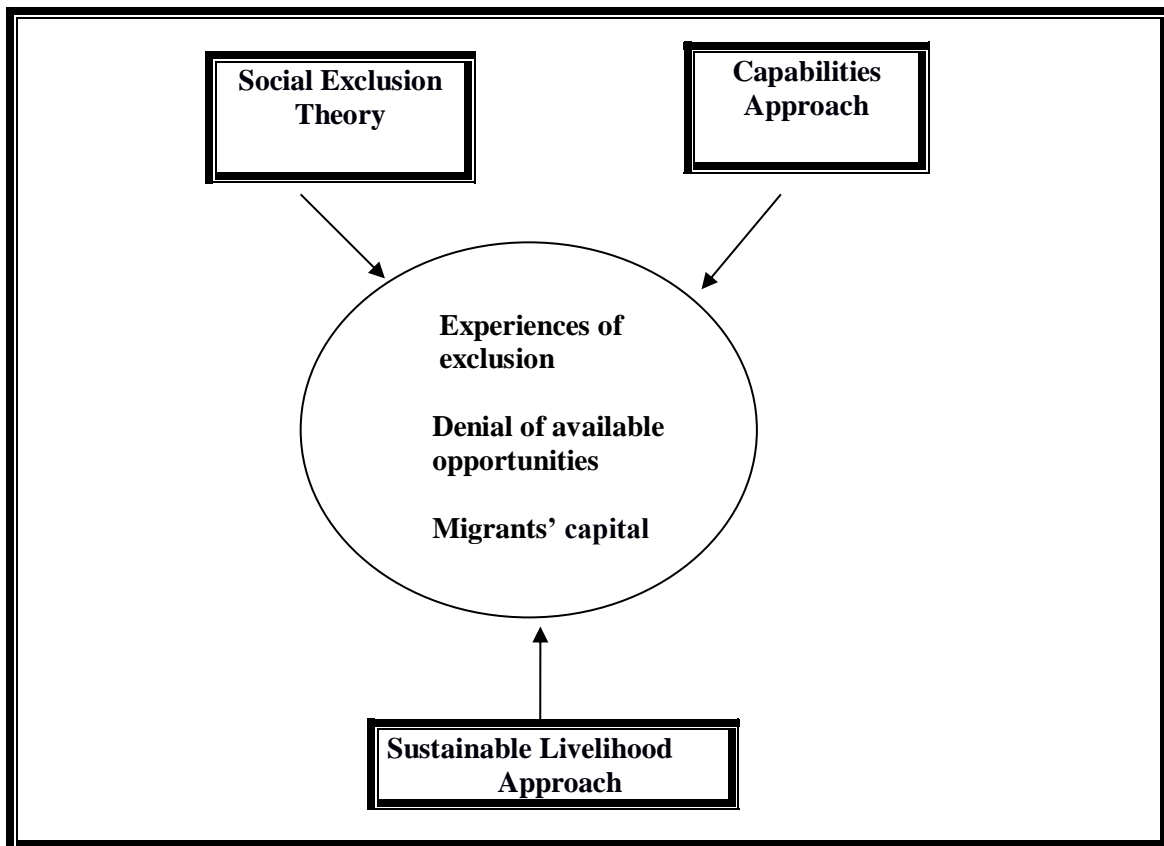
migrant youth are capable of learning new skills that are applicable in the labour market in Cape Town through either their social circles or accessible structured learning systems.

### **2.2.15. Access to Social Networks and Financial Support of Migrants**

The social support systems amongst immigrants are very important to explore because they might offer opportunities to migrants once they settle in the new host country. These support systems assist migrants in different ways, depending on the particular need one is faced with, for example, securing housing dwellings, credit facilities, and loans. Simich et al. (2005) define social support in the context of migrants as connections with friends, family members, and colleagues who pass on information to assist in, for instance, accessing basic needs, education, and employment. Therefore, unemployed black female migrant youth tend to establish social support systems within Cape Town to sustain their livelihoods, amidst them being unemployed. Besides, social networks are regarded as essential because they offer various types of support in ensuring that migrants get to their destination, make contact with identifying individuals from their home country, settle down, and, at times, act as a means of securing employment in the host country. Kok et al. (2006:228) state, “Social networks are relationships of mutual trust between people, based on pre-existing ties of kinship, friendship and shared community origin”. Awumbila et al. (2016) in their study in Ghana, note numerous studies reflect that migrants do not move to towns in search of employment opportunities unknowingly, but they're offered support in making decisions, travelling, settling, finding jobs, solving problems, and enhancing their livelihoods. Immigrants tend to keep in contact with their family and friends; in fact, before they even move to a new place, many communicate beforehand with connections in the host country who confirm they will act as intermediaries in ensuring that their transitions happen smoothly.

## **2.3. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

In this study, the researcher has examined the livelihood strategies of unemployed black female youth migrants through the theoretical lens of the Social Exclusion Theory, Capabilities Approach, and Sustainable Livelihood Approach. The framework considers, first, consider black female immigrant youth exclusion from the labour market, then second, the inability of migrants to make use of opportunities that are available for all, and third, it explores the livelihood strategies migrants make use of to sustain their well-being. The framework below speaks to characteristics, thereafter; detailed explanations on the theory and approaches will follow.



### 2.3.1. Social Exclusion Theory

The term social exclusion according to the Department for International Development (DFID) Policy Paper (2005:3) is described as follows; “Social exclusion describes a process by which certain groups are systematically disadvantaged because they are discriminated against on the basis of their ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation, caste, descent, gender, age, disability, HIV status, migrant status or where they live. Discrimination occurs in public institutions, such as the legal system or education and health services, as well as social institutions like the household”. The above- detailed description of social exclusion interprets a broad perspective and captures various examples where individuals are more likely to face exclusion. The definition further goes on to mention that exclusion may occur, for example in the health service, education sector, and one’s migrant status. This infers that depending on the circumstances one is exposed to, they are likely to encounter exclusion in any given community or environment.

Pierson (2010) comments that social exclusion emphasis is mostly on social relations and the level that individuals are capable of taking part in collective activities and realise adequate authority to guide decisions that affect their well-being. Furthermore, this theory has been used widely in understanding the different forms of exclusions that youths may encounter in society,

such as access to work and education. Some studies of youths' exclusion have noted that many face challenges in securing employment or accessing education, which is likely a result of exclusion within society. Fangen (2010) comments that the most important phase in young people's lives is when they can have access to education and employment. In this case, for example, immigrant youths denied employment or education opportunities in Cape Town are facing a form of exclusion. Some scholars have identified several characteristics of Social Exclusion. For example, Pierson (2010) identifies; exclusion from services, limited or no social support and networks, low income and poverty, effects of the neighbourhood (geographical location), and lack of access to the jobs market. These are consequences of having no social relations and choice and are associated with marginalisation, humiliation, and vulnerability, Taket et al. (2009). The study will use the concept of social exclusion to focus on experiences of exclusion that the black immigrant youth encounter in Cape Town.

### **2.3.2. Capabilities Approach**

Two prominent scholars, Amartya Sen and Martha Nussbaum coined the Capabilities Approach in the 1980s. According to Nithiya et al. (2015) both scholars agree that income poverty should not only be the primary focus of human development and that individuals can uplift their impoverished livelihoods. It is important to note that Sen and Nussbaum view the approach from two differing perspectives. Sen addresses poverty, with two concepts, capabilities, and functionings while, Nussbaum identifies differences and setting limitations on the two concepts (Nithiya et al., 2015). For this study, the focus is on Sen's perspective on the approach.

The capabilities approach looks at two distinctive terms; the first one referred to as "functionings," which consists of numerous activities that an individual could value doing or being (Sen, 1999). The second, known as "capabilities," addresses combined options of functionings, which enables persons to attain their choice of livelihood in society (Sen, 1999). For example, capabilities include freedoms that enable one to attain their lifestyle of choice (Sen, 1999). On the other hand, functionings include health, respect, working, and being literate (Robeyns, 2005). Another scholar, Schokkaert (2008) elaborates that functionings are an individual's accomplishments such as, what one can do or become, while capabilities are real opportunities that include the concept of freedom. Furthermore, Robeyns (2005:94) states "the core characteristic of the capability approach is its focus on what people are effectively able to do and to be; that is, on their capabilities". The approach also looks at the unfreedoms that

individuals experience within society. For example, Sen (1999) cites that a large number of persons have limited access to clean water, gainful employment, functional education, and health facilities. Sen (1999) states that what individuals are capable of achieving is highly influenced by social powers, economic opportunities, the enabling environment of motivating the desire for creating the initiative, and the availability of basic education. Sen (1999) further points out that social opportunities, which imply measures in society that cater to individual's health facilities and education, have a direct impact on one's ability to have a better life. Besides, individuals require freedoms that in turn will create a wide range of opportunities for the masses.

Sen (1999:37) elaborates that “the effectiveness of freedom as an instrument lies in the fact that direct kinds of freedoms interrelate with one another, and freedom of one type may greatly help in advancing freedom of other types.”. For example, unemployed immigrants in Cape Town are denied access to resources, such as, adequate healthcare, employment opportunities and decent housing.

### **2.3.3. Sustainable Livelihood Approach**

In any given society, individuals engage in various ways to sustain their well-being. For example, the need to have sufficient food in the household or access to financial resources requires one to secure means to provide for such. One needs to try to understand how resourceful individuals maybe, (given the available opportunities). The Sustainable Livelihood Approach explores various ways individuals manage their livelihoods, especially when exposed to sudden events, for example, unemployment, conflicts, and poor health. This approach has no definite definition because of its broad perspective in looking at the livelihoods of individuals. Some scholars have described the approach in numerous ways, for example, (Brocklesby 2003; Cortes 2008) considers how, it looks at four categories; first, it considers vulnerable persons who are likely to experience unexpected shocks, which are either recurring or seasonal. Second, individuals having capital assets, used as a means of livelihood. A third category is drawn from a variety of activities persons are engaged in.

Fourth, the organisations, policies, and procedures that enable individuals to have an opportunity to livelihood activities, assets, and their experience to vulnerabilities. It has no set-out procedures but offers choices and guidelines that can be applied (Mazibuko, 2013).

To understand the various aspects, that the approach addresses, a framework has been developed that focuses on five capital assets that affect the livelihood of individuals. Serrat (2008) describes capital consisting of Human Capital (health, education, capacity to work, knowledge and skills), and Social Capital (networks and connections, relations of formal and informal groups). He also describes Natural Capital (land and produce, water and aquatic resources, trees and forest products), Physical Capital (transport, roads, vehicles, secure shelter and buildings, water supply and sanitation) and Financial Capital (savings, credit and debt remittances, pensions and wages). Moreover, the approach has been widely used in studies that focus on the vulnerabilities of individuals. One example focuses on the issue of poverty, by rationally managing and analysing its causes (Carney and Ashley 1999). Its main emphasis is on how individuals structure their livelihoods, their opportunities and agency, unlike the 1980s household and survival studies, that focused on an individual's impoverishment (De Haan, 2012). One of its advantages is that it has a more reliable framework in terms of measuring both direct and indirect household living conditions as compared to having one perspective of income as a means of verification (Krantz, 2001). It is for these reasons given, that the approach is applied in understanding the different capital that unemployed black female immigrant youth employ in Cape Town because they are faced with unemployment.

## **2.4. POLICIES AND LEGISLATION**

Policies and legislation concerning migration are developed both at micro and macro levels. This is because international, regional, and local bodies have identified the urgency to look into the needs of migrants and, therefore, developed guidelines and frameworks on how to support and protect migrants from all forms of violations in any host country. The provided legislation and policies are the outcome of the need to support and protect immigrants, ensuring they are socially and economically integrated into any host country. These legislative documents focus on all immigrants, irrespective of gender, and aim to secure and protect migrants in any host country across Africa.

### **2.4.1 African Union Migration Policy Framework**

The Council of the African Union developed the Migration Policy Framework and identified nine specific migration areas: Labour Migration, Border Migration, Irregular Migration, Forced Displacement, Human Rights of Migrants, Internal Migration, Migration Data, Migration and Development, and Inter-State Co-operation and Partnerships. This framework provides policy recommendations for African Union Member States and Regional Economic

Communities. It provides detailed and integrated guidelines on the aforementioned focus areas. The policy framework also acts as a guiding tool for governments and regional economic communities in establishing their policies (AU, Gambia Migration Policy Framework for Africa, 2006). Furthermore, the policy document supports the needs of all categories of migrants, as mentioned above, and proposes methods that may assist member states including South Africa, on how to tackle the issue of immigrants within the country.

#### **2.4.2. Southern African Development Community (SADC) Treaty**

The SADC Treaty was mainly developed to achieve development, peace and security, economic growth, alleviate poverty, and enhance the standard and quality of life of all the peoples of Southern Africa. This policy has been developed to reflect, contribute to, and refine existing legal frameworks at regional, bilateral and national levels, and international and regional legal instruments and obligations relating to migration and labour (SADC Labour Migration Policy, 2013). This policy document is an important tool in understanding how unemployed black female migrant youth could be assisted in Cape Town. Furthermore, it directly speaks to the needs of immigrants who are specifically from the SADC region.

#### **2.4.3. Green Paper on International Migration in South Africa**

The South African government developed the Green Paper in support of the requirements of immigrants in the country. The policy document is critically revised to cater to the needs of international migrants, because of the current massive migratory patterns that are taking place globally and nationally. The development of the Green Paper on international migration occurred as a result of the government recognising the need to forge ahead. Many changes have been taking place in South Africa concerning the flow of migrants and, in particular, South Africa plays a significant role at an international level, which involves international relations across the mezzo and macro levels, (Green Paper on International Migration in South Africa, 2016). The Green Paper policy document caters for all immigrants living in the country, allowing them the right to secure employment and assisting them with the process of settling in the country, should it be required.

#### **2.4.4. South African Refugees Act**

Another law that safeguards the interests and welfare of immigrants living in the country is the South African Refugees Act, enacted in 1998. The Act provides details on the procedures, rules, regulations, and obligations that refugees are entitled to while in the republic (South

African Refugees Act, 1998). This law was enacted following the African Union and international law that recognises the challenges and needs of refugees in Africa (South African Refugees Act, 1998). It further explains the measures that the government has taken to receive and accommodate immigrants. So that they can integrate within the country by allowing them the opportunity to work and engage in income-generating activities while abiding by the laws.

#### **2.4.5. Immigration Act, 2002**

The Department of Home Affairs in South Africa should have obligation to admit immigrants into the country so long they qualify and meet the recommended conditions. The Immigration Act of 2002, details regulations and guidelines on the process. For example, among others, the Immigration Act looks into border monitoring, temporary and permanent permits, and immigration laws (Immigration Act, 2002). The Act not only addresses the needs of immigrants but also protects the interests of South African nationals, for example, the need to regulate employment opportunities to immigrants (Immigration Act, 2002).

#### **2.5. CONCLUSION**

The literature reviews both the global and regional migration trends, the unemployment status of youth in South Africa, and considers how it affects the immigrant youth. Furthermore, the two determinants of migration, i.e. the push and pull factors, are explained and their influence on immigrant decisions to leave their home countries is considered. The challenges that immigrants encounter and the networks that they make use of are outlined in this chapter. The study undertaken has included documenting the theoretical framework and been aligned to the regional and local policies by looking into the needs of immigrants.

The following chapter will provide an in-depth description of the methodology applied to this study.

## **CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1. INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents the methodology applied in the study. An explanation of the research design precedes the population sampling technique, which explains in detail the characteristics of the participants selected for the study. This is followed by a detailed explanation of the data-collection instrument. Finally, the data analysis process, ethical considerations, data verification, and limitations of the study are thoroughly discussed.

### **3.2. RESEARCH DESIGN**

The purpose of this research was to explore the livelihood strategies of unemployed black female migrant youth in Cape Town. To capture the stories of the respondents in-depth, the researcher adopted the qualitative research design as a research approach. The research was exploratory and adopted the qualitative approach. Martyn (2013:12) defines qualitative research as “a form of social inquiry that tends to adopt a flexible and data-driven research design, to use relatively unstructured data, to emphasize the essential role of subjectivity in the research process, to study a small number of naturally occurring cases in detail, and to use verbal rather than statistical forms of analysis”. This approach prompted the researcher to be flexible during the data collection process and select a manageable number of respondents able to share their experiences in detail.

Gray (2004) observes that qualitative research is contextual and is composed of a ‘natural setting’ frequently over extended periods. This type of approach, according to Babbie and Mouton (2002) enables the researcher to conduct research in a natural setting of social actors, and gather in-depth descriptions and an understanding of actions and events. Furthermore, this design brings about new understandings that can link to theory in entirely new ways (Bansal et al., 2018). Mark (1996:211) notes “qualitative approaches study phenomena using general descriptions to describe or explain”. In this study, the qualitative approach enabled the researcher to obtain narrative data from the respondents, which was subsequently interpreted, based on the focus of the study.

### **3.3. POPULATION AND SAMPLING**

#### **3.3.1. Study Population**

A population is the sum of events, individuals, and establishment units that the identified research problem is interested in exploring (De Vos, et al., 2005). Researchers do not study each component but identify a set in the population, for the population is likely to be large (Mark, 1996). The respondents in the study originated from a population of unemployed black female immigrant youth across Cape Town who live in the Northern and Southern Suburbs, and are from the SADC region. The youth immigrated to South Africa for numerous reasons and were unemployed. The study explores the various livelihood strategies the immigrants are engaged in as they experience unemployment in Cape Town.

#### **3.3.2. Sampling Technique, Characteristic and Procedure**

A sample refers to a number individuals designated for a study (Mark, 1996). For this study, the sample consisted of twenty unemployed black female migrant youth aged between twenty-five and thirty-four (these were the only respondents that agreed to participate in the study) who came from three specific countries: The Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, and Zimbabwe. The researcher only managed to identify participants from the three SADC countries, who were willing to take part in the study. Another criterion required was that all these migrants were living in Cape Town at the time of the study. The researcher wanted to have a diverse group of black female migrant youth respondents, and those selected were comprised of thirteen documented and seven undocumented respondents. In addition, all the respondents in the study had lived in Cape Town for a minimum duration of four months. The researcher applied two non-probability sampling techniques when selecting the sample, namely purposive sampling and snowball sampling. Purposive sampling, according to Singleton et al. (1988) focuses on the judgement of the researcher and the sample needs to be characterised by the population under study. In the study, the researcher ensured that all the respondents identified and selected to take part in the study belonged to a select group, for example, unemployed black female migrant youth from the SADC region. The researcher managed to interview eight respondents using the purposive sampling technique. The snowball sampling technique involves targeting respondents most likely not residing in the same place. Since some of the respondents did not live in the same housing suburbs, the snowballing technique enabled the researcher to locate respondents spread across Cape Town. In total, the snowball sampling technique yielded a selection of twelve respondents. Huysamen (1994:44) mentions that: “individuals from the relevant population are approached and these individuals then act as

informants to identify other members of the same population for inclusion in the sample.” Babbie and Mouton (2002) note the useful application of the snowballing method when selected respondents are difficult to locate during the study.

The assistance of two local organisations in Cape Town and two local informants proved invaluable to the data collection process. The two organisations offered programmes that focused on the welfare of immigrants in Cape Town in various capacities, such as self-help programmes and employment support programmes. The researcher had communicated with the person in charge of one of the two organisations and made an appointment to meet at his/her office. This provided an opportunity to discuss the nature of the study and the expectations of the researcher. The researcher needed to establish how the organisation could assist in identifying potential respondents to interview. The second organisation required the researcher to go to the office and request to see the person in charge. Upon the conclusion of the discussions, the gatekeepers granted the researcher verbal consent to conduct the interviews. Furthermore, each respective organisation introduced the researcher in two different ways to the respondents. The first organisation assigned different assistants who were responsible for introducing potential respondents to the researcher. Introductions to the clients of this organisation happened on selected days. The assistants gave brief details about the researcher and her affiliated learning institution to the potential respondents. The researcher provided additional information about her research goals and had to wait for potential respondents to come forward. The use of a private office to conduct the interviews, guaranteed freedom from any interference.

The second organisation introduced the researcher to a group of immigrant women, both young and middle-aged, who were attending a support group targeting immigrant women living in Cape Town. The person in charge of running the support group introduced the researcher to the women in attendance. The researcher had only to select respondents who fitted the criteria required for the study.

When selecting respondents using the snowball technique, the researcher briefed two local informants regarding the study and the specific characteristics of respondents required. After liaising with the informants, the researcher was required, at times, to travel to different housing suburbs in Cape Town with the aid of the informants, while on other occasions, alone. The respondents were not located in the same neighbourhood and therefore the researcher needed

to make concrete arrangements for the most suitable days to conduct the interviews. The researcher was required to make continuous phone and follow-up calls with respondents and informants to organise to conduct the interviews at the respective respondents' dwellings. The entire data collection process took the researcher approximately six weeks.

### **3.4. DATA COLLECTION**

#### **3.4.1 Data Collection Approach**

The researcher in the study used in-depth individual interviews to collect the data from the respondents. According to De Vos et al. (2005) these types of interviews enable one to obtain in-depth descriptions of the respondents' beliefs concerning views of a specific subject, and gives both the researcher and respondent more flexibility. For example, the researcher did not limit the expressions of the respondents. In this study, the researcher was in close contact with all the respondents who were all able to share more details about their experiences. In-depth interviews provided a platform where respondents could clarify more on the questions raised and express themselves more easily; many described how the shock of unemployment had affected their livelihoods.

#### **3.4.2 Data Collection Instrument**

A semi-structured interview guide was developed by the researcher from which to ask respondents questions. The researcher didn't ask all the questions listed in the guide because some respondents didn't want to share certain information, and simply because some questions didn't apply to them. However, the guide assisted in the process of collecting sufficient information relevant to the study. Moreover, the questions in the interview guide were all open-ended and structured in English. Gray (2004) supports the method where the interviewer creates a varied list of questions to ask and encourage the respondents to further elaborate on their answers.

#### **3.4.3 Data Collection Apparatus**

The apparatus used to record the interviews of the respondents was a digital recorder. Before conducting the interviews, the researcher tested the digital recorder to ensure that it was operational. To ensure that each respondent was comfortable having their voice recorded, the researcher had to seek verbal consent from each respondent before commencing the interviews.

### **3.5. DATA ANALYSIS**

According to Patton (2002), data analysis is a process of minimising raw information, selecting important information from trivia, recognizing significant patterns, and building a framework for communicating the purpose of what the data discloses. Marshall and Rossman (1989) describe the process of conveying orders, structure, and the importance of the bulk data collection. In this study, the researcher used Tesch's eight steps (1990) in De Vos (1998) when analysing the data collected.

*Step 1:* The researcher gathered all the transcripts and read each one of them, to have an understanding of the data collected.

*Step 2:* The researcher thoroughly reread the transcripts and selected one specific transcript. The selected transcript served to provide a clearer and more detailed understanding of the respondents' information.

*Step 3:* The researcher developed themes based on the interpretation of the transcripts gathered.

*Step 4:* After reading through the themes, the researcher saw the need to develop more themes relating to the transcripts gathered.

*Step 5:* The researcher identified themes from all transcripts and developed categories and sub-categories of them.

*Step 6:* The researcher then finalised the categories and subcategories of themes that were developed.

*Step 7:* The researcher assembled all the data collected, under themes, categories, and sub-categories.

*Step 8:* Lastly, the researcher analysed the data collected and put together a detailed report. The report was documented chapter by chapter until all five were complete and in order.

### **3.6. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The consideration of research ethics is extremely important whenever one conducts research that involves human subjects, especially in the case of qualitative research. Mark (1996) describes ethics as 'the standard of conduct to ensure moral behaviour.' Welman et al. (2005:181) argue, "ethical behaviour is as important in research as in any other field of human behaviour, and is concerned with matters such as plagiarism and honesty in reporting results about all research." This study considered a select number of ethics throughout the entire research process. The main reason for this was for the protection of the chosen respondents from any form of manipulation that could have occurred throughout the qualitative research procedure.

- **Avoidance of Harm**

Social Research must cause neither physical nor emotional harm to the respondents (De Vos et al., 2011). To avoid causing harm to the respondents, the researcher had to debrief them about the purpose of the study. The researcher informed respondents that the study was purely for academic purposes in the Department of Social Development at the University of Cape Town. Furthermore, respondents were given the liberty to withdraw from interviews at any time.

- **Competence of the researcher**

The researcher received training in conducting field research and had practical experience in collecting data using the qualitative method technique. In 2011, the researcher enrolled in a research course at Honours level at the University of Cape Town. Part of the pre-requisite of the course was to conduct fieldwork and collect qualitative data in Cape Town. Hence, the researcher was familiar and experienced in conducting qualitative research.

- **Voluntary participation**

The voluntary participation of respondents is very important when conducting qualitative research. The researcher informed the respondents that participating in the interviews was optional. The selected respondents in the study all voluntarily participated in the interviews.

- **Informed Consent**

Mark (1996) mentions that informed consent is at the heart of efforts to ensure that all participation is truly voluntary. Before commencing each interview, the researcher liaised with the respondents and obtained his/her verbal consent. In doing so, a thorough description and explanation of the study allowed the respondents to decide whether they would like to take part in the study or not. This included a discussion of the expected time of the entire interview and clarity on any expectations regarding the outcome of the research.

- **Deception of Respondents**

The researcher clarified and explained the purpose of the study to the respondents and that the information would not provide any gateway to assisting in securing employment. Instead, the information was only for the use of academic purposes in the Department of Social Development at the University of Cape Town.

- **Confidentiality and Anonymity**

Confidentiality and anonymity during the study were applied to protect the identity of the respondents. The researcher had informed the respondents that the information shared was confidential and therefore, all their identities would remain anonymous. Mark (1996) highlights that any participant in research needs to be informed about how the data collected from them will be protected. In this study, the researcher kept all names anonymous and pseudonym names were used when documenting the findings.

### **3.7. DATA VERIFICATION**

The verification of data during research is very important to ensure that all the data captured is accurate. According to De Vos (1998) verification of data requires one to check for any bias that can affect the entire process when establishing valuable conclusions from the research. Data verification in the study required the researcher to take into consideration the following process: To ensure the trustworthiness of the study, the researcher had to document each stage of the methodology applied during the research. Transferability was tested and replicated because of its clearly outlined methodology, which applied to a similar research setting. Lastly, De Vos (1998) mentions that confirmability puts emphasis on checking whether the research results are confirmable by a different source, and places the evaluation on the data itself that the researcher has concluded. In the case of this study, the researcher constantly listened to the recorded findings and the researcher would submit the transcripts and report.

### **3.8. LIMITATIONS OF THE RESEARCH**

Limitations during qualitative research are unavoidable and usually happen during the process of data collection. This occurs especially when the research involves human subjects, who in this case, were the primary source of collecting data. The researcher encountered the following limitations during the study:

#### **Lack of Fluency in the language of English**

The low level of English fluency among respondents from the DRC and Malawi posed some challenges. The respondents from DRC mentioned that they had only learnt how to communicate in English after they had immigrated to Cape Town. They also emphasized that English was not their native language, whereas French and Swahili were. On the other hand, several respondents from Malawi opted for dialogue in both Chichewa (fluent) and English (low proficiency). To note, the respondents could understand English but preferred to express

themselves in either Chichewa, Kiswahili, or French languages. To overcome the English language barrier, the researcher had to make use of the local informants who were native speakers of either Chichewa, Kiswahili, or French. The informants would then translate the questions from English to the language the respondents were most comfortable communicating in. Besides, the translators were familiar with the respondents and this made it easier and more comfortable for them to converse in the presence of the researcher. It must be mentioned that some of the interviews conducted required the presence of a translator. On several occasions, the researcher had to repeat the questions so that the respondents could understand more clearly. Altogether, five respondents in the study required a translator, four were from the DRC and one was from Malawi.

### **Use of a digital recorder**

The use of a digital recorder raised suspicion amongst the selected respondents who felt the need to protect their identities. The respondents had strongly indicated their discord with any form of voice recording for the study. Three respondents opted not to be voice recorded. As a result, the researcher had to alter her plan immediately and use a notebook to document the interviews as they proceeded.

### **Use of Pseudo names**

Before commencing the interviews, the researcher had informed the respondents that their real names would not be used in the report. Despite this, the respondents, as foreign nationals, still feared exposure of their names. The researcher established a verbal agreement with each respondent not to disclose his or her real names, but only to use pseudo names.

### **Distance and unfamiliar suburbs by the researcher**

The respondents were located in different suburbs in Cape Town. This required the researcher to travel long distances by either a train or taxi to conduct the interviews at the respective respondent's dwellings. The researcher discussed the logistics with each respondent beforehand, to meet up at a more centrally located place. This was done to ensure that the respondent agreed to a specific location, picked up the researcher, and took her to his/her respective home, where the respondent would him/herself be interviewed accordingly.

### **3.9. REFLEXIVITY**

The researcher was a black female immigrant youth from the SADC region who lived in a community comprised of mostly immigrants from different African countries. This was an advantage for the researcher who was able to relate to the discussed challenges of immigrants in Cape Town. However, the researcher was a young female who had assumptions of how black unemployed female immigrants sustained their livelihoods. It was vital that the researcher learnt to be objective and did not try to influence the responses of the respondents during the interviews, as well as avoid bias during the study.

### **3.10. CONCLUSION**

To conclude, this chapter discussed the methodology applied by the researcher. A detailed explanation of how the researcher collected data from participants and an explanation of how data was analysed were provided. Furthermore, the limitations the researcher encountered during the study were described in detail.

The next chapter mainly discusses the research analysis and main findings of the study.

## CHAPTER FOUR: DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

### 4.1. INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents findings from an analysis of interviews with twenty unemployed black-female migrant youth living in Cape Town. The purpose of the study was to explore their livelihood strategies. The first part of the chapter presents the demographic profile of the respondents. The second part presents the framework for analysis based on the themes, categories, and sub-categories that were developed during the analysis of the data. This is followed by an in-depth discussion of the main findings based on the framework of analysis.

### 4.2. PROFILE OF THE RESPONDENTS

Table 1. displays the demographics of the respondents who were selected for the study.

**Table 1. Demographic Profile of the Respondents**

PSEUDONYM	VARIABLE		NUMBER	PERCENTAGE (%)
Precious	Gender	Female	20	100
Sarah		Male	0	0
Melinda	Nationality	DRC	12	60
Monique		Malawi	3	15
Bridgette		Zimbabwe	5	25
Tambudzai	Age Cohort	25-34	20	100
Rutendo	Race	Black	20	100
Munia	Education Level	College	2	0.1
Marian		Grade Twelve	11	55
Mable		Skills training	1	0.05
Fatuma		Primary	2	0.1
Kasongo		Informal Learning	2	0.1
Simone		High school dropout	2	0.1
Madalisto	Documentation Status	Documented	13	65
Tamara		Undocumented	7	35
Melinda	Marital Status	Single	5	25
Angelina		Married	13	65
Elonga		Widowed	1	0.05
Rudo		Single parent	1	0.05
	Number of participants children		38	7.6
	Number of children living with participants		24	9
	Number of children left behind		14	5

	Dwelling type	Formal	13	65
		Informal	7	35
<b>SAMPLE SIZE 20</b>				

#### **4.3.1. Age, Gender and Race**

The average age of the respondents in the study was 29.2, and the study involved twenty female unemployed migrant youth who are all of the black African ethnicity. The respondents came from three countries within the SADC region namely; The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Malawi, and Zimbabwe. The number of migrants from neighbouring countries in South Africa is high. The country is perceived to offer a wide range of economic opportunities, which are lacking in other countries across the region. Mafukidze (2006) confirms that African migrants with different skills target the SADC region as their choice of destination. This research study focused on unemployed black female migrant youth because the challenges of unemployment amongst black female youth in South Africa are a matter of concern. This has been and still is because migrants have played a pivotal role in contributing to the social and economic integration of the economy in South Africa.

#### **4.3.2. Marital Status**

The marital status of the respondents in the study was varied and comprised of one single parent, one widow, five single females, and thirteen married females. Of the twenty respondents to be interviewed, 65% were married and living with some of their children, 25% single, 0.05% widowed and 0.05% refers to a single parent.

#### **4.3.3. Documentation Status of the Respondents**

The documentation status of the respondents is very relevant because much literature reveals that the documentation status of migrants affects their ability to secure employment, and available social services in host countries. Hence, those without the right documents are exposed to all forms of vulnerabilities such as exclusion from the labour market, which affects their livelihoods in Cape Town. Landau (2005) argues that even though migrants might have legal documents they may still be socially excluded, for example, immigrants who might own asylum permits. This infers that documented black female migrant youth might still face exclusion even though they may have had officially documented permits issued by the relevant authorities in Cape Town. On the positive side, being legally documented makes it much easier for them to access basic services and secure employment in Cape Town. Consequently, for the study, the respondents were categorized into two groups firstly, those who are in possession of

legal documents such as asylum permits, which permits them to work and stay in Cape Town, and secondly, those who've legally entered the country using their passports but decided to prolong their authorised duration of stay, resulting in them being declared undocumented. In total, 65% of the respondents were legally documented while only 35% were undocumented.

#### **4.3.4. Children Left behind in Countries of Origin**

One other aspect the respondents with children mentioned is they didn't live with nor had they brought all of their children to Cape Town. According to the respondents, some of the children hadn't travelled with them but remained in their home countries. In most cases, the respondents didn't have the money to travel back to their home countries and fetch their children so that they could live together in Cape Town. Other respondents came specifically to Cape Town to seek employment and opted to leave their other children behind.

*I have two children, two boys. One is five years and the other is one year now. I only live with one son, the baby (1-year-old). I left the other child with my family back home in Zimbabwe because I do not have money to go and fetch him from Zimbabwe. My son is living with his great-grandparents, the parents of my late mother (Rudo, 26, Zimbabwe).*

*Yes, I have three children, the first born one is sixteen, the other one is ten and the last one is one year-old. I only live with the baby in Cape Town, the other two are in Malawi. The two remained behind with my mother, because I just came here to look for a job with my husband, so I cannot take them (Precious, 34, Malawi).*

From the above excerpts of narration, the lack of sufficient money at the respondent's disposal and the quest to seek employment in Cape Town were the main reasons for not living with all their children. This infers that the respondent's family setup was disrupted because they weren't able to bring all of their children to live with them in Cape Town. The above respondents both related that the children left behind were under the care of relatives, usually parents, or grandparents. The arrangement of leaving children with other family members indicates that ties within extended family households play a very important role in providing support to migrants who have left their children behind. Besides, this implies that unemployed black female migrant youth trying to make a living in Cape Town, have no other choice but to opt for alternatives concerning the caregiving of their children.

#### **4.3.5. Education Level**

The education level amongst the respondents consisted of those who had completed tertiary education, grade twelve, those who had been informally taught, and those who had dropped out of high school. 55% percent of the respondents had completed grade-twelve, 0.1% percent

had dropped out of high school, 0.1% percent did not go to school but were taught informally. One respondent who was informally taught explained that she had learnt how to read and write through a local organisation within their community offering learning opportunities, while a second respondent learnt through interacting with colleagues within the community. Furthermore, 0.1% percent had college degrees and 0.05% had a skills certificate.

#### 4.3.6. Dwelling Type

The respondents in the study were living either in a formal housing dwelling (‘modern housing dwelling’), or an informal housing dwelling (locally called a ‘shack’), behind the respective landlord’s main house in Cape Town. 35% lived in informal dwellings while 65% were staying in informal dwellings. Although the respondents dwelling types differed, all of them had access to water, electricity, and refuse collection from the local authorities. The respondents living in formal dwellings had metered electricity machines in their dwellings, and all members of the household had to contribute money to buy electricity units for the entire month, every month. They further elaborated on the fact that payments for refuse collection and water were included in the monthly rentals. On the other hand, respondents living in informal dwellings had made alternative arrangements by connecting electricity cables from the landlord’s main house, which was supplying the power. Their monthly rentals included refuse collection, water, and electricity bills, all paid in cash.

### 4.4. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

**Table 2: Framework for Analysis**

<b>THEMES</b>	<b>CATEGORIES</b>	<b>SUB-CATEGORIES</b>
<b>Factors and conditions that forced black female youth migrants to leave their country.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Political instability;</li> <li>● Poor economic conditions;</li> <li>● Poverty;</li> <li>● Other social influences on migration.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Insecurity;</li> <li>● Lack of employment opportunities;</li> <li>● Poor lifestyle of living;</li> <li>● Migration seen as a means to a better life.</li> </ul>
<b>Challenges faced in efforts to find work.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Documentation status;</li> <li>● Nationality.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Limited employment opportunities;</li> <li>● Limited social support and low income;</li> <li>● Unemployed black female migrant’s livelihood since leaving previous job in her home country.</li> </ul>
<b>Experiences and Perceptions of Social Exclusion.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Overcrowding;</li> <li>● Limited food consumption and purchasing of clothing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Poor housing conditions;</li> <li>● Inability to take care of self.</li> </ul>

<b>The perceived vulnerabilities resulting from being unemployed.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inability to access basic and household needs</li> <li>● Low level of life - satisfaction because of experiencing unemployment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lack of income;</li> <li>● Inability to send remittances.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Personal aspirations unattainable.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Going back to school and securing a job.</li> </ul>
<b>The livelihood strategies employed.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Healthcare;</li> <li>● Education;</li> <li>● Support systems;</li> <li>● Social networks;</li> <li>● Migrants acquired hands-on skills;</li> <li>● Access to financial support and credit facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lack of access to healthcare;</li> <li>● Lack of access to credit facilities;</li> <li>● Lack of access to financial support;</li> <li>● Limited social-network support;</li> <li>● Limited opportunities to make use of skills.</li> </ul>
<b>Programmes and policies that support unemployed black female migrant youth.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Known sources of support;</li> <li>● Black female migrant's perception/s on government's support.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lack of information about government programmes and/or programmes provided by non-governmental organisations;</li> <li>● Not having hope in the government system.</li> </ul>

#### **4.4.1. Factors that lead to black female youth emigration from countries of origin**

When asked to share the reasons for the decision to emigrate from their countries of origin, most respondents cited political instability, poor economic conditions, and poverty.

##### ***Political Instability***

The respondents in the study narrated that they opted to immigrate because of, for instance, living in a politically unstable environment. Political instability, according to Willis (1990) is the deviation from accepted patterns of political behaviour, such as the political authority that is not of legitimate means. Willis (1990) cites communal political instability, which is associated with ethnic violence, uprisings, and civil war as being most relevant in this study. For example, some respondents from the DRC narrated that they had experienced constant fighting, (forcing them to leave their home country). According to Deng (1993) both ethnic and civil conflict constitute the major reasons for involuntary movement within the Sub-Saharan African region. Giddens (2009) agrees and describes war as a push factor that determines an individual's decision to emigrate. The respondents shared the following narratives on their respective experiences of living in politically unstable countries:

*My country is not stable there is too much fighting and my mother and I were abducted by rebels in our community back in my country and we were staying at a camp. So I had no stable home and I had to run away and leave the country(Marian, 25, DRC).*

*You see, Life in my country is very difficult personally. Secondly, they are fighting every time. So my husband and I decided to leave there, to come to South Africa for our lifesaver, to save our lives! Especially for our children's lives(Fatuma, 28, DRC).*

*I was staying in Kivu with my sister in DRC, so the political people were fighting and my brother in law who was taking care of us was shot dead. There was no one to take care of us, so we went to Lubumbashi. When we got to Lubumbashi there was a family that helped us to get to South Africa (Maria,29 DRC).*

The respondents felt the need to emigrate because of the harsh conditions in their countries and didn't feel safe because of their fear of harassment by the military personnel. One respondent mentioned that she and her mother were abducted and placed in a camp. Hence their need to emigrate. Equally important, one respondent mentioned that saving their children's lives was of paramount importance too. The responses indicate that when a country is not politically stable and facing war or conflict, the consequences are that individuals decide to move in search of lives that are more suitable for themselves and their families. A report by the International Organisation for Migration (2014-2016) notes that Africa is a continent with difficult migration patterns because of the history of intra-regional and inter-regional migration movements, which are themselves a result of conflict and income inequalities. The respondents from the DRC mentioned that the country had been faced with constant political conflict. As a result, the country didn't provide a conducive environment to raise family, nor live a stable life. The political instability in the respondent's home country resulted in her developing fear and insecurity, for example, such as exposure to conflicts, which forced her to leave in search of a better life in Cape Town. One of the consequences of experiencing a civil war or unstable conditions in a country is a poor economy, therefore prompting individuals to leave and seek life and work elsewhere.

### ***Poor Economic Conditions***

The economic conditions of any given country have a huge impact on the livelihoods of individuals given they provide the opportunity for growth and development of the masses. The respondents narrated the following, regarding their views about staying in a country faced with poor economic conditions and experiencing high unemployment rates:

*You know how it is the economy in Zimbabwe, there are no jobs there. There is nothing man that side. I just had to come and look for employment (Rutendo, 25, Zimbabwe).*

*I came to Cape Town to get a better life for myself because it is very difficult to get a job in my country, in DRC I was not working (Elonga, 32, DRC).*

There was a huge lack of employment opportunities in the respective respondent home countries and they mentioned that they'd decided to migrate to Cape Town to find ways to improve their livelihoods. Rao (2015) elaborates that an individual's much-needed welfare revolves around the amount of unemployment among different sections of the society. This relates to the respondents' comments on how difficult it was to find employment in their respective home countries. The respondents explained that they faced the predicament of leaving because of the hardship of not having the opportunity to secure employment. For instance, Kefale and Mohammed (2016) conducted a study on the social and economic impacts of Ethiopia's labour migration (challenges & opportunities) of the Gulf and South Africa. The study mentions that young people, for instance, are found to be in communities that don't provide opportunities to secure employment. This relates to the narration elaborated by the respondents who were living in countries that offered them no opportunities to acquire employment. Salzano (2013) notes that 1.3 billion young people in the world live in developing countries and are unemployed because of the global financial crisis and economic downturn. He further comments that 80.7 million are struggling to find work.

### **Poverty**

Poverty is complex as it affects individuals and households in different ways. It could be caused because of individuals being unemployed, which results in a lack of basic needs given there are no breadwinners in a household or appropriate shelter. The term poverty has no single definition, but rather is described in many ways by scholars depending on the need that it is addressing, and its complexities involved in describing people who are affected by it. Fosu and Mwabu (2009) define poverty in the absolute context, as the failure of an individual or a family to facilitate adequate resources to satisfy his/her basic needs, being shelter, clothing, food, and healthcare. On the other hand, Davids et al. (2009) definition of poverty, according to the sustainable livelihood perspective, emphasizes the need for individuals to participate (in economic activities) and for communities to define and resolve their poverty. The respondents shared the following concerning their experiences of entanglement in the vicious cycle of poverty:

*As a family we lost both parents in a very short time, so my brothers and I decided to migrate to South Africa for a better life. We had no one to take care of us that is why we migrated to South Africa (Kasongo, 29, DRC).*

*Life was so difficult in DRC it was not easy, that is why I left DRC. I was thinking that when I come to Cape Town life will be better but it is more difficult now. I am suffering! suffering! I need somewhere to stay. I lost my parents in DRC and had nowhere to stay, no food, nothing, life was not easy(Simone, 28, DRC).*

The respondents faced difficult challenges such as lack of shelter and they had no one to provide for their well-being at the time they decided to migrate. The premature death of both parents was a setback that harmed the households, which resulted in the respondent experiencing hardships. The face of poverty appears in different contexts and this case, a lack of shelter and support were huge challenges, which led both the respondents to fall prey to poverty. Ridge and White (2008) note that poverty has different conceptions, which results in differing explanations that reflect value positions. The lack of shelter among the respondents, which is a basic need, results from experiencing poverty and exclusion as mentioned by Czapiewski (2005).

The respondents explained that they felt incapacitated due to a lack of support, which left them with no alternatives. For instance, a study by Kefale and Mohammed (2016) reveals that poverty is the main reason for young people immigrating and the youth hope for a better life in South Africa. De Haan (2000) comments in his writings that migration assists in limiting poverty, even though, on several occasions, it does not completely improve the standard of living. Cloete (2015) notes that poverty and unemployment are consequences of economic structures that deliberately exclude individuals from benefitting from economic activities, which are a product of those who have the means and resources, and those who do not have anything at all. In this case, unemployed black female migrant youth exposed to poverty are trapped in the cycle because they are still searching for employment.

Serrat (2008) mentions that the key feature of the SADC region is its poverty levels and unemployment which tends to be as high as fifty percent, whereas informal employment is as high as ninety percent. The narratives indicate that the respondents were in very critical situations because they had limited options available to them due to the poverty they faced in their respective home countries. The respondents shared that they had no one to look after them nor provide any support for their well-being in their home countries. The experiences of the respondents concur with opinions addressed by The Capabilities Theory, on the need for individuals to have opportunities and freedoms within society that enable them to determine

their livelihoods. The condition of one caught up in poverty, as expressed, infers that black female migrant youth are denied their freedom to fully engage in economic activities such as employment that left them vulnerable in the first place. Furthermore, other influences within society determine whether migrants leave their home countries, such as marriage and familiarity with household members with the host country.

### ***Other Social Influences on Migration***

Different kinds of social influences motivate migrants to leave their home countries and settle in a foreign land. Migrants may be encouraged to move due to the unexpected loss of breadwinners in a household and decide to migrate collectively as a family. Households having a person familiar with the host countryman encourage other members to do the same. When the respondents were asked about whether their families were aware of their decision to migrate, some answered that they made decisions as a family to migrate, whilst another respondent shared that her mother being a regular cross-border trader had played a role in facilitating the migration process. The respondents provided the following narrations:

*Fortunately, for me, my mother has always been a cross-border trader and is very familiar with South Africa. She sells bed duvets and covers, so when I decided to migrate my mother was aware and assisted me (Rutendo, 25, Zimbabwe).*

*My mother died first, then my father who was supporting us died too later on. As a family, we lost both parents in a very short time, so my brothers and I decided to migrate to South Africa for a better life. We had no one to take care of us that is why we migrated from DRC to South Africa (Kasongo, 29, DRC).*

Most of the respondents mentioned that once they made their decisions to migrate, their families were either informed or involved in the process. According to several respondent responses, families played a significant role in the migration process to South Africa. Being familiar with a potential host country also played a pivotal role in helping other family members within the household to emigrate as well. For example, one respondent narrated that her mother was a constant traveller to South Africa as an entrepreneur, who engaged in the buying and selling of cover beds and duvets. Enigbokam et al. (2015) in their presentation paper on migration theories, noted that many migrants were motivated to migrate because they had known colleagues who had moved and established networks, which could also assist with unforeseen circumstances should they occur during the emigration process. Similarly, the

respondents mentioned that they had chosen to move to Cape Town because they were acquainted with fellow migrants who had already been there.

#### **4.4.2. Challenges faced in efforts to find work**

The quest to find employment in South Africa for unemployed black female migrants is not easy given the numerous challenges migrants encounter in the bid to secure jobs, such as their legality to work. Questions were asked about what challenges the respondents had encountered when finding potential employment, how often they'd applied for employment, and whether they'd had the legal documents to live and work in Cape Town. The respondents shared that on various occasions potential employers asked about their documentation status, which authorized them to live and work in Cape Town and had inquired about their nationality.

##### ***Documentation Status and Nationality***

Whether respondents in the study were legally documented, undocumented, or weren't South African nationals posed huge challenges for their day-to-day employment explorations in Cape Town. The documentation status of the respondents was relevant because it affected their ability to secure employment or even determine what activities they intended to engage in, in South Africa, as mentioned by Kok, et al. (2006). All migrants must have legal documents, which permits them to venture into any economic livelihood strategies, such as seeking employment in Cape Town. Another aspect noted was the issue of the lack of work experience. The respondents shared the following concerning their experiences:

*I have tried many times to look for a job but I have never been called for an interview. I can't even remember the actual number. I think it's because I am foreign because wherever I go looking for a job they ask me if I am a South African Citizen then they do not give me the job. I also do not have work experience (Kasongo, 29, DRC).*

*I once went for interviews but the company only selected South African Citizens. The interviews were at China Town Mall shops and I had applied for the position of a shop assistant. Right now I do not have legal documents to be in the country because I do not have money to travel to Pretoria that's where the documentation of permits is done from now (Angelina, 29, DRC).*

Some respondents explained that they'd applied for many employment opportunities but hadn't been shortlisted for any interviews; they mentioned that a lack of work experience was a problem on their part, limiting their prospects for securing jobs in Cape Town. The concern raised of a lack of work experience relates to what the National Youth Policy (NYP) (2015-2020) stipulates as one of the reasons why many youths in South Africa are unemployed:

because of a lack of technical skills. In this study, some unemployed black immigrant youth too lacked skills. Some respondents were shortlisted for interviews before it was known they weren't South African citizens. This indicated that these particular respondents did have the potential of being recruited into the labour market, but were excluded due to their nationality. This would be due to the attitudes that local citizens have towards immigrants. Crush and McDonald (2000) reveal that immigrants are discriminated against and perceived to be a threat to locals pursuing jobs in the country. Other undocumented respondents explained that due to unemployment and a lack of money, they were unable to afford the costs of travelling to Pretoria and paying for work permits. Crush et al. (2005) comment that undocumented migrants opt to be illegal due to, for example, desperation. This is similar to the feedback provided by undocumented respondents, who encountered the problem of having limited money. Furthermore, it is evident from the narrations provided above that black female migrant youth had an idea of where to obtain their documents (in this case, Pretoria). The lack of income and discrimination of not being offered a job due to one's nationality is a form of exclusion. Giddens (2009) argues that individuals who are socially excluded aren't able to secure employment or benefit from available opportunities.

### ***Unemployed Black Female Migrant Livelihood since leaving previous job in their home countries***

The respondents were asked if their lifestyle had changed since leaving their previous job and how they were getting by in Cape Town. They narrated that their well-being had "changed a lot" ever since becoming unemployed and that they were facing difficulties. They shared the following narrations:

*My life has changed a lot because in DRC I had my parents, friends and family to support me. If I ran out of goods or anything, I could ask my Uncles and Aunties for any assistance but here in Cape Town, I have no one to support me because I do not have a job (Fatuma, 28, DRC).*

*My husband is the only one who is working and providing for the family here and back home. The money is not enough and I am still looking for a job. The children need school fees and food and we need to pay rent and buy food as well (Melinda, 34, Zimbabwe).*

The responses infer that ever since leaving employment, the lives of the respondents hadn't been the same. They compared how their lives had been back in their home countries and mentioned that there had been much support from extended family members and friends in times of need. One respondent further mentioned that she has no one to support her in Cape

Town and was alone. Another challenge mentioned involved having to rely on a single income from the breadwinner, (the husband in this case) in the household, which wasn't sufficient. The family in Cape Town and those in Zimbabwe were dependent upon one income, which was needed for the payment of tuition fees for the children, food, and rent. Amisi (2006) who mentions different sources that unemployed immigrants have access to in securing their livelihood, supports the narrative above of the husband providing income for the family. From the narratives, the respondents were struggling to fulfil their basic needs because of the limited money available to their households.

#### **4.4.3. Experiences and Perceptions of Social Exclusion**

Individuals are susceptible to experiencing social exclusion when they are facing challenges like unemployment. Several respondents stated that their households were overcrowded, whilst others were staying in shacks. They further narrated that they could not afford to consume adequate food daily nor purchase new clothing.

##### ***Overcrowding and Poor Dwellings***

When migrants leave their home countries and arrive in the host country, the next step is settling in which requires them to secure accommodation. However, the ability to secure decent accommodation is very challenging especially for migrants who are unemployed and unable to earn an income. The respondents' feedback shared and narrated below describes their living conditions at their dwellings.

*The house has an upstairs and downstairs, they are like ten rooms downstairs and eight rooms upstairs, I do not even know how many people are in the house, we are plenty, normally they want two people in a room. But we are three in the room, I share with my cousin and her friend, there are three guys, the others are two, two, I do not know about upstairs, I do not go upstairs (Rutendo, 25, Zimbabwe).*

*We live in a shack in Capricorn at the backyard of the main house. It is one small room and we have put a curtain in between to separate where we sleep, the lounge and where to cook. We are only two in the shack (Tamara, 27, Malawi).*

From the narration, the respondents were aware that the homes that they lived in were overcrowded because their dwellings accommodated more people than the normal occupancy number. It is quite common for migrants to face challenges in securing suitable accommodation because of the uncertainties they are exposed too such as being unemployed. Greenburg and

Polzer (2008) in their study reveal that migrants in South Africa often face exclusion in securing accommodation, such that the only option available is to sub-divide flats or share rooms within a dwelling. Overcrowding in a dwelling is not healthy, especially where matters of hygiene are concerned. Booth and Carroll (2005) comment that overcrowded dwellings may affect individuals because of insufficient access to the ablution, cleaning, and cooking facilities, which may result in poor health. From the narrations, it is evident they were living in housing conditions that were not comfortable because they had to make demarcations to divide one room to make it habitable. The Social Exclusion Theory, Capabilities Approach, and Sustainable Livelihood Approach all state that unemployment results in exclusion and affects individuals in different ways. For example, Pavanello et al. (2010) note the inhabitable dwelling living conditions immigrants are exposed to, which is similar to the shark described by the respondent. Giddens (2009) mentions that when individuals are socially excluded from the labour market, they resort to living in dwellings that are overcrowded or structurally unsound because they lack an income to support themselves. The narrations of the respondents reflect that their conditions of living were not good at all; being unemployed affected their living conditions because they had to adjust and live in undesirable conditions, such as staying in shacks and overcrowded dwellings.

### ***Limited food consumption and purchasing of clothing***

Food is an essential basic need for every individual because individuals cannot function properly and live sustainable lives without feeding themselves and their families. Respondents related their struggles to provide sufficient food for their respective households and were frequently unable to buy enough clothing.

*We cannot afford to eat three meals in a day. We only eat porridge in the morning and pap every evening. We eat pap with spinach or cabbage. Sometimes I buy small chicken bones and mix them with vegetables. When any member of the family is hungry they make a cup of porridge. I cannot buy new clothes for my children. When I have R100 I go to the second-hand shop where I buy small items for each one of my children (Bridgette, 32, DRC).*

*No. I cannot afford to eat well. I eat a good meal once in a while. Most of the time I eat Pap and Cabbage or Ponde (cassava leaves) because that is what I can afford. I do not buy new clothes as I am not working and do not have money (Monique, 26, DRC).*

According to one of the testimonies above, the only affordable foods for the particular household are porridge, pap, vegetables, and sometimes-chicken bones. This implies that respondents are constantly facing the constraints of limited financial resources at their disposal.

One respondent shared that she cannot afford to eat a balanced meal and only does so occasionally. She elaborates that the frequent meal afforded was pap and cabbage or Pondu (Cassava leaves). The buying of new clothing is impossible because of a lack of employment, which leads to the respondent not having available cash. The respondents' feedback is because of Social Exclusion as elaborated. Pohlen (2018) notes that unemployed individuals tend to adjust their food intake, spending patterns, and dwellings. Furthermore, Hickey and Downey (2003) in their pilot research study, note that households surviving on low incomes experience exclusion, constantly worry about the affordability of food, and usually have poor diets. In the case of at least one of the respondents, as recorded above, the purchasing of new clothing isn't a priority although she mentions they buy second-hand clothing for the children in the household.

#### **4.4.4. The Perceived Vulnerabilities resulting from being Unemployed**

When respondents were asked about the vulnerabilities they encounter, they'd shared their views and described the different ways in which their current state of unemployment had affected their livelihoods in Cape Town.

##### ***Inability to Access Basic and Household Needs***

Respondents were exposed to different vulnerabilities when faced with unemployment. The most common feedback of respondents when asked about their perceived vulnerabilities, where a lack of money, the inability to send remittances to their families, having left children behind in home countries, and their inability to uplift their livelihood in Cape Town.

*I have problems in buying food. I would like to look beautiful and style my hair, buy lotion and even airtime for my phone. But I do not have money to buy all these things (Bridgette, 32, DRC).*

*I cannot buy anything for myself. I always sacrifice and buy Pampers (nappies) and milk for my baby. I am buying milk because I want to find a job soon and help my husband. Right now rentals have been increased and electricity, we are now spending R500 per month and water is now R1000 per month and R2000 rentals for the granny flat (Melinda, 30, DRC).*

*I have children whom I left behind back home in Malawi, so the money which my husband gets paid is not enough to support me, send back home for my children and even buying food for both of us here. If the two of us are working it is going to be better for us as a family and live a better life. The money is not enough because my husband has to pay rent as well. That is why I need to get a job so that my husband and I can help each other and support our family in Malawi (Tamara, 27, Malawi).*

The respondents' feedback implies that they are struggling to afford enough food to sustain themselves. Furthermore, one respondent desires to have extra money to take care of herself. Another respondent told how she had to make provisions for buying formula milk so that she could go out and look for employment, without having to worry about breastfeeding her baby.

The compromised well-being of the respondents was because they constantly had to change the way they used and allocated their limited monies. For instance, Pohlen (2018) mentions the change in spending patterns of individuals, which is a result of economic deprivation. This relates to what one respondent mentioned, not being able to spend on herself but that she rather made adjustments to support the family household. The ever-increasing cost of living in Cape Town also affected their livelihoods, as mentioned above, and their respective husband's income was not sufficient to provide for all their needs. The other issue mentioned was regarding sending remittance back to their home countries. The sending of remittance plays a significant role among migrants, especially for family members left behind in their home countries. Waddington (2003) argues that, for example, many poor households globally depend on migrant remittances, which is also part of the main source of insurance, capital accumulation, and income. This relates to what the respondents mentioned about the need to send money back to their countries, however, it must be noted that little is known about whether the respective respondent's households back home are poor or not. Instead, the focus is on the report of their envisaged ability to provide for their children back in their home countries. Unfortunately, since the respondents were experiencing unemployment, they were unable to send any remittances to their families, as indicated above. In support, research by Truen and Chisadza (2012) notes that immigrants from the SADC region send remittances back to their countries of origin, which provides household support. However, the respondents in this study were financially unstable and not able to send remittances home. Sen's (1999) Capabilities Approach argues that the refusal of the freedoms of people to engage in the labour market is a way of keeping them in bondage and captivity. The respondents desired to become independent, support themselves and family members, hence, to acquire the liberty to choose how they would live their lives. Unfortunately, migrants are generally disadvantaged, as in they are not free to be engaged in the labour market in Cape Town, and thus, are neither able to send money back home nor provide for themselves.

### ***Low Levels of Life Satisfaction because of Experiencing Unemployment***

The respondents in the study hadn't expected to experience low levels of life satisfaction when they came to Cape Town. Respondents with children had assumed they would be able to provide for their needs, and those without children lived hardly sustainable lives. The desire to engage in employment and earn an income were the main wishes expressed as the reasons behind their low satisfaction with their livelihoods.

*I need a job, a permanent job, the job will help me because am not like happy living in a church. I am going to see how much is my salary and then, am going to make a budget and how I can live my life with my children, to see how much I can afford to pay for rent, to pay for transport to go to school because in winter time sometimes it's raining, buy them clothes, and anything. After that I will see how much I can keep for the future, especially my children's future because when you have a job you get everything, you get money, (Fatuma, 28, DRC).*

*I am not satisfied with my life, I am sharing with ladies and most of them are working and I have not found a job yet, I have to contribute food, money for rent, money for electricity top up. You know how it is when electricity finishes. But so far what can I say, I will manage. I think if I get a job, I would be able to fend for myself, I will be able to have money to buy food, buy clothes, pay rent, stop sharing, have my own room and just have the basic needs of life..(Rutendo, 25, Zimbabwe).*

The provided responses indicate that the need for an income is crucial for the respondents' livelihoods. This relates to the low satisfaction the respondents expressed about their livelihoods in Cape Town because they too wanted to be independent, and be responsible for their upkeep. Each of the respondents above mentioned that they desired to secure a job so that they could pay their rentals, purchase new clothing, and refrain from sharing accommodation. The expressions of low satisfaction among respondents are a result of the effects of 'unfreedoms' as described by Sen's Capabilities Approach. The respondents expressed their desire for how they would supposedly live their lives if they had the opportunity to earn an income. From the narratives, the respondents weren't satisfied with their lives at that time because they felt left out, and desired to provide for their households and livelihoods. They also had personal aspirations about how they'd envisaged their livelihoods in Cape Town.

### ***Unattainable Personal Aspirations***

When asked what would make them feel better about their respective lives, the two most common responses amongst the respondents were going back to school, and securing a job; both were seen as ways that might improve their current conditions.

*I need to get a job because if I have a job, a permanent job I can do whatever I want. I can afford a place to stay. If I do not have a job I won't have a place to stay, if I have a job, I can pay rent for a house (Maria, 29, DRC).*

*I would like to become a lawyer so that I may be able to assist people who are vulnerable and need someone to represent them when they are in need that will make me very happy (Marian, 25, DRC).*

Despite the respondents experiencing unemployment in Cape Town, they still were hopeful about their future. Finding employment was their main priority and perceived to be very important for opening up opportunities for them. They envisaged that going to work every day could assist in supplementing money for paying rentals and in purchasing food for the households. The narratives strongly indicate that unemployed black female migrant youth are in dire need of securing employment so that they may be able to sustain their livelihoods in Cape Town. Moreover, the predicament of being an unemployed youth is not a new occurrence. (Todaro 1997; Drinkwater; 2017) describe the youth unemployment challenge and its link with unemployed Black Female Migrant Youth, who have expressed their desire to secure employment. Further, the narratives expressed by the respondents indicated that they wanted to go back to school and continue with their academic endeavours so that they could become productive citizens within Cape Town. For instance, one respondent mentioned that she would like to study law so that she could represent vulnerable individuals. UNESCO (2016) describes education as a means of achieving social inclusion. The respondents indicated that improving their education levels was a positive move towards their employment quest.

#### **4.4.5. The Livelihood Strategies Employed**

The respondents were specifically asked questions on what livelihood strategies they made use of in Cape Town. They were asked about access to healthcare, daily support, social networks, access to credit facilities, and financial support. This was to determine their day-to-day livelihood strategies in Cape Town.

##### ***Healthcare***

The health of the respondents in the study was generally good, though some complained of stress. It is worth noting that most of the respondents commented on the free access to medical services provided at all government health facilities centre in Cape Town.

*I have high blood pressure. I usually collapse because I have too much stress. Right now am feeling better because I take pills every day. I go to the clinic when am sick and I do*

*not pay any money. I just show the nurse in charge my “status permit” and my clinic card. But sometimes if there is a bad nurse, when I request for further medical check-ups, I am not given a chance to see the doctor. I think it is because I am a foreigner and am just told to go home (Bridgette, 32, DRC).*

*Healthwise, I feel good. It is only emotional stress, just because I do not have a job. So far, everything is good, am not sick, it is only emotional stress, so I have to think a lot, when will I get that job, what is going to happen next, just emotional stress nothing else. There are free government clinics everywhere and one does not pay anything (Rutendo, 25, Zimbabwe).*

*I go to the clinic when I am sick and use an Asylum Paper, the nurses’ check for any problems, right now, I am fine. But the problem is that when I go to the clinic for check-ups sometimes I have to wait for prescribed medication for about 3 days. (Maria, 29, DRC).*

Stress was mentioned quite often as a major health problem which triggered high blood pressure amongst some of the respondents; they then needed to take prescribed medicine every day provided by the clinic. Emotional stress was mentioned too and might have been due to the anxiety around finding employment and other challenges the respondents were exposed to. Brummer (2002) comments that migrants are most likely to contract communicable diseases like HIV/AIDS, however, the findings of this study reveal that migrants who have suffered from diseases related to stress have been attended to at medical health facilities in Cape Town. According to the respondents, healthcare facilities in Cape Town for migrants were accessible. The respondents further explained that all they required to access health facilities in Cape Town was an identity document, that is, either a passport or an asylum-seeker permit. In disagreement (Folola and Afolabi 2007; Mutombo et al. 2016) elaborate that migrants face challenges in accessing medical care. Contrarily, respondents in the study mentioned that they had access to free healthcare services at any government clinic across Cape Town. However, several respondents related that they had experienced harsh treatment from the nurses at some healthcare facilities and, that on one occasion; it took several days before the prescribed medication was ready to be collected (Mutombo et al. 2016; Vearey and Lumez 2010) in their findings, revealed what the respondents had mentioned of experiencing mistreatment by healthcare facilities.

### ***Education***

The respondents expressed their desire of learning further, which they said would greatly improve their lives.

*I finished grade twelve back in my country and did not go to college. If I get access to money, I can go to school anytime I want because in South Africa education is very expensive but very good as well (Fatuma, 28, DRC).*

*In Malawi I finished form four. I did not proceed to College because my family did not have money. I would like to go back to school but first I need money. If I can have money, then things will be okay. Education is important because I will be able to have access to information and my life can change and I can live a better life (Precious, 34, Malawi).*

The narration indicated that education was a non-negotiable aspect, i.e. funds had to be readily available and at the respondent's disposal. Most of the respondents had completed their grade-twelve education and indicated that they'd aspirations of furthering their education. However, the price tag associated with paying tuition fees posed a huge challenge towards their educational aspirations in Cape Town. In support, Giddens (2009) describes education as a means of providing opportunities to secure a higher income and gain skills for individuals. Hence, the respondents narrated that they were aware that enrolling back into school might improve their current living conditions. Although the respondents were aware that education in South Africa was costly, they felt that education was a valuable investment and important for their well-being. The desire for the respondents to further their education and their envisaged outcomes could greatly improve their chances of securing employment in South Africa. Dangume and Gyekye (2016) elaborate that the higher one's level of education, the greater the chance of securing employment. Furthermore, the need for an economy to become sustainable and inclusive for all requires quality education for the masses. A better education contributes to poverty reduction as it increases the chances of having a better income, finding decent work, and in turn, reduces job insecurity (UNESCO, 2016). The accounts of respondents indicated they were socially excluded from acquiring education because of being unemployed. No work meant they did not have any money to pay for any learning opportunities available. Sens (1999) Capabilities Approach mentions the relevance of individuals accessing education opportunities within society. The compromised livelihoods of the respondents leave them without the ability to make full use of their potential, which, in turn, renders them vulnerable and unable to live sustainable lives.

Thus, the respondents weren't able to make use of the human capital (e.g education) available in Cape Town. Landau (2005) points out that educational exclusion produces a segment of the population that don't have the knowledge or skills to be used productively within urban areas, which, in turn, makes the affected individuals feel isolated and unlikely to show respect for the

country's so-called values, universal rights and the rule of law. The respondents, being migrants, might feel neglected because they are unable to enrol in any schools due to a lack of finance. This situation might further affect their understanding and interpretation of their lives. According to Cloete (2015) education plays a recognised role in unemployment; being poorly educated, for example, makes it difficult, if not impossible to find employment.

### ***Support Systems***

It is important to understand that even though the respondents were unemployed in Cape Town, they had other means of support that they used to go about their daily lives. Noted in this study is that married respondents, or those with partners, were heavily reliant on their spouses or partners for support. However, those who were single made use of other options, such as sourcing part-time employment, the church, and handouts from non-governmental organisations.

*The church provides a lot for me and the organisation gives me food. I come to collect money for tuition fees for my children in school. But whenever I get a part-time job I stop coming at the organisation for help but provide for myself (Fatuma, 28, DRC).*

*My husband takes care of me. He is a bar man in Sea Point. He spends too much money for transport when going for work (Melinda, 30, DRC).*

*My husband takes care of me and provides for me. Sometimes I find part-time work (doing laundry and house cleaning) I make about R100-R200 that's what I use to supplement food for the family (Tambuzai, 31, Zimbabwe).*

*I always go to Parklands at the road side where I sit and wait for potential employers who seek for cheap labour in either house cleaning or laundry. It's actually just chancing, if one is lucky you can get a small job for R150 in a day (Rutendo, 25, Zimbabwe).*

Part-time work or odd jobs were the main sources of support the respondents had access to. Even when their spouses were in gainful employment, they were unable to provide for everything. One respondent noted the high costs of transport that her husband spent on travelling from home to work and back. Another reported that a means of securing support was through handouts from organisations (including the church), that not only provided for food but also assisted in paying their children's school fees. It's worth mentioning that at least one respondent was willing to stand on her own and not rely on handouts, that is, whenever a work opportunity arose. This reflects that some unemployed black female migrants are keen and willing to engage in the workforce and solely provide for their livelihoods. The respondents

mentioned that possible part-time jobs were available, only when employers sought cheap labour, although domestic work was not guaranteed. Caraballo and Nerukar (2001) describe the kind of jobs that are available for immigrants and they align with the ones respondents have described. Kiwanuka, et al.(2015) in their study reveal that with an estimate of fifty-three million workers worldwide, domestic work employs between 4% and 10% percent of the total workforce in developing countries, and between 1%-2.5% percent in developed countries. In 2015, the number of people employed as domestic workers in South Africa was comprised of approximately 1.2 million people. The study mentioned above revealed that the most available jobs globally including in South Africa involved domestic work and odd jobs. The most seen readily available employment opportunity is domestic work. For instance, in the study, the respondents engage in part-time work (including domestic work) as a livelihood coping strategy, as they are unemployed. This is evident from the respondents' narrations, as they'd said they'd no other options but to seek temporary domestic work as a means of livelihood.

### ***Social Networks***

Social networks play a pivotal role in assisting immigrants with integrating into the new host country. Therefore, there was a need to find out whether the respondents met regularly as members of their country of origin in Cape Town. Social networks were very appealing to the respondents because it meant they could establish regular communication with family and friends. However, when asked about whether they belonged to or attended gatherings organised by persons from their country of origin in Cape Town, the respondents had stated that they had limited information concerning suitable gatherings.

*Not too much. Sometimes I get in touch with my relatives. Most of the time when we gather as Congo DRC citizens we just talk about the political situation in our country (Angelina, 29, DRC).*

*I talk with my friends here in Delft very often and I talk to my mother and children sometimes. The groups I know here are only the one for Malawians who are employed. They usually lend one another money and I cannot join them because I am not working (Precious, 32, Malawi).*

From the responses of respondents, (only one provided above), it is quite clear that the respondents weren't isolated in terms of ensuring that they got in touch with their immediate families and colleagues. Moreover, even though they were not necessarily involved in, or hadn't attended any gatherings, they knew small groups in their communities which consisted of members from each of their country of origin.

According to the DRC respondent's feedback, these groups held meetings in Cape Town and she was aware of gatherings where politics was the main agenda. The validated account findings of Kok et al. (2007) point out that migrants tend to establish ties within host countries that facilitate different kinds of networking. One of the other respondents, (see above) knew of a group of Malawians who were assisting one another with money and she observed that because of being unemployed, she could not belong to the group. The narrated method of individuals from the same country lending one another money is another form of a coping strategy within the community. Amisi (2006) reveals that for instance, the DRC community in Durban makes use of social networks for lending and saving money as a strategy since they have limited access to established lending facilities. However, the respondent couldn't belong to the group, which revealed her experiencing social exclusion. Thus, this respondent felt financially excluded because of being unemployed. Moreover, the respondent's particular experience was a form of social exclusion because she was unable to take part in her own country of origin's community money-lending social network group. Giddens (2009) comments on this form of exclusion and points out that as a result of unemployment, individuals are most likely to be socially excluded, which limits them from experiencing the same benefits as others.

### ***Migrants Acquired Hands-on Skills***

Respondents in the study were asked if they had acquired any skills and whether they had made use of them as a means of earning an income in Cape Town. The respondents in the study reported that they had arrived with a diversified range of skills to offer, from braiding hair to sewing and child-minding. However, they were unable to acquire any additional skills to assist them in sustaining their livelihoods in Cape Town.

*I know how to braid hair. How many people do I have to plait to make enough money? It's not easy (Melinda, 30, DRC).*

*I am good at taking care of children even though I have not been trained in child minding and I can even plait hair too, I have worked before in a saloon. I used to help my sister (Kasongo, 29, DRC).*

*I can sew bedding materials and materials for lounge sets. I tried to start the business here in Cape Town but the problem was negotiating for the price. It is expensive to buy the materials and I tried to sell the products for R500 but I was told that my price was too expensive unless if I sold at R200 so I stopped (Fatuma, 28, DRC).*

The narratives above explain that the respondents had hands-on skills they could make use of such as braiding hair, though it was not regarded as a very reliable method of making a regular income; another respondent had experience working in a family salon. Child-minding was another skill that the respondents said they could offer. A further skill mentioned was sewing furniture covers, originally envisaged to be a good business opportunity in Cape Town, however, a huge challenge arose due to the high cost of purchasing the required materials, which affected the continuation of the business. Some respondents had entrepreneurial skills and the ability to start up their businesses, but as narrated, financial setbacks always posed a threat towards their endeavours. These findings revealed that the respondents did not acquire any new skills in Cape Town, but rather relied on the skills acquired back in their home countries. However, these skills might not be considered “critical skills,” i.e. those in demand in Cape Town. Drinkwater (2017) elaborates on the type of skills immigrants have on offer and how this affects their probability of securing employment in a new country. The unemployed black female migrants may be facing the same predicament.

#### ***Access to Financial Support and Credit Facilities***

Respondents needed to know where they stood regarding financial support, and their access to credit facilities was important. The respondents related that given the little they had, they could not save any money, we’re unable to access credit facilities, and were exposed to the hardships of surviving on a single income.

*I do not have enough money to save and I cannot get credit because I don't have a job (Munia, 30, DRC).*

*My husband is the only one who supports all of us in the family. It's difficult to depend on one income as a family (Kasongo, 29, DRC).*

*Yes we do because the job that my husband does is more of a seasonal one. Sometimes he works and sometimes he doesn't. Am affected because we live our lives in a seasonal way too. When his working we have money and when he's not we do not have money. I can't get credit because I am relying on my husband for support (Madalitso, 26, Malawi).*

As indicated above, the respondents, said that they didn't have access to any financial support nor credit facilities because they were unemployed. Their current predicament incapacitated them, such that they were solely dependent on their spouses, and they couldn't even save any money because they were not in any position of supporting themselves financially. Sen (1999) argues that access to the availability of finances has a vital effect on the economic entitlements

that economic agents are practically able to secure. For instance, the respondents narrated that they had no means of accessing credit facilities nor any financial support; hence, they were unable to benefit from the financial entitlements that other individuals were making use of in Cape Town. They mentioned that depending on one income as a family was very difficult and seasonal employment too was inadequate. Concerning the issue of immigrant access to finances and credit facilities, Amisi (2006) reveals that immigrants had no access to established lending facilities but opted to use their networks (fellow nationals lending one another). Similarly, the respondents in this study narrated that they hadn't any access to credit or lending facilities.

#### **4.4.6. Programmes and Policies that Support Unemployed Black Female Migrant Youth**

The South African government and regional bodies have developed policies and legislative frameworks that attend to the needs of migrants living in South Africa. These specifically target the rights and regulations that migrants are entitled to benefit from. Furthermore, executed through programmes that assist, like securing employment, language acquisition, and assistance to migrants in settling in the host country, Respondents were asked whether they were aware of any government programmes or non-governmental organisations offering any support to unemployed black female migrant youth living in Cape Town, and they shared the following:

*I just only know of this one Scalabrini, like today, I am here to collect my children's stationary and for the uniforms for next year. They are helpful for me, like if they give me that, I cannot struggle again. I cannot have a lot of stress about clothes you see, uniforms especially for next year but If they do not give me that, I get stressed and I might do something wrong out there, to get the money to buy for the children school stuff.,.(Fatuma, 28, DRC).*

*Ah! Ah! I do not even know about that unless they are. Are there even some organisations that do such? I do not know and I do not think so., (Rutendo, 25, Zimbabwe).*

Some of the respondents mentioned, see the above examples that they knew very little, if anything, about existing government support programmes. It appeared that some of the respondents were not able to identify or mention a government programme that provided support for unemployed black female migrant youth in Cape Town. Only a select few had an idea of certain non-governmental organisations, which provided them with basic goods, for instance, child support (including school uniforms, stationery, and clothing) at the named non-governmental organisation called Scalabrini. The respondent elaborated that the given support relieved her from stress and deterred her from engaging in illicit activities just to source money

for her children. The literature review had elaborated on the various regional and local policies (African Union Migration Policy 2013; Southern African Development Community (SADC) Treaty; Green Paper on International Migration in South Africa 2016; South African Refugee Act and the Immigration Act 2002) that specifically targeted the needs of migrants in the country and how they could be integrated at the mezzo level. For instance, in this study, the respondent mentioned Scalabrini, which assists immigrants in the country with basic needs. On the one hand, this indicates that policies and legislature that cater to the needs of migrants do exist, but the challenge is for unemployed black female migrants to acquire all the required information themselves and to investigate what policies, etc affect them. On the other hand, despite having well-established policies and legislature, none of them specifically target unemployed black female migrant youth but rather focus on all migrants, in general. From the findings, this is another reason why unemployed black female migrant youth are unable to sustain their livelihoods, because no one specific programme supports them, nor is there a policy that focuses on unemployment alone. Hence, they are unable to identify and make full use of available resources in Cape Town.

In South Africa, the government has been trying to tackle the issue of migrants for a long period now. The challenge of absorbing migrants into the country is quite complex and can be attributed to the historical nature of migratory movements within the SADC region, as detailed, by the (International Migration and Development 2014; Kitimbo 2014; Mafukidze 2006; SADC Labour Migration Policy 2013; Williams 2002). The government has been trying to find ways labour migrants can be absorbed into the mainstream economy. Mazars (2013) reports that the management of migrants in South Africa is directed mainly by the Refugees Act (1998) and the Immigration Act (2002), amended in (2004). It is executed with policy documents such as the National Development Plan Vision for 2030, the National Strategic Plan on HIV, STIs and TB, 2012–2016, and lastly, the Draft Document for Public Engagement, April (2012). These mentioned policy and legislative documents too are relevant in looking into the needs of migrants. What is crucial at the moment is their implementation by the government.

The South African government in 2016 documented and published the Green Paper on International Migration, which addressed the needs of migrants including employment matters, and how to integrate migrants into the economy (Green Paper on International Migration in South Africa, 2016). The policy document is a positive move because the government has seen the need to ensure that migrants are included in the mainstream economy, and therefore

acknowledged the role that migrants play towards the economic development of the country. It is, therefore, evident in South Africa, that a large number of policies and legislature supports migrants especially the most current Green Paper on International Migration described. However, at the same time, this policy document does not specifically address the predicament of the unemployed black female migrant youth in Cape Town, the lack of information on their part regarding support offered, and policies in place make it even harder for them to secure employment opportunities in Cape Town.

#### **4.4.7. Perceptions of Government Support**

The respondents shared their perceptions regarding what they felt the South African government could assist them with given their predicament as unemployed. The feedback provided below mainly focused on the provision of access to employment opportunities through the establishment of programmes, while some respondents had assumed that since they were foreign nationals, nothing could be done to improve their livelihoods by the South African government.

*The government can come up with programmes that can help migrants get into the workforce because we have skills to work but lack the ability to do so because of no opportunities available. We need to be placed in one place where we can be received and assisted in looking for employment in any field where our skills are needed most., (Marian, 25, DRC).*

*The government should do something for us migrants. They should provide learning centres to train us in different skills where we can get a certificate and help us secure job (Madalisto, 26, Malawi).*

*The government should come up with a centre where they can teach English so that French speaking migrants can as well communicate and blend in society. Because we French speakers find it difficult to get employed due to language barrier. The suggested government centre should be able to assist in securing jobs for French migrants, this may assist us in becoming independent and be able to sustain our lives (Elonga, 32, DRC).*

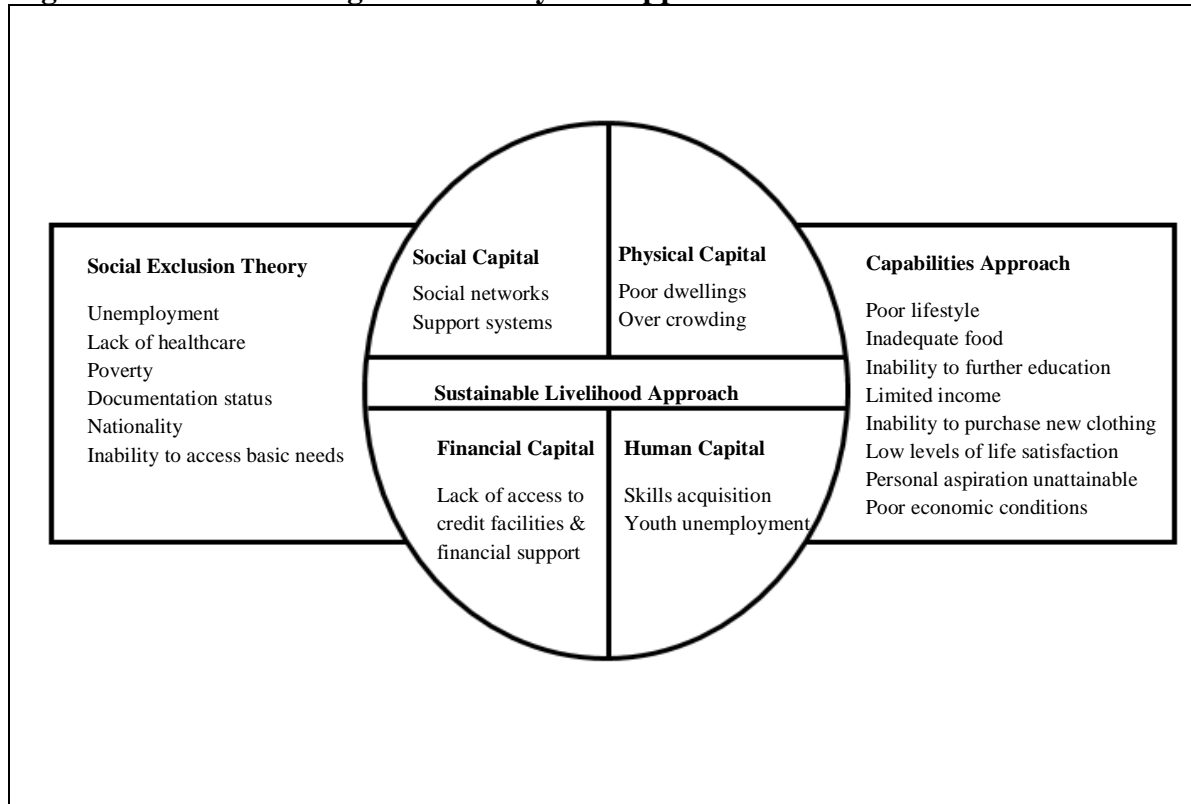
From the narratives, respondents had a clear vision of what they envisaged could be the most immediate solution for them. They had proposed programmes that could help unemployed black female migrants become absorbed into the work system. Some of the respondents suggested that centres be established, places for them to be received upon their arrival in the country. They saw this as being a way to blend into the labour system more quickly. Some respondents related that they were already skilled and all they needed was an opportunity to be able to work; this is why many of them believed an employment placement centre would be an ideal place, to match skills with potential employers. One respondent from the DRC, shared

that there was a need to come up with language learning centres because of the lack of communicating fluently in English is a huge barrier to securing employment. This is supported by what was discussed by Drinkwater (2017) who noted that language barriers were a hindrance in securing employment. Myers and Conte (2013) mentioned of the Specialised Language Training Pilot Projects offered to unemployed and employed immigrants in Canada. However, other respondents had completely lost hope and confidence in the South African government system because they felt being 'foreign' was already a disadvantage and as such, they could never be supported or assisted since they were not citizens of South Africa. The respondents had indicated what they felt would be the best option for them to sustain their livelihoods in Cape Town, which suggested they wanted to be economically productive. The narrations are in agreement with the Capabilities Approach, besides, Sen (1999) argues that individuals need to be given opportunities and freedoms so that they can live a meaningful life. Therefore, unemployed black female migrant youth need employment opportunities in Cape Town, so that they can sustain their livelihoods. In this case, since the respondents are unemployed, this can be achieved by offering equal employment opportunities to all, regardless of one being a migrant or not. The denial of opportunities for black female migrant youth to take part in income-generating activities. Results in them not free to enjoy the benefits offered to other immigrants in Cape Town.

#### **4.5. Findings link with Theory and Approaches in the study**

This section presents the link of the findings for the Social Exclusion Theory, Capabilities Approach, and Sustainable Livelihood Approach

**Diagram 1: Link of findings with Theory and Approaches**



**4.5.1. Social Exclusion Theory**

The term Social Exclusion is multi-dimensional and described differently by many scholars depending on the focused need. One of the aspects that this theory looks at among others is employment. The Social Exclusion Theory focuses on economic indicators such as employment, which provides individuals with an income and full access to citizenship rights, or inclusion in the system (Davis et al. 2009). This study adopted the Social Exclusion Theory as it focuses on the aspect of the unemployed black female immigrant youth exclusion from the labour market and its effect on their livelihood. In this study, the black female immigrant youth are unemployed in the host country of choice; i.e. South Africa implies that they are facing exclusion.

Giddens (2009) argues that when people face exclusion from the labour market, they are prone to the risk of experiencing social exclusion, and this prevents them from benefiting from the same opportunities available to the majority of the population. In support, Paolini (2013) comments that obstacles to secure adequate employment are one of the main determinants of social exclusion. Labour exclusion among the unemployed black female immigrants denies them the opportunity to access basic needs and services provided to the majority of individuals

in Cape Town. They face exclusion, for example, as do the respondents in this study. Examples and detailed explanations of this are provided in this paper, and the last section will provide the Interplay accessing healthcare, decent housing, and adequate food in a household among immigrants.

In addition, according to the UNDP (2011) individuals experiencing labour exclusion don't receive an income, have no access to related benefits, and are denied a wide range of opportunities. Besides, unemployment isolates individuals from their network of professional colleagues. For example, it causes individuals to lose skilled social contacts and co-workers (Fervers, 2018). Furthermore, unemployed youth land up with a poor standard of living, which affects their employment prospects and excludes from socializing with community members, because of the lack of financial resources, an important factor in the sustainability of shared associations (Gallie et al. 2003).

Poverty is another outcome that arises due to youth exclusion from the labour market and affects one's ability to search for employment. It is associated with the absence of adequate resources to cover one's basic human needs (Czapiewski, 2005). For example, poverty limits individuals from accessing transport, buying new clothing (maybe needed for interviews), and from access to communication (Gallie et al. 2003). These economic deprivations affect other livelihood needs. Individuals end up having limited opportunities engaging in social networks and accessing education (UNDP, 2011). Moreover, in some cases, unemployed individuals have to move dwellings, change their food intake, and spending patterns (Pohlan, 2018).

#### **4.5.2. Capability Approach**

The Capabilities Approach's main concern is the need for individuals to have the necessary opportunities and freedoms to do what is meaningful to one's livelihood. The concept is also associated with the issue of development. For example, Stewart (2013) elaborates that development includes the growth of an individual's capabilities and freedoms, in terms of what she/he can be or do, which enables each person to have options in determining what they would like to be or engage in. He further notes that people are unable to succeed alone (Stewart, 2013). For example, it is very unlikely that unemployed black female immigrants can sustain their livelihoods in Cape Town without any form of support. In this study, the lack of employment opportunities among black female migrant youth denies them the freedom to fully participate in the mainstream economy, hence, it denies them real freedoms to integrate.

Many individuals globally, including immigrants in this study, suffer from different forms of ‘unfreedom,’ which occur when individuals aren’t provided with the necessary support required for one to achieve (Sen, 1999). For example, a large number of people have limited access to healthcare, experience prolonged conflicts, and become unemployed and secluded from attending educational institutions (Sen,1999). Furthermore, apart from the loss of income, unemployment results in a selected group of individuals experiencing exclusion, which can lead to loss of physical health, cause physiological harm, a loss of self-reliance, discouragement to work (Sen, 1999).

Social opportunities such as access to education in a society have a positive impact on the livelihoods of individuals, as this increases an individual’s worthwhile participation in the economy and political spheres (Sen, 1999). For instance, unemployed black female immigrants in Cape Town need the provision of opportunities to access educational facilities so that they may be able to function well.

#### **4.5.3. Sustainable Livelihood Approach**

The Sustainable Livelihood Approach addresses the five capitals (Human Social, Natural, Physical, and Financial) that individuals employ. This study has specifically focused on four types of capital: human, financial, physical, and social because they directly relate to the vulnerabilities and lack of employment opportunities black female migrant youth experience in Cape Town. The livelihood strategies engaged by immigrants are diverse, as they need to create coping strategies in the host country of choice. For example, unemployed semi-skilled and unskilled forced immigrants, engage in the informal sector and take up work in the capacity of casual work, minor trading (i.e. shop attendants, waiters, car washers, hairdressing) and, in particular, women engage in domestic work (Amisi, 2006). The living conditions of immigrants vary depending on the available income that a household possesses and the length of stay in the host country. An example is taken from a study conducted in Kenya where “forced immigrants,” (i.e. immigrants forced by push factors), lived in rented dwellings, which were in vulnerable conditions. A typical dwelling was in a four-sided shed made out of tin pieces with inadequate access to power or piped water (Pavanello et al. 2010). The challenges of securing adequate funds to pay rentals are another issue that immigrants are likely to face. In another example, forced young immigrants in Kenya of Somalian descent couldn’t afford to pay their monthly rentals and had to forgo their meals to pay rentals (Pavanello et al. 2010).

Moreover, Pavanello et al. (2010) found that social networks among immigrants provide means of sustaining their livelihoods. These networks are either formal or informal and occur within communities of individuals that belong to the same country or within the family setup. For example, a study conducted among DRC immigrants in Durban revealed that networks are a source of social protection among nuclear families, colleagues, and tribal members who are at liberty to secure support in each of their network (Amisi, 2006). Interestingly, this study also revealed that social networks could be a means to access financial support and savings among DRC Immigrants who have struggled to use formal services (i.e. banks or lending institutions).

Furthermore, DRC individuals have created a system of saving money through their established networks, this system permits any amount of money; that there's no amount too small to use this system. Since only a few had access to banking facilities (Amisi, 2006). In other cases, unemployed forced immigrants in Kenya, depend on money from their well-placed community members for basic needs and family households depend on their siblings, adult children or husbands from overseas (i.e. Australia, South Africa, Europe, etc), (Amisi, 2006). The above indicates that typically, an unemployed immigrant's close relatives play an important role in his/her survival strategies. For instance, in this study, for those married unemployed black female immigrants, their spouses are the main source of support in sustaining their livelihoods in Cape Town.

#### **4.5.4. Interplay between the Theory and Approaches in the study**

This study explored the Livelihood Strategies of Unemployed Black Female Migrants Youth in Cape Town. To have a broad understanding of the study undertaken, the researcher adopted one theory and two approaches to capturing the experiences of unemployment, and coping strategies among the black female migrants in Cape Town. The researcher wanted to point out the link between the effects of unemployment that lead to immigrants experiencing social exclusion, their inability to make use of available resources, and the livelihood strategies used to sustain their well-being in Cape Town. The unemployed black female migrant youth experienced numerous forms of exclusion and were not able to make use of the opportunities available; therefore limiting their potential to live fulfilled desired lives.

Papadopoulous and Tsakloglouzo (2005) comment that capabilities signify the freedom that an individual has to choose from a wider range of functionings and commodities that are available. They further mention that the limited choice of functionings results in the deprivation of

capabilities and social exclusion. An example would be when the immigrants experience poverty. Poverty entails deprived living and not just having fewer commodities or minor financial earnings (Papadopoulous and Tsakloglouzo, 2005). Vulnerabilities are addressed by capturing and understanding the different livelihood strategies that the immigrants identify and adapt to make a living. In support, Scoones (2009) notes that the sustainability approach, for instance, focuses on how individuals can manage their well-being as they experience unexpected events. (i.e. unemployment).

The Sustainable Livelihoods Approach in this study identified the capital explored by the immigrants to sustain their well-being in Cape Town, for instance, access to healthcare, employment, and social networks. Furthermore, policy linkages are crucial in understanding this approach. Livelihoods capture the capitals which are available to individuals with the ability to create an acceptable living, looks into the risk factors that need to be considered in the handling of the available resources including, the policy and institutional setting, that might assist or (not) individuals in the quest of worthwhile living conditions (Mutenje et al. 2010).

#### **4.6. CONCLUSION**

This chapter provided a detailed explanation of the findings of the study undertaken by the researcher. The chapter narrated the respondents' livelihood experiences as unemployed black female immigrant youth.

The final chapter presents the conclusions of, and recommendations for, the study undertaken.

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 . INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents the researcher's conclusions and recommendations concerning the findings of the livelihood strategies of unemployed black female migrant youth living in Cape Town. The conclusions are based on the research questions, objectives of the study, and recommendations provided thereafter.

##### **5.1.1. Main Conclusions**

The conclusions presented below are drawn from the findings of the research questions and the objectives of the study.

##### **What perceived factors or conditions force black female migrant youth to move to Cape Town.**

The respondents in the study narrated that they decided to migrate to Cape Town because of the numerous factors that had affected their livelihood in their home countries. These factors are divided into two categories: Push and Pull factors. Political instability had crippled their ability to live in a safe environment because of constant political conflicts, which led to certain respondents feeling unsafe due to war uprisings within their respective countries. One respondent experienced being abducted together with her guardian by rebels, while political rivals, instilling fear, targeted other respondents' households. The poor economic conditions of the respondents' home countries were also mentioned as another contributing factor. The findings indicate that they are exposed to high unemployment rates that result in some experiencing poverty. In these cases, respondents lack stable shelter and have no form of support towards their livelihoods. Moreover, they cannot participate in economic activities nor provide an income. The other reason given was that regarding social factors such as joining a spouse in the host country or being in close contact with relations who were cross-border traders.

##### **What perceived challenges do black female migrant youth face in their efforts to secure employment in Cape Town.**

The findings indicate that black female migrant youth mostly encountered three main hindrances to securing employment in Cape Town. First, the inability to prove one's legality to stay and work in Cape Town; those without correct documents face the challenge of not

getting permits due to lack of money to travel, for instance, to Pretoria to get their papers in order. This is made harder due to their being unemployed and thus not being able to earn an income, the second hindrance is nationality; those with legal documents discover they too have limited opportunities. Evidence from the provided narratives reveals that respondents with legal documents permitting them to work and stay in Cape Town, often face rejection from potential employment simply because they are not South African. In the case of the third hindrance, some respondents mentioned that their limited work experience prevented or denied them from taking up any otherwise available opportunities.

**What government and non-government social service support systems are available to assist unemployed black female migrant youth.**

The respondents revealed they had limited information about social-service support available from the government bodies or non-governmental organisations. Consequently, this contributed to their current state of being unemployed. The literature review notes that the South African Government has developed policies that speak to the needs of immigrants in the country. The provision of these policies indicates that the government hasn't neglected to attend to the needs of migrants. However, it must be noted that the documented policies identified in the study, i.e. the African Union Migration Policy Framework, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Treaty and the Green Paper on International Migration in South Africa, don't directly target unemployed black female migrants in Cape Town. Instead, they provide information on how immigrants could be integrated within the country in various sectors of the economy.

**To investigate and document the vulnerabilities of unemployed black female migrant youth in Cape Town.**

The respondents who were unemployed black female migrant youth indicated that they were faced with the challenges of insufficient monies and food to sustain their households. Consequently, the respondents were not able to budget nor plan for their day-to-day needs. Furthermore, the respondents narrated that they, therefore, couldn't provide for their basic needs. Some of the respondents in the study mentioned that they were living only with some of their children in Cape Town, whilst others were being taken care of by family members in their countries of origin. However, as the respondents were unemployed, they were faced with not being able to send remittances to the respective families helping with their children. These

vulnerabilities experienced by respondents left them with low levels of satisfaction. In addition, the respondents experienced social exclusion, which forced some of them to live in overcrowded dwellings and others, in shacks, (informal housing).

### **To find out how black female migrant youth overcome the shock of unemployment.**

The unemployed black female migrant youth had described numerous ways of trying to sustain their respective livelihoods in Cape Town. The respondents had made use of livelihood strategies as described below.

#### ***Healthcare***

Access to healthcare facilities for the respondents in the study proved not to be much of a challenge. According to the respondents, they could access free medical services at any government clinic in Cape Town, which was verified. All one needed to access these medical services was an identity document (Asylum Seeker Permit or Passport) and a clinic card. It must be noted that not all respondents received a good reception at the health facilities. Some respondents mentioned that they did not always receive the necessary medical care/attention they deserved. Their experiences included delays in receiving prescribed medicine on time and not being attended to adequately. The diseases most frequently affecting the respondents included stress (including emotional), and high blood pressure.

#### ***Education***

Respondents strongly indicated their desire for access to educational opportunities. Despite the realisation that education was costly in South Africa, it was perceived to be the most appropriate method of improving their livelihoods and therefore, a worthwhile investment. From the responses provided, the respondents were more than keen to enrolment in educational programmes. Unfortunately, the respondents were not in any gainful employment and didn't have enough money to pay for tuition fees. Their current state, therefore excluded them from attaining any form of education. Instead, their experiences exposed them to living marginalised lives and not making use of their potential.

#### ***Support systems and social networks***

Available support systems, as indicated by the respondents, were mainly provided by their spouses. The respondents mentioned that their husbands provided for their needs, even though their support was inadequate and could not meet all their needs. Another means of support

made available was through engaging in part-time employment, but this was not sufficient to sustain respondents and their families. The part-time work offered involved engaging in activities such as doing laundry and cleaning households. Social networks in terms of interacting with peers and relatives were consistent. Most of the respondents frequently communicated with their colleagues and family. While aware of gatherings of citizens from their home countries in Cape Town, the respondents nevertheless, had limited information about when and where meetings were held.

### ***Skills acquisition***

The respondents were already in possession of hands-on-skills, but they were lacking opportunities that would enable them to make use of these skills in Cape Town. The skills included braiding hair, sewing, and childminding. However, one respondent noted that for instance, braiding hair was not a very efficient way of making a sustainable income. Another spoke of how challenging it was to become an entrepreneur and sew bedding, and lounge materials, given the lack of an income to start the business. In addition, the respondents mentioned they were unable to acquire any new skills due to their inability to secure employment in Cape Town. Since they had no means of attaining new skills, the only option available, given an opportunity, would be to make use of their existing hands-on skills.

### ***Access to financial support and credit facilities***

Lack of financial support was a huge challenge for the respondents who couldn't access credit, nor save any money because of being unemployed. This resulted in some of them being dependent on their spouses and their sole income. Respondents found themselves financially excluded from participating in groups that offered credit facilities amongst migrant - members in the community. The consequences of their inability to acquire any financial support resulted in the participants experiencing difficult livelihoods.

## **5.2. Recommendations**

The recommendations below are based on the researcher's findings and conclusions concerning the livelihood strategies of unemployed black female migrant youth in Cape Town. The recommendations provide possible guidelines on how unemployed black female migrant youth in Cape Town might be assisted.

- Unemployed black female migrant youth are more likely to be socially excluded, especially when they are unable to support themselves. Necessary measures must be put in place to provide support for their needs. These could include, providing established social networks where they can be well-received, and assisted with integrating into society through legitimate channels.
- There need to be centres that offer free English language training for migrants who aren't conversant in English. This would help them blend more easily into Cape Town society and increase their chances of accessing employment opportunities because they would be able to converse in English.
- Undocumented migrants need to be assisted by (establishing) non-governmental organisations or government agencies that will ensure they acquire the necessary documents.
- Support centres need to target unemployed black female migrants. Such centres could assist in ensuring that unemployed black female migrants secure appropriate employment depending on their skills and experience.
- The South African government needs to educate and sensitise the public and the appropriate stakeholders about the legitimacy of the Asylum Seeker Permits issued to migrants in the country. This would greatly assist migrants in securing employment in various capacities and for them to take up opportunities that arise.
- Progressive policy measures need to be enforced to support unemployed black female migrants in South Africa. For example; establishment of awareness campaigns before and after a policy is approved, i.e. through the media and hosting information sharing sessions.
- The South African government could also possibly train unemployed black female migrants in entrepreneurial skills because current employment opportunities are limited amongst young people in Cape Town, South Africa.

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## **Appendix A: Semi-Structured Interview Guide**

### **INTRODUCTION**

My name is .....I am conducting research on **Exploring the Livelihood Strategies of Unemployed Black Female Migrant Youth Living in Cape Town, South Africa.**

Researcher to seek verbal consent before commencing the interview.

Discussion on ethical considerations: voluntary participation: audio recording of the interview; anonymity; confidentiality, avoidance of harm;

The researcher will clarify to the participants that there are no “right” or “wrong” responses.

### **DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

What are your full names?

How old are you?

What is your nationality?

Where do you live?

What is your mother tongue?

What other languages do you speak?

Are you married?

If yes, how long have you been married?

If not, are you in any relationship?

If yes, how long have you been with your partner?

How would you describe your relationship with your partner?

Is your spouse/partner supportive?

Do you get along?

Do you have any children?

If yes, how many?

How old are the children?

Do you live with your children?

How many boys and girls?

## **EXPERIENCES AND PERCEPTIONS OF UNEMPLOYMENT**

Where you working before you migrated to Cape Town?

What kind of work were you engaged in?

What was your position?

How did you get employed in that position?

How long have you been out of work?

Do you mind telling me the circumstances that led you to leave the job?

What ways has your life changed since you left your previous job?

Currently how is life on your side?

Have you ever applied for a job in Cape Town?

If yes, how many times have you applied for a job?

If not, what is stopping you from applying for a job?

Have you ever been interviewed for a job?

If yes, did the company get back to you?

What do you think are the barriers hindering you from seeking employment?

If any, what approaches have you applied to overcome the mentioned barriers?

Have any of the mentioned approaches worked for you?

If yes, how have they helped you?

If not, what do you think can enable you to get employment in Cape Town?

Do you have a permit?

If yes, when did you obtain it?

If not, what do you think is hindering you from obtaining a work permit?

## **EXPERIENCES AND PERCEPTIONS OF SOCIAL EXCLUSION**

### **Basic necessities:**

Are you and members of your family able to afford meat, fish or chicken every second day?

Are you and members of your family able to afford to buy new clothes?

### **Housing conditions:**

What type of house do you live in?

How many people live in the house/apartment?

Do you have access to electricity for lighting and cooking?

**Durables:**

Do you and/or members of your family have access to a car?

Do you and/or members of your family have access to a telephone/cell phone?

Do you and/or members of your family have access to a colour TV?

**CONDITIONS THAT FORCED BLACK FEMALE MIGRANTS YOUTH TO LEAVE**

When did you migrate to Cape Town?

What were the reasons that made you decide to migrate to Cape Town?

Could you share more about the reasons?

Did you consult your family before you migrated?

If yes, how did their response affect your decision to migrate?

If not, did you make a personal choice to migrate?

**PERCEIVED VULNERABILITIES?**

Do you face any difficulties because you are unemployed in Cape Town?

If yes, could you describe the difficulties that you are exposed to?

If not, how do you manage your life?

Are you satisfied with the way your life is going so far?

If yes, in what ways? If not, why not?

Looking at your life now, what would you say are your main needs (probe: money, food, shelter, respect, friends, and success)?

What kind of things would make you feel better about yourself? i.e. what are your dreams, goals, aspirations that would enable you to become happy and comfortable? (Probe)

How important is the achievement of these dreams, goals aspirations for who you are?

What do you need to achieve your dreams and goals?

What do you think will prevent you from achieving your dreams and goals?

## **LIVELIHOOD STRATEGIES:**

### **Health:**

How would you describe your health?

Would you say it is good or bad health?

If bad, what kind of health problems do you have?

Do you have access to medical assistance?

If yes, what kind of help do you have access to?

If no, why not?

### **Education:**

How far did you go in school? (Probe Primary, Junior High, Senior School, Tertiary)

If you think back to your life, is there anything that would have helped you gain more education?

What stopped you from getting further education?

Has anything changed today to make it possible for you to continue with school?

If yes, what has changed?

If no, why not?

Would you like to continue with your education?

If yes, how far would you like to go?

Why is it important for you to continue with your education?

What has been your experience of trying to continue with your schooling?

If not, interested in more schooling, Why not?

### **Ability of work:**

How do you get by? (Probe)

How do you manage to provide for yourself ?

How do you manage to provide for your family?

What skills do you have? (Probe: carpentry, electrician)

Have you ever made use of your skills in Cape Town?

Have you ever been trained in any new skill in Cape Town?

If yes, can you please tell me more about the skills?

If not, what is the main challenge in learning a new skill?

**Social networks:**

How often do you have contact with your friends?

How often do you have contact with relatives?

Do you belong to your country of origin association in Cape Town?

If yes, which one is it?

If not, what is hindering you from joining the association?

Do you attend regular gatherings or receive communication from the association?

If yes, does the association assist unemployed black female youth migrants?

What form of assistance does the association assist you with?

**Sanitation conditions:**

Does your house have flush or chemical toilet?

Does your house have potable water on-site or in-dwelling?

Does your household have refuse removal by local authority weekly or less?

Do you have to walk from your house to go to the toilet?

Do you have to walk far to collect water?

**Access to finances:**

Do you or members of your family find it difficult to make ends meet?

If yes, what makes it difficult for you to make ends meet?

In what ways is it affecting your life?

Are any of you or members of your family in arrears with paying rent and utility bills?

Do you receive any financial support from anyone in Cape Town?

Do you receive any financial assistance from your country of origin?

If yes, is the money sufficient?

If not, how do you get by?

Do you have the ability to save any money?

Do you have access to credit facilities?

If yes, could you please describe the conditions for accessing credit?

If not, what do you think could be the reason for not accessing the credit facility?

Are you able to pay your monthly bills every month?

How do you pay your monthly bills?

Do you buy food, clothes, and so on, on credit?

How do you pay for your electricity and water?

## **PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES THAT SUPPORT BLACK FEMALE YOUTH MIGRANTS**

What kind of government support do you have that supports unemployed black female youth migrants?

If yes, how has the help been for you?

If no, how do you think government can help black female youth migrants who are in need of employment?

Do you know any NGO organisations that support black female youth migrants find employment?

If yes, which one of these have you made contact with?

If yes, what kind of help do they provide?

## **CLOSING**

Thank you for participating in the interview and spending time with me.

Is there anything else you would like to add to the interview?

How has the interview been for you?