



Adaption and Survival:

Perspectives and experiences of migrants in an urban township in KwaZulu-Natal.

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COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES

DECLARATION

I Philane Mazibuko, declare that:

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Date

11 October 2022

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ABSTRACT

South Africa is currently facing a growing number of migrants from other countries. This qualitative study investigates the dilemma of being a migrant in South Africa. The overall objective was to explore the perspectives and experiences of migrants in Newcastle, South Africa. Particular attention is given to exploring how the migrants negotiate the often controversial social, economic, cultural, and political realities in the urban towns of KwaZulu-Natal. The South African case is subject to investigation, particularly regarding the migration system. In this study, the data was collected using in-depth interviews. Interviews were held with 20 migrants, both men, and women, living in Newcastle KwaZulu-Natal. All participants were migrants from various African countries such as Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Congo, Mozambique, Lesotho, and Nigeria.

The study found that migrants use different livelihood strategies to survive in South Africa, and their level of education does not allow them to work in the formal sector. This study found that migrants work as street traders to earn income, buy, and sell goods at an affordable price, and they use their skills to make and sell a range of products. Furthermore, migrants work as hairdressers, restaurant waiters, welders, bricklayers, and shopkeepers to earn income. Other migrants have families in South Africa as well as in their home countries. Migrants send home part of their earnings in the form of either cash or goods to support their families, these transfers are known as a worker or migrant remittances. Migrants are vulnerable to crime and xenophobia, they become abused and exploited by the local people since they are not from South Africa, they even call them derogatory names. Most participants observed that they are surviving in South Africa, nevertheless, they are concerned with their safety. The study recommends that there must be a strong awareness among police that everyone has a right and deserves respect and protection, regardless of who they are and whether they have any legal documentation.

Keywords: Migrants, Migration, Survival, Experiences, and Livelihood.

ACRONYMS

ARSETA	Agency for Refugee Education, Skills Training and Advocacy
DHA	Department of Home Affairs
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GPA	Global Politics Agreement
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
ISCOR	Institute for International Security and Conflict Resolution
MDC	Movement for Democratic Change
MPI	Migration Policy Institute
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SAPS	South African Police Service
SMME	Small, Medium and Micro-Enterprise
Stats SA	Statistics South Africa
UN	United Nations
ZANU	Zimbabwe African National Union

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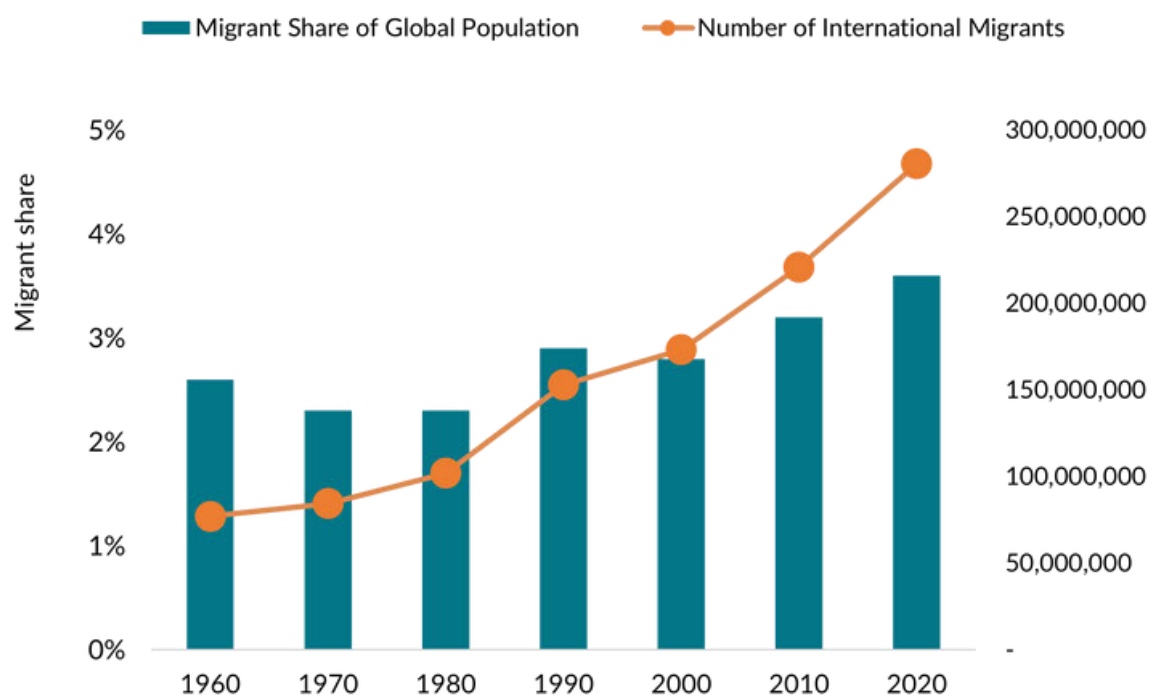
CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction and background

Migration is a process whereby people move from one place to another, sometimes across the border (Mou et al., 2015). People migrate intending to settle temporarily or permanently in the new location. According to Gheasi and Nijkamp (2017) migration involves movements over long distances and from one country or region to another. Mou et al. (2015) further argue that migration is the movement of people from one place to another to settle in a new location. When large numbers of people relocate, historians ask for reasons for the movement of people and the impacts of these movements (Crush et al., 2017). This qualitative study investigates the dilemma of being a migrant in South Africa. Particular attention is given to exploring how the migrants negotiate the often controversial social, economic, cultural, and political realities in the urban towns of KwaZulu-Natal. A migrant is used to refer to a person who moves away from their customary abode, whether within a country or across an international border, for various reasons, whether temporarily or permanently (IMO, 2019). This study focuses on international migration defined, according to Okyere (2018) as a global phenomenon that has grown in scale and complexity over the past several years and has an impact on every region of the world. International migration refers to people moving away from their country of origin to live temporarily or permanently in another nation. The most recent projections, from the Migration Policy Institute (MPI) (2020) indicate that there were 280.6 million migrants worldwide in 2020 or around 4% of the world's 7.8 billion population. To put this in context, if migrants had established their nation, it would constitute the fourth most populous nation in the world by the year 2020 (IOM, 2022). The graph below depicts migration patterns from abroad between 1960 and 2020.

Figure 1.1 Global Migration by Number and Share, 1960–2020

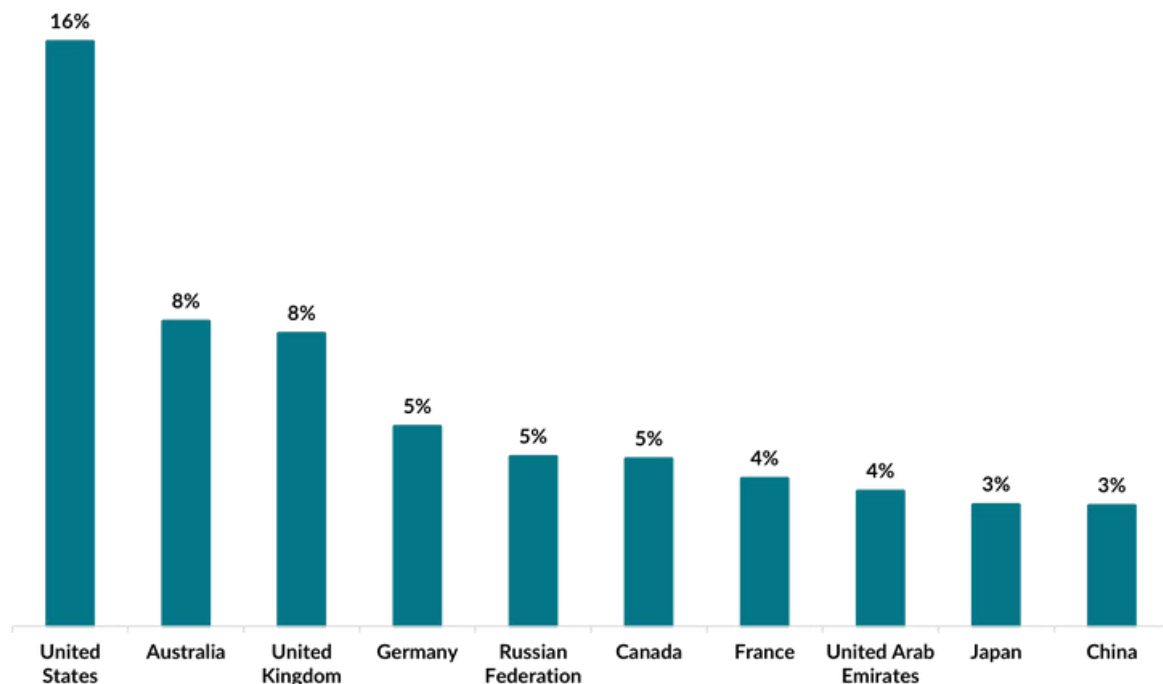


Source: Migration Policy Institute (2022)

The graph shows that as of 2020, nearly 60 million more people became international migrants in the last decade alone. Labour or family migration has been a major factor in this increase. The percentage of people who are international migrants is also increasing; it was 2.6% in 1960 and 3.6% in 2020 (MPI, 2020). Hence, migration is increasing globally.

While it is commonly recognized that Northern America and Europe receive the most immigrants, it is perhaps less well-known that some regions also export the most migrants (ILO, 2021). The second-largest region of emigrant origin is Central and Southern Asia, followed by Latin America and the Caribbean. Australia and New Zealand are the continents that have the least origin of migrants (MPI, 2022). The following table indicates the estimated distribution of the origins of international migrants by region.

Figure. 1.2 Top 10 Host Countries of International Students, 2019



Source: UNESCO (2019)

In 2020, 48% (134.9 million) of all international migrants worldwide were women or girls (UNDESA, 2020). The number of female migrants grew by 26% over the past decade, up from 107 million in 2010. The number of male migrants grew slightly faster, by 28% during the same period. Most migrant women move for work, family, or education. Some leave their countries due to human-made or natural disasters (MPI, 2022). Without a doubt, 2022 will break yet another dismal record as millions of new migrants fleeing conflict and bloodshed added to the already record-high population of the internally displaced (MPI, 2021). On May 23, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that an extra 11.8 million people would have to leave their homes in the first few months of 2022. Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, millions of people were displaced both inside and outside of Ukraine. In one of the largest mass migrations since World War II, around 6 million Ukrainian migrants were registered across Europe as of mid-July 2022 (UNHCR, 2022). Most of these refugees were women and children.

The pattern and size of South Africa's migratory movements have drastically changed since the end of apartheid (Crush et al., 2017). The new administration made it possible for numerous immigrants, especially those from the Indian subcontinent and other regions of

Africa, to enter the nation. The management of these altered migration patterns became a challenge for the new administration. The post-1994 migration regime has made it possible for a considerably more diverse group of immigrants, although historically immigration had been dominated by low skilled labourers arriving to work in the mines and other areas (Kaziboni, 2022). Additionally, the end of apartheid brought about stronger commercial relations between South Africa and its neighbours on the continent.

According to Statistics South Africa, the government's statistical support, a net 853,000 people moved to the nation between 2016 and 2021. This represents a significant increase from the net immigration of 491,700 between 2001 and 2006 but a slight decline from the net immigration of 916,300 between 2011 and 2016 (Statistics South Africa, 2015). In contrast to a net departure of roughly 91,000 White residents between 2016 and 2021, net immigration was largest among the African (894,400) and Asian (49,900) communities. According to Peberdy (2021), most immigrants reside in Gauteng, the richest province in the nation, which includes the manufacturing hub of Ekurhuleni, the executive capital of Pretoria/Tshwane, and the commercial city of Johannesburg.

According to South Africa's most recent census, conducted in 2011, around three-quarters of immigrants come from abroad on the African continent. In the 16-nation Southern African Development Community (SADC) 68% of these Africans were born elsewhere. According to figures from the United Nations for 2020, Zimbabwe was the country of origin for the most immigrants, representing 24% of all immigrants (Statistics South Africa, 2011). Additionally, a substantial number of immigrants from Europe and North America are drawn to South Africa.

Table 1.1 Migration patterns by location of origin

	Origin	
	Estimate	Share of International Migrant Population (%)
Total International Migrant Population	280,598,105	100%
Europe and Northern America	67,601,621	24%
Central and Southern Asia	51,229,549	18%
Latin America and the Caribbean	42,890,481	15%
Eastern and Southeastern Asia	38,400,740	14%
Northern Africa and Western Asia	37,563,820	13%
Sub-Saharan Africa	28,284,538	10%
Australia and New Zealand	1,404,924	1%
Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand)	565,281	0%

Source: International Migration Stock (2020)

International migrants move to other countries to find suitable jobs. According to the International Labour Organisation (2021). The number of international migrant workers stood at 169 million in 2019, or nearly 5% of the global workforce. Migrants specialise in all working skill levels and sectors, but most of them are concentrated in lower-skilled industries such as construction, agriculture, and tourism (MPI, 2022). Nearly 70% of all migrants who are 15 years of age or older are employed. Seventy million, or over 42%, of all migrant labourers from abroad, were women (ILO, 2021). Migrants have families back home that they must support with the little income that they make, the money that migrants send back home is known as a remittance (Okyere, 2018).

According to Crush et al. (2017) remittances are very often an important source of income for sending families, and any changes in the number of remittances they receive will have a direct impact on the food security status, health, and well-being of families in the countries of origin. Remittances are the money sent by migrant households to family and friends in the country of origin, it helps to keep loved ones out of poverty, temporary economic or health crisis, or pay for school fees of migrants' children (MPI, 2022). Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the World Bank (2021) estimates that officially documented remittances in 2019 reached the record-high US \$719 billion, including \$548 billion to low- and middle-income

nations. Due to pandemic related interruptions in 2020, the numbers decreased, though not as drastically as originally predicted. Remittances through official channels totalled \$702 billion for 2020, of which \$539 billion went to low- and middle-income nations. In 2020, the top five recipients of remittances were India, China, Mexico, the Philippines, and Egypt. Together, these five nations received more than \$250 billion, or 36% of all remittances that were formally documented (World Bank, 2020). Remittances are significant, yet some nations may only get a small portion of that amount as income. For instance, only 3% of India's gross domestic product comes from remittances (GDP). When remittances are expressed as a percentage of GDP, the top receiving nations differ significantly. The countries that relied on remittances the most in 2020 were Tonga (3% of GDP) Somalia (35%) Lebanon (33%) South Sudan, and the Kyrgyz Republic (29 % each) (MPI, 2022).

Moyo (2021) argues that some migrants move to other countries for educational purposes. In 2019, about 6.1 million students were studying abroad, up from 4.8 million in 2015 and 2 million in 2000 (UNESCO, 2019). The United States, Australia, Britain, Germany, and the Russian Federation were the top five countries for international students to study abroad. Together, they accommodated 43% of all students worldwide. China, India, Vietnam, Germany, and France were the top five sending nations of international students in 2019 (UNESCO, 2019).

Table 1.2 Migrants in South Africa

Country of Origin	Number	Percent of Total
TOTAL	2,860,500	100%
Zimbabwe*	690,200	24%
Mozambique*	350,500	12%
Lesotho*	192,000	7%
Malawi*	94,100	3%
United Kingdom	67,400	2%
Democratic Republic of the Congo*	63,900	2%
Somalia	58,500	2%
Botswana*	50,500	2%
Angola*	47,900	2%
Eswatini*	45,400	2%

Source: Migration Policy Institute (2021)

Although the number of migrants has increased since 1990, most of them are still from nearby nations like Mozambique, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Swaziland, and Botswana (Crush and William, 2018). According to Migration Policy Institute (2021), a total of 2 860 500 migrants arrived in South Africa in 2020, with the majority coming from Zimbabwe (690 200) followed by Mozambique (350 500). In addition, 192 000 migrants from Lesotho and 94 100 from Malawi arrived in South Africa in 2020. In addition, 58 500 Somalians, 50 500 Botswanans, 47 900 Angolans, and 45 400 Swazis lived in South Africa in 2020 (DHA, 2017).

This study is interested in the lived experiences of migrants in adapting and surviving in the urban environment of KwaZulu-Natal. The terms adapting and surviving are essential in this study because that is where we shall examine the social, economic, religious, and cultural activities of these migrants in KwaZulu-Natal. Thus, there is a need in this section to define the terms to be conversant with how they were applying throughout the study. Adapting simply refers to altering something or adjusting one's behaviour to suit a new goal or situation (Collins et al., 2022). According to Cohen (1996) surviving refers to putting up with or living through (an affliction, adversity, and misery). Interestingly, for the migrant in KwaZulu-Natal everyday life challenges range from economic, social, political, and cultural. This study

intends to investigate and understand how the migrant can adapt and survive in those environments.

A rich archive of diverse scholarship documented the patterns of migration and migrants dating back to the pre-colonial period (Bellucci and Eckert, 2019). As a result, the researcher will present some of the main accounts of migration trends in South African history. Secondly, the approach also entails the need to identify the causes of migration. These migrants in KwaZulu-Natal hypothetically migrated due to either push or pull factors. Thus, to provide a more comprehensive and sound analysis, the study embraced the reasons behind their migration to KwaZulu-Natal.

1.2 Problem statement

The South African case is subject to investigation, particularly regarding the migration system. South Africa is currently facing a growing number of migrants from other countries (Crush and Williams, 2010). Another problem is linked to policies on migration. Since migrants began flocking into the country, migration policies became more restrictive. In the past few years, there have been several violent attacks against migrants in South Africa. This has led to increasing challenges for these migrants who stay in South Africa (Bellucci and Eckert, 2019). Migrants in South Africa face numerous challenges in adapting to their host country and finding their place in society (Tawodzera and Crush, 2015). The country has a long history of migration, dating back to colonial times when indentured workers were brought over from India and other countries to work in the mines and on farms. Today, South Africa continues to be a destination for migrants from across the African continent, as well as from further afield, drawn by the country's relative prosperity and opportunities for work. Most migrants are self-employed in informal economic activities (Crush and Williams, 2010). This is because most of them lack educational qualifications which leaves them with no choice but to engage in sectors that do not require more specialised skills. Host communities with low income perceive the arrival of foreigners engaging in similar economic activities as a threat to the scarce resources in the country (Bellucci and Eckert, 2019).

However, despite the long history of migration in South Africa, many migrants face significant barriers in integrating into society (Crush and Williams, 2010). Language barriers, cultural differences, and a lack of access to education and employment opportunities are just a few of the challenges that migrants face in adapting to their new home. Additionally, the

country's high crime and poverty rates can make it a difficult place for migrants to feel safe and secure. One of the major challenges faced by migrants in South Africa is xenophobia (Mamabolo, 2015). This is a phenomenon where people from other countries are subjected to discrimination and violence, often on the basis of their perceived differences from the majority population. Xenophobia is a serious issue in South Africa and has been the cause of violent attacks against migrants in recent years. Against that background, it was necessary and beneficial to determine the extent to which the government is formulating policies and strategies to protect the rights of migrants in South Africa. Moreover, the study is in an urban area in Newcastle, according to Ncube (2017) most migrants live in cities since these regions are more likely to offer them the possibilities they need to survive.

1.3 Motivation for the study

As the number of migrants increases in South Africa, it is essential to examine their challenges, experiences, and livelihood activities. Migrants are portrayed by citizens, officials, and the media as hurting the South African economy and understanding the livelihoods of South Africans. Tawodzera and Crush (2015) contend that the perceptions of migrants by the citizens, officials and media have supported clarifying the growing xenophobic sentiments against migrants. As a result, this study aims to investigate how migrants in South Africa have assimilated. Peberdy (2016) contends that many migrants moved to South Africa after 1994. Many migrants migrated to South Africa to seek better socio-economic opportunities. This study further explores the different motives for migrants to move to South Africa. Moreover, most migrants are involved in informal trading activities to make a living, therefore the researcher wants to explore the motivation of the migrants to start their businesses. The researcher agitates to explore the perspectives on migrants in Newcastle, KwaZulu Natal.

1.4 Aim of the study

The overall objective is to shed insights into the perspectives and experiences of migrants in Newcastle, South Africa. The specific objectives are:

- To investigate the different pull and push factors that motivate migrants to migrate from their original residence to South Africa.
- To examine the adaptation and assimilation of migrants in the country of destination.
- To examine the challenges facing migrants in the country.

To better understand the situation of migrants the study is interested in answering the following key questions:

- What pull and push factors motivate migrants to migrate from their original place to South Africa?
- How well do migrants adapt to their country of destination?
- What are the challenges facing migrants?

1.5 Theoretical Framework

The study draws from literature on push and pulls factors that motivate migrants to move away from their country of destination. Moreover, it draws on the literature on livelihood strategies and entrepreneurship skills, which are both essential for the effective survival of migrants. The push and pull theory assert that people migrate because of things that drive them to leave their current country and those that draw them to another (Kirkwood, 2009). Thela et al. (2017) contend that livelihood strategies are the collection of pursuits that individuals select to satisfy their requirements. Therefore, the theoretical underpinning of this study is the push-and-pull theory and the sustainable livelihood framework.

1.5.1 Push and pull theory

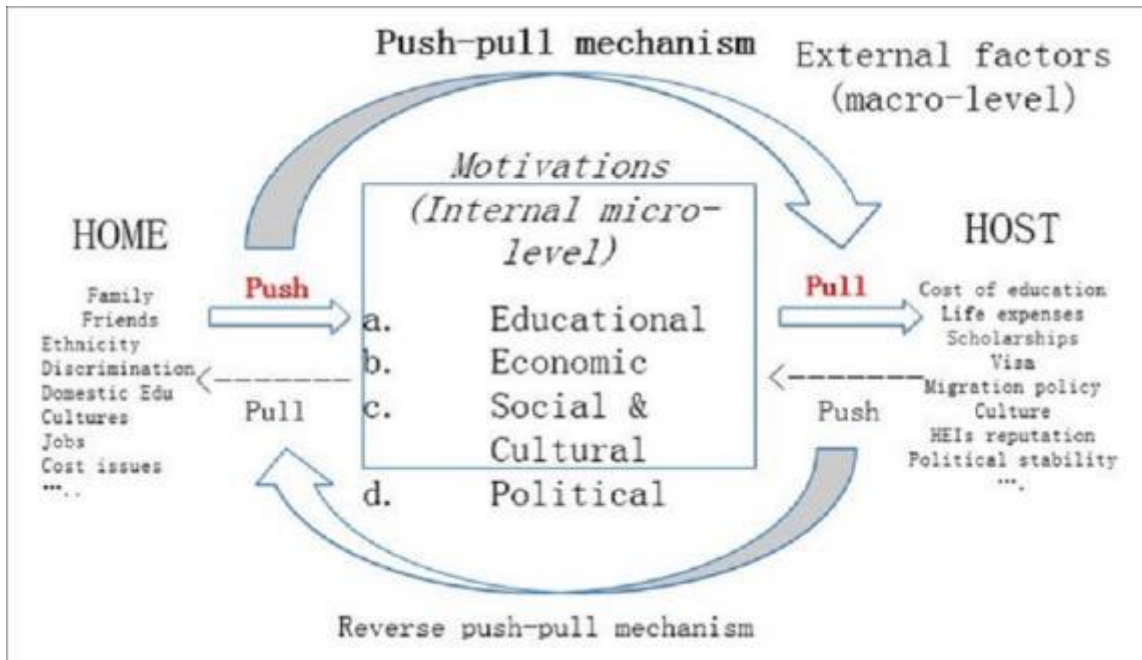
Migration can occur in a series of waves, with each wave having massive implications on the next, either positively or negatively. The push-pull theory argues that rural dwellers migrate more than urban residents due to economic factors (Kirkwood, 2009). This theory contends that people migrate because of the factors that push them from their existing nation and the characteristics that pull them to another. Gerold-Scheepers and Van Binsbergen (1978: 6) argue that “the Marxist theory is also used to support the pull and push theory because migration has been seen as an inevitable process that was bound to rise due to the spread of capitalism and would prove to be the only outcome after people had been displaced from their home or land”.

Push factors are the hostile or adverse conditions that make a place uninhabitable. At the same time, the pull factors draw people to an area because of the potential and positive conditions the area might have to offer to the migrants (Kirkwood, 2009). The background of migrants can be examined using the push factors, while the attraction to South African cities can be captured using the pull factors. The integration of pull and push factors explains why South Africa is chosen as a destination.

Migration is influenced by a variety of factors, including political, social, cultural, environmental, educational, and transportation issues (Krishnakumar, 2014). According to Kirkwood (2019), migration frequently occurs because of pull forces found in more developed regions as well as push factors such as fewer socioeconomic prospects. Economic, political, cultural, and environmental push and pull factors are effects that can either force individuals to migrate to a new place or compel them to vacate their current residences. According to Parkins (2010) push factors are difficult circumstances related to the country from which a person migrates that have the potential to force people to leave their homeland. Unemployment, lack of opportunities, primitive circumstances, desertification, famine and drought, political fear and persecution, inadequate medical treatment, loss of wealth, and natural disasters are a few examples of push factors (Krishnakumar, 2014). Pull factors are elements that draw people to a certain location; they are the exact opposite of push factors. Push factors include factors like the availability of jobs, improved living conditions, freedom of religion or politics, enjoyment, education, and security. Migration occurs when a place is so alluring that people are drawn there. Therefore, this study uses the push and pull theories

to uncover the numerous factors that affect migrants' decisions to move from their home countries to their destinations.

Figure 1.3 Push-Pull Mechanism



Source: Urbański (2022)

1.5.2 The sustainable livelihood framework

This study also draws on the sustainable livelihood framework. A livelihood includes the abilities, assets, material and social resources, and activities necessary for survival (Thela et al., 2017). Furthermore, a livelihood is sustainable when coping with and recovering from stress shocks while maintaining its current and future skills and assets. Agenda 21, a comprehensive action plan adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, commonly known as the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit, gave birth to the sustainable livelihood framework (Ncube, 2017). Agenda 21 established an environment in which all people had the right to a secure future. However, Thela et al. (2017) contend that the framework was originally designed for the rural poor. Its relevance to this study stems from its focus on the vulnerability of people, institutions, and, to a certain extent, the environment. Migrants leave their countries and embark on international migration; once they arrive in host nations, they rely on and strive to make something out of what is accessible to them (Ncube, 2017). People's ability to sustain and make a living is shaped by their

vulnerable setting, which may lead to migration. Livelihood capital such as human, natural, social, financial, and physical assets can also influence the vulnerability setting (Thela et al., 2017). People may be deficient in specific nutrients, which, combined with how they are subjected to risks, can influence whether they can survive in the current condition or must migrate (Yamamoto and Esteban, 2017).

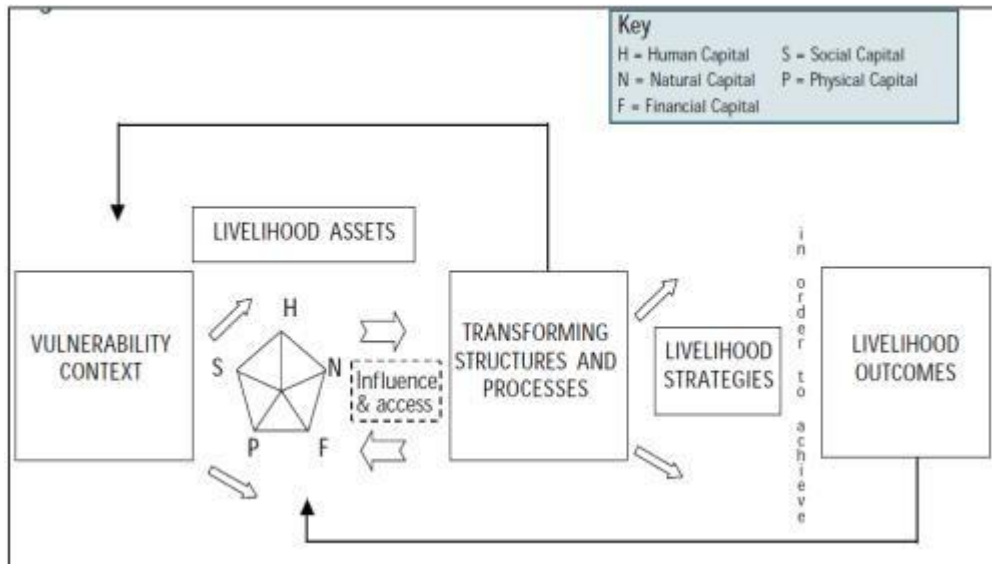
The livelihood paradigm has previously been utilized to understand better the challenges faced by urban migrants in securing their livelihoods. "The livelihood framework considers the full range of economic, political, social, and cultural elements that affect people's lives and livelihoods" (Deligiannis, 2012: 18). The framework for a sustainable livelihood helps organize and connect the aspects that limit or promote livelihood options. A livelihood system is considered sustainable if it can withstand and recover from stressors and shocks and preserve or improve its capacities, assets, and activities in the present and future without jeopardizing the natural resource base. Its focus is on poverty alleviation, survival, and prosperity strategies. Hence this theory is relevant to this study because it analyses migrants' attempts to make a living and investigates how this affects the street trade, they engage in. The livelihood approach is used in this study to analyse the circumstances of migrants.

This study uses the livelihood method to investigate the living conditions of migrants. According to the livelihood's framework, migrants are adversely affected by poverty and are striving to make a living that is, ideally, above the bare minimum required to exist. Additionally, migrants establish and make use of opportunities to make a living, such as door-to-door selling, salons, street trading, and inventions. Resources, skills, and activities both now and in the future are required for a living (Serrat, 2017). People make decisions to accomplish their goals of monetary security, personal satisfaction, and other reproductive and productive aims are described as livelihood strategies by Carney et al. (1999). Livelihoods comprise the assets (natural, physical, human, financial and social capital), the activities and access to these mediated by institutions and social relations that together determine the living gained by the individual. According to De Haan (2010), maintaining a way of life requires continual effort because it is impossible to expect that the environment would remain unchanged from one season to the next or from one year to the next. According to Chumber and Conway (1992), a livelihood consists of the activities necessary to secure a means of subsistence as well as the capability, and assets, including both material and social resources.

Natural capital, physical capital, human capital, and social capital are also included in the framework for livelihoods. The three types of physical capital are mineral, land, and water. Infrastructure (roads, cars, buildings, water supply and sanitation, energy, and communications) as well as tools and technology are all considered under the heading of physical capital (Serrat, 2017). This element lists the different types of businesses that the migrants are engaged in. It also sheds light on the circumstances in which these informal traders operate. Human capital is defined by Sander (1996) as the ability to work, skills, health, and education level. This form of capital enables migrants to share their skills such as education, in this study this framework was used to identify if the businesses are out of their own choices, or they are forced by conditions. Social capital includes membership in various types of organisations and programs including training and extension programs, and organisations (Hans et al., 2006). Social capital examines relationships of trust, understanding, and support, formal and informal groups, shared values and behaviours, rules and sanctions, collective representation, mechanisms for decision-making, and leadership. It also examines networks and connections (patronage, neighbourhoods, and kinship) (Serrat, 2017). According to Place et al. (2005), social capital also refers to the standard of personal connections and the degree to which one may rely on familial or communal support.

These types of capital are useful components of the assets that support individual and household livelihood strategies; hence, they are included in the definition of a livelihood under consideration and their significance for the livelihood approach (Ellis, 2003). These types of capital are useful components of the resources that support individual and household livelihood strategies (Ellis, 2003). Migrants prefer self-employment because of difficulties related to their position, limited English proficiency, and the decline in human capital, as well as discrimination in larger marketplaces (Serrat, 2017). Due to a lack of employment alternatives, human capital and social capital are likely to be significant to migrant self-employment and intergroup diversity in business ownership. Many migrants also see self-employment as a path to upward development. Business ownership allows them to use their human capital resources and the well-educated migrants often own businesses elsewhere (Sander, 1996). Social background affects the availability of investment capital from relatives and the ability to qualify for loans from lending institutions (Sander, 1996).

Figure 1.4 The sustainable livelihoods framework



Source: Mensah (2011)

1.6 Organization of the dissertation

Chapter one is an introductory chapter of the dissertation that describes and contextualises the migration trends and dynamics from a global perspective to a South African perspective. This chapter presents a background of the study as well as the research aim and objectives. The second chapter constituted a literature review that reflected on broader interconnected studies that have tried to understand the migration motives, experiences, perspectives, livelihood strategies, and challenges facing migrants. The next chapter explains how the research was conducted and identifies the qualitative research method used in this study. Furthermore, it describes how data was collected, organised, and represented to support the study. Chapter four first presents the background characteristics of the sample. It outlines the motives that resulted in migrants starting their businesses as well as the reasons that led them to relocate to South Africa. This study's last chapter discusses the findings, provides recommendations and draws a conclusion.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This section reviews the national and international literature on socio-economic strategies used by migrants. Socio-economic strategies are means of securing the necessity of life. In this case, people, households, and communities adopt migration as one of their strategies to improve their livelihoods. Migration is a process during which a person moves from one cultural setting to another to settle for a longer period or permanently (Lindert et al., 2008). This section discusses the reason that motivates migrants to migrate, it discusses the factors that promote and prevent the assimilation of migrants in South Africa.

2.2 Migration in South Africa

As a result of the expansion of the mining industry, South Africa, and its neighbours Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, and Mozambique developed regional migratory corridors that have continued to develop throughout the past century. As the mining industry grew, there was a demand for labour that local efforts to fill it could not meet, therefore the nation had to recruit employees from beyond its borders, mainly from neighbouring southern African republics (Juif, 2022). The government of South Africa developed bilateral agreements about contracted labour migration for the mines, farms, and other expanding industries (Nshimbi, 2022). Using these kinds of mechanisms, South Africa expanded to become a significant migrant destination nation in the southern African region, which has been officially known as the Southern African Development Community (SADC) since 1992. (Mushomi et al., 2022). Therefore, the development of the migrant labour system concerning South Africa's gold and diamond mines is essential background information for comprehending the current regional and circular movement patterns (Souza, 2021).

South Africa hosts the largest number of immigrants on the African continent. Immigration has tended to increase over recent decades, particularly since the arrival of democracy and the end of apartheid in 1994 (Juif, 2022). After Apartheid, South Africa has become a major destination for migrants across Africa and beyond because of its constitutional democracy, political stability, and various economic opportunities (Bollaert and Maharaj, 2018). Migration has become increasingly urbanized in South Africa, as foreigners and rural dwellers are eligible to work outside the farming and mining sector (Posel, 2004). These

migrants have settled in the now disaggregated areas of the country's cities. Reed (2013) argues that the urban areas of Johannesburg, Durban, Pretoria, and Cape Town attract the largest number of migrants, there is a proportion of migrant labourers who still work on farms near the borders and in mining towns. Most migrants in this group are thought to have overstayed their legal residency, while others entered the country without paper documentation (Amit and Kriger, 2014).

Since the 1980s, there has been an increase of migrants from the other part of KwaZulu-Natal into the region, and Durban is regarded as one of the fastest-growing cities in the world (Lubkemann, 2000). Maharaj and Moodley (2009) contend that Durban is one of four major urban industrial centres in South Africa and is in the province of KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) one of the most densely populated regions in the country. Durban is facing many economic problems, including creating job opportunities and housing delivery. Durban is one of those cities that have a high crime rate and violence which affected economic growth and investments. Before apartheid, Durban was not a popular destination for migrants from other countries (Palmary, 2002). The 1990s witnessed three major changes in African migration to Durban. First, the number of immigrants in Durban from other African countries, legal and unauthorized, has undoubtedly increased. Second, the number of source countries for immigrants has grown to encompass the entire continent.

Durban harbour and international airport provide easy access, and some of the migrants come to the city via other South African cities. A study by Maharaj and Moodley (2009) states that some migrants lived in Gauteng before moving to Durban, furthermore, other migrants had been in more than one country en route to South Africa. Most migrants entered South Africa through the legal land borders, such as Kosi Bay and Lebombo border gates. There are several economic motives, which led to the movement of migrants to Durban, some are refugees, and some came to further their studies. Most migrants move to Durban to get jobs or to start their businesses. In cities such as Johannesburg, migrants have been victims of attacks and violence, while the locals have been friendly to the immigrants. In their study, Maharaj and Moodley (2009) found that the migrants chose Durban because it is a safe place in South Africa, unlike Johannesburg.

The environment that immigrants can be found to be living in encourages them to integrate with the local people, and most of the migrants have adapted to life in Durban. Most immigrants reside in informal houses rented from the local communities, while others live in

the inner city. Many immigrants left their homes because of their country's economic status, they come to South Africa hoping for a better standard of living. Maharaj and Moodley (2009) contend that most Durban immigrants are young, male adults with a reasonable level of education, 45% have secondary education, 29% have tertiary education and 10% have no qualification at all. In their study, Sidzatane and Maharaj (2012) found that the migrants initially hope to utilize their qualifications to obtain decent employment but found that their qualifications were not recognized in South Africa. Employment in the formal sector is unrestrained in South Africa, Durban has a thirty to forty percent unemployment rate. Job scarcity makes it difficult for immigrants to find casual or permanent jobs. "Given their "illegal" status, they had no choice and often had to take any job that was available to survive" (Maharaj and Moodley, 2009: p 155). Nevertheless, to survive, they do different types of businesses, such as supermarkets, hair salons, shoe repair, and welding. Compared to other sub-Saharan African countries, South Africa has a relatively small number of citizens who are employed in the informal sector (Budlender and Hartman, 2014). Therefore, migrants see an opportunity to occupy the gap left in the informal sector by South African citizens. South Africa has one of the greatest challenges in securing livelihood in formal and accessing formal employment, therefore it is also difficult for migrants to access formal employment.

2.2.1 Migration Motives

People migrate for different motives, migration causes involve push factors such as poverty, lack of job opportunities, warfare, and threats of conflicts as well as pull factors such as job opportunities, income, wealth creation, and fewer political conflicts (Ubisi, 2019). Many economic, social, and political factors also lead to migration. Furthermore, political instability, red tapes poverty, economic depression, political chaos, rising crime, crises and conflicts, corruption, family reasons, economic depression, low educational standards, and inadequate infrastructure are some of the factors which create insecurity amongst the population that makes them leave their places of origin and migrate to better places. Migration is motivated by several factors such as running away from conflicts or searching for better opportunities (Browne 2017). In the future decades, demographic imbalances, economic inequality, globalization, political instability, and climate changes will increase large-scale migration, disproportionately hurting the Global South (Fengler et al., 2022).

2.2.1.1 Escaping political turmoil

Political factors drive migrants to leave their country of origin, thus they move to South Africa in search of better chances. People migrate to other countries because of political turmoil, such as wars, in their own countries, and since apartheid was abolished, South Africa has drawn numerous African nationals. Political instability, war, and conflicts contribute to international migration (Krishnakumar and Indumathi, 2014). Forced migration to safe regions like South Africa can result from armed conflicts and wars in African countries (Flahaux and De Haas, 2016). The wars are also one of the push factors that influence people to leave their country and seek refuge in South Africa. A study by Kanayo et al. (2019) argues that the war in Congo has displaced millions of people, and many have left the country for fear of persecution and insecurity. Migrants escaping from war usually go to other neighbouring developing countries, often as a first step in seeking asylum (MPI, 2021). Conflict and expulsion-related instability can be expensive for migrants and pose a financial and security risk for nations that take in refugees. According to Flahaux and De Haas (2016) poverty, political conflict, and environmental stress are the main causes of mass migration and displacement inside Africa.

Gukurume (2019) claims that Zimbabwe is one of the nations that has been affected by political unrest, which has caused many to emigrate to nearby nations like South Africa. Muskoka (2020) argues that the main reason people migrate from Zimbabwe to South Africa is because of the country's political and economic unrest. Mafuta and Kamuzhanje (2021) further support that Zimbabwe experienced severe political, economic, and social challenges from 2000 in the aftermath of the Accelerated Land Reform Programme. These challenges were also characterised by political violence in the 2005 and 2008 general elections. After the deadlock of the 2008 elections, the two main parties, ZANU (PF) and the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) entered into a global political agreement (GPA) which ushered in a Government of National Unity (GNU). According to Mafuta and Kamuzhanje (2021) from the year, from 2000 to 2017 Zimbabwe had a poorly performing economy, which resulted in a hyperinflationary situation, severe food insecurity for both rural and urban households, a catastrophic cholera outbreak which resulted in over 100,000 positive cases and 4000 deaths, many people migrated to escape this situation. Political unrest in Zimbabwe was exacerbated by measures like Operation Murambatsvina, a government endeavour to forcibly remove slum communities from the country's urban centres (Mbiba, 2019). At least 700,000 people

were directly impacted by the operation, which began in 2005, resulting in the destruction of their houses or means of subsistence (Mhlanga and Ndhlovu, 2021). Besides Zimbabwe, many countries in Africa are experiencing emigration due to political unrest, which includes Northern Mozambique, Cameroon, and Ethiopia.

In Ethiopia, there have been a significant number of ongoing conflicts and covert assassinations since 2017. It is practically impossible to keep track of all the fatalities at this stage. Following the government of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's military attack against the Tigray Region in 2021, the disputes appeared to have intensified. Ethiopians are the largest group of asylum seekers with pending applications in South Africa (Dinbabo, 2021). A study by Estifanos et al. (2019) argues that many Ethiopians move to South Africa to escape their country's political and economic problems.

2.2.1.2 Poverty and unemployment

Poor economic activity and lack of job opportunities are also strong push factors for migration (Krishnakumar and Indumathi, 2014). Furthermore, unemployment and underemployment are considered basic factors pushing the migrants towards a developed area with greater job opportunities. According to Kanayo et al. (2019) many Cameroonians leave because of high rates of unemployment, they migrate to other countries for better opportunities. According to Antosik and Ivashina (2021) the key factors driving migration are the high rates of poverty and unemployment in the countries of origin in Africa. Although the continent has plenty of natural and human resources, poverty and unemployment are still a problem in Africa since neocolonialism continues to have a stranglehold on the region and its resources (Mawere, 2019). In the hope of escaping poverty and unemployment Zimbabweans migrate to South Africa, for better opportunities (Moyo, 2018). Industries such as farming industries that create job opportunities and investment closed in Zimbabwe, causing poverty, unemployment, and economic dissatisfaction, forcing many Zimbabweans to migrate to countries like South Africa. According to Zuma (2021) compared to other African nations, South Africa is still seen as having a robust economy.

One of the developmental issues that every emerging economy in the 21st century is dealing with is poverty and unemployment (Egunjobi, 2014). Even though poverty is now a global

issue, Nigeria's poverty may be directly linked to the country's economy being mismanaged by successive military and civilian governments (Muhamad, 2021). Sudden changes in economic and social policies brought on by frequent changes in government have harmed the population and aggravated Nigeria's socioeconomic inequality (Nduka, 2021). Nigerians, who are from West Africa, move to South Africa in search of better chances after escaping their country's hardships and unemployment (Akanle et al., 2016). South Africa is often referred to as the America of Africa by immigrants (Muhamad, 2021). This metaphorically explains why the preference is for South Africa as the migration destination of choice. This migration reference metaphor becomes explainable as the United States of America is usually seen as the best and the most prosperous country in the world.

2.2.1.3 Strong currency

A study was conducted by Zuma (2021) to explore the perceptions and experiences of migrant informal traders. The study found that one of the reasons Zimbabwean migrants move to South Africa is because of the country's strong currency and abundance of possibilities, which allows them to send money and basic goods as remittances to their relatives back home. Since South Africa has a strong currency compared to other African nations, people opt to immigrate there and start businesses there to support their families. The traders also benefit because they make money more quickly than they would in their home country. According to Mlambo (2020) since the South African Rand is powerful, migrant traders earn and remit the money, which has more value in their countries.

2.3 Factors promoting assimilation

2.3.1 Knowledge of the local language

Migrants can communicate like other people, in different languages (Makanda and Vearey, 2016). Merry et al. (2017) argue that migrants can use more than one language because they come from countries that are multilingual (such as African, Asian, or Balkan countries) or because in their process of migration they have had contact with other languages. People's language competencies differ, depending on the contexts in which they live and work, and their learning experiences (Hunter-Adams and Rother, 2017). Language heterogeneity is

much stronger among migrants because they have different linguistic biographies, depending on the status of their first language(s) in the country of origin, the other languages they have used during their migration, and the language contacts in the host society (Merry et al., 2017).

Migrants are usually aware that they need to master the language of the receiving country to survive, stay and be successful there (Makanda and Vaerey, 2017). Therefore, migrants must be able to speak the local language to access health care, to be able to trade with local businesses, to be able to participate in the education system of the host country, and able to socialize with the local people (Canagarajah, 2017). By interacting with the locals and becoming fluent in their language, they can run their enterprises and receive recommendations for new clients who will be interested in their goods (Hunter-Adams and Rother, 2017). Manik (2012) cited in Tarisayi and Manik (2019) contends that learning the local widely spoken isiZulu language in KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo allowed Zimbabwean migrant teachers to understand and communicate with their peers. Estifano et al. (2019) further contend that most Ethiopian migrants settle in black urban townships where they learn the language and lifestyles of the townships, which enable them to adapt to their new environment.

2.3.2 Education

Since its inception in 1996, the Agency for Refugee Education, Skills Training and Advocacy (ARESTA) has been committed to advocating for and providing education, skills training, and psychosocial support to refugees and asylum seekers who come to South Africa having fled national conflicts and ethnic wars in their countries of origin (Sengupta and Blessinger, 2018). Furthermore, Agency for Refugee Education Skills Training (ARESTA) strongly believes that the only way that xenophobia violence can be prevented permanently, and sustainability is to deal with the underlined educational and material conditions that raise tensions in communities and lead to xenophobia attacks, for example, lack of knowledge, misconceptions, stereotypes, inequality, poverty, lack of service delivery, lack of skills development and unemployment (Cerna, 2019). Furthermore, collaborating with the South African community to address misconceptions, stereotypes, myths, and issues of xenophobia is a key point to enabling the integration of asylum seekers and refugees. Providing education and allowing the poorest communities in the Western Cape to integrate into the labour market

facilitate the well-being of the society, and consequently address the issues of xenophobic attacks.

The migrants are also allowed to participate in the South African education system, there are migrant teachers, lecturers, and students who are working and studying in South Africa (Weda and De Villiers, 2019). The migrant teachers are engaged in diversifying the curriculum and the worldview of the learners. Chikanda and Tawodzera (2017) argue that the advantage of migrants relocating to South Africa offers migrants an opportunity to provide education that is better than in their countries of origin. Furthermore, migrant teachers find it financially rewarding to work in South Africa earning a strong currency than in their countries, they can send remittances to their homes (De Villiers and Weda, 2017).

A study by Tarisayi and Manik (2019) on the survival strategies of Zimbabwean migrant teachers discovered that they survived and coped by pursuing academic improvement options and studying further because promotion in the workplace was “not easy as a foreigner”. As a result, education is crucial to the survival of migrants, in addition to schooling, they also rely on their social networks to survive in South Africa.

2.3.3 Social Networks

Social networks are utilized every day throughout the world by family, friends, community members, businesses, organizations, government agencies, and a wide range of others (Poros, 2011). The significance of migrant networks in influencing outcomes for migrants, their families, and their communities cannot be understated, even though the idea that social networks play a role in one's life may seem clear (Tarisayi and Manik, 2021). A social network is made up of individuals and organizations, often called “nodes,” which are tied together by different sorts of relationships, such as friendship, economic exchange, influence, and common interests (Batista et al., 2019). Migrant networks are often described by migration scholars as being made up of links between relatives, friends, and neighbours in the areas of origin and destination. However, immigrants can also form other forms of social connections (Tarisayi and Manik, 2021).

Many migrants have ties to institutions and organizations that help them to migrate, get jobs, or adjust to society in the destination country in other ways, having a suitable job and a secure place to live helps migrants acclimatize to South Africa more quickly. (Poros, 2011). Such

institutions might include universities, diaspora organizations, government and nongovernmental organizations, private employment agencies, corporations, and religious and cultural organizations. Some ties, such as those of transnational entrepreneurs, reflect even more complex relationships wherein interpersonal and organizational relations are combined, as is often the case in family firms (Lin, 2014).

The ability of a migrant to move to a particular destination, find a job and housing, participate in the development, open a business, and access health care can be all impacted by their social network (Zuma, 2021). Crush et al. (2015) further argue that most migrants depend on their networks, which represent a form of social capital to gain access to employment income earning opportunities. Lin (2014) found that for Chinese immigrants to South Africa social networks were discovered to be crucial in the decision-making process for moving. In that paper, the significance of social connections is highlighted concerning how much easier it is for Chinese migrants to immigrate to South Africa and start small companies. The Chinese discovered that social networks lower entry barriers to South Africa. Relationships with family, friends, and other relatives aided in entering the nation in terms of social networks.

Religion is one of the social institutions that play a significant role in sustaining and creating migrant social support networks (Stenmark, 2020). Religion is a generic and abstract term, it can be used to refer to institutionalized structures like Churches, Faith Based Organizations, personal practices, and beliefs. According to Hungwe (2020) religion is underpinned by those who share feelings, ways of thinking, and acting that have their central focus on some transcendent otherness. Religion is a product of social interactions, structures, and processes, which in turn influence social life and cultural meaning (Stenmark, 2020).

The involvement of migrants in religion has been described as another survival strategy (Hungwe, 2020). Therefore, religious participation offers a way to interpret and express their interests. Stenmark (2020) argues that migrants' involvement in religion is another way of remaining connected to their country of origin. Hungwe (2020) argues that religion has the capability of linking migrants to resourceful people; it is a social phenomenon that can link migrants to resources. Migrants return to religion as social capital to cushion against the social challenges they experience in South Africa. Churches are significant in providing crucial networks and social support that migrants need to claim their space in South Africa (Stenmark, 2020). A study by Nyuke (2021) discovered that the Methodist church in one of Johannesburg's poorest neighbourhoods provided shelter to Zimbabweans and other unstable

African nations who did not have accommodation. Furthermore, this shows how important religion may be in helping migrants assimilate to South Africa. Nevertheless, other factors prevent the assimilation of migrants.

2.4 Factors preventing assimilation

2.4.1 Xenophobia

The concept of xenophobia means a dislike of or prejudice against people from other countries (Crush and Tawodzera, 2011). Lekaba (2014) contends that racism and acts of physical violence against foreign citizens by irate South Africans are inseparably tied to the view that migrants are here to take their jobs. Media and political emphasis that xenophobia in contemporary South Africa is because of the South African citizens who do not think logically (Lekaba, 2014). Other nations do not experience xenophobia as frequently or violently as South Africa does (Mamabolo, 2015). Without a study of the global apartheid background, which continues to define the lives of the majority of South Africans, it is impossible to comprehend xenophobia in South Africa.

Xenophobia in South Africa has older roots than the breakouts in 2008, dating back to the immediate aftermath of 1994. (Lekaba, 2014). Afrophobia is a term used in South Africa to describe xenophobia because most of the victims of the attack were African migrants. For instance, if someone is white and from Germany, people can mistake him for being from South Africa. Nevertheless, people experience xenophobia if they are from the rest of Africa (Mamabolo, 2015). In line with their reputation as the most prosperous small- and microbusiness owners operating in cities, townships, and other locales, African migrants from nations including Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Somalia, and Egypt have been the target of xenophobic attacks.

In South Africa, xenophobia manifests itself in a wide range of behaviours, such as dehumanizing, stereotyping, and discriminatory remarks; discriminatory policies and practices by public and private officials, such as denying target groups access to public services; and selective enforcement of bylaws by local authorities (Chenzi, 2021). Furthermore, Makhado and Tshisikhawe (2021) contend that public threats and violence, sometimes known as xenophobic violence, as well as assault and harassment by state agents, particularly the police and immigration officials, frequently result in significant loss of lives

and livelihoods. According to Mhlanga and Ndlovu (2021) residents of the Zandspruit settlement outside of Johannesburg attacked numerous Zimbabwean migrants in 2001 when a Zimbabwean migrant was accused of killing a South African woman, plundering 124 shacks, torching 74 of them, and forcing the occupants to leave. Also attacked were South African women in relationships with men from Zimbabwe (Chenzi, 2021).

Residents attacked refugees from Zimbabwe and Somalia in Bothaville, Free State, during a demonstration against the municipality in 2005, around 80 refugees were uprooted and had everything stolen from them (Tirivangasi and Rapanyane, 2021). According to Chenzi (2021) two Zimbabweans died in 2006 during fights between South Africans and non-South Africans in the Olievenhoutbosch informal settlement. Some Zimbabweans left the community and went back to their country. Additionally, Mhlanga and Ndlovu (2021) support the idea that in 2007, after a dispute between a South African and a Zimbabwean family in Mooiplaas, Gauteng, got out of hand, locals attacked Zimbabwean migrants, leading to two fatalities, eleven injuries, and the looting of more than 100 migrant-run businesses. The xenophobic attack escalated in March and April 2008, Zimbabwean migrants were attacked in the informal settlement of Diepsloot in northern Johannesburg, resulting in three deaths and the destruction of migrant homes (Tarisayi and Manik, 2021).

The important issue is that xenophobic assaults on migrants from Zimbabwe occurred before the widespread violence in May 2008 (Tarisayi and Mnaik, 2021). A gang in Johannesburg's Alexandra neighbourhood started attacking the homes of anyone they thought to be "outsiders" at the beginning of that month's attacks. What began as a singular incidence inside this community quickly spread to numerous areas throughout the province of Gauteng and then to neighbouring provinces, including the Western and Eastern Cape (Kretzer and Khaschula, 2021). Ngcamu and Mantzarisi (2021) state that violence was also reported in KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo. Although attacks were reported against anyone considered to be a "foreigner" in the affected communities, some accounts suggested that migrant groups, such as Zimbabweans, were being targeted specifically.

In 2011, locals in Lebokwagamo, a town near Polokwane, attacked migrants residing there, looted their goods, and destroyed their homes and businesses (Tarisayi and Mnaik, 2021). Numerous Zimbabweans who were residing in the Limpopo Province's Seshego Township near Polokwane in 2011 were forcibly evicted because of attacks by sizable local populations,

during which one migrant was stoned to death (Kretzer and Khaschula, 2021). According to Chenzi (2021) public unrest in Botshabelo, in the Free State province, resulted in the looting and/or destruction of more than 700 shops, and more than 500 migrants were forced to leave their homes. Four spaza shops (informal convenience stores) in Mitchells Plain, Cape Town, were bombed in 2012 because the migrant owners refused to pay protection money (Zirugo, 2022).

Xenophobic attitudes and actions are all-pervasive in South Africa in civil society and the state (Crush and Tawodzera, 2011). Hostility towards migrants and refugees makes South Africa one of the most migrant-unfriendly countries in the world. In May 2008, the country was rocked by violent attacks on the lives and property of Africans from other parts of the continent. Over 60 people died in the violence and over 100,000 migrants were hounded out of their homes and communities (Lekaba, 2014). Smaller-scale attacks on migrants have continued to plague South Africa since 2008. The state officials have a hostile attitude towards migrants since they believe they should not be in the country in the first place. South African citizens blame immigrants for the government's failure to address domestic problems such as crime, unemployment, poverty, and resource limitations.

Locals believe that migrants are here to take their jobs; a study by Ndlovu (2018) found that locals blame migrants for their unemployment and poverty, suggesting that the only way to solve the problem is to drive migrants out of South Africa. Additionally, Khau (2022) contends that there is a movement known as Operation "Dudula" which was started under the leadership of Nhlanhla Lux. To broaden its network, like-minded organizations marched across Soweto. Similar organizations marched through Cape Town as part of this initiative to increase their network. According to the organizations, unauthorized foreign workers are "taking" local workers' employment. The goal of Operation Dudula is to combat crime, a lack of employment opportunities, and subpar health care due to an increase in illegal immigration to South Africa (Oxford Analytica, 2022).

A South African was killed in Alexandra by Zimbabwean men who outnumbered them, according to a study by Lekaba (2014). Later, the neighbourhood entered the conflict on the side of the South African man. The altercation escalated into what is now known as the xenophobic attacks of 2008. Nearly all the shops held by Somalis, Pakistanis, and Ethiopians were robbed before being set on fire. Angry South Africans also set fire to homes that they believed to be owned by foreigners.

It was discovered that there is a gap between the local leadership and the community (Lekaba, 2014). Councillors hardly call ward meetings to brief and consult the community about the developments taking place. Most said they felt disrespected by the foreign nations who beat up and killed a South African person. They alleged that most foreign nationals are not legal in South Africa and thus it is difficult to trace them when they have committed a crime.

Besides the xenophobic attitudes towards migrants, the South African government is also responsible for making the assimilation of migrants difficult. According to White and Rispel (2021) South African officials implement policies that are against the adaptation and assimilation of migrants.

2.4.2 Law enforcement agencies

Officials in the South African government put policies into place to stop immigrants from assimilating (Okyere, 2018). According to Manu et al. (2021) migrant street traders often experience difficulties as a result of South African political conditions and policies. Policies implemented by the South African authorities tend to restrict informal trading activities, rather than facilitate them (Masuku and Nzewi, 2021). Migrant street traders and other migrant workers conduct their business in public areas. So, when establishing how public places are used, local governments have the option of specifying the kind of economic activity that is acceptable: formal businesses, markets, shopping centres, or informal means of subsistence (Bowling and Westenra, 2018). Operation Clean Sweep, a policy approach to street selling that focuses on control and elimination, was put into action in Johannesburg. According to Arias (2019) Johannesburg tried to curtail sidewalk sales and arrange the area physically to promote official companies. Zack (2015) argues that the Inner-City Street Management Strategy specifically allowed for private management of key areas in Johannesburg, which minimized the need for informal vending activities.

Operation Clean Sweep in Johannesburg, South Africa presents an extreme example of a policy approach toward street vending that focuses on control and elimination (Pieterse, 2017). Johannesburg, like many other cities, tried to reduce sidewalk trading and make it physically orderly to create an optimum environment for formal businesses. The Inner-City Street Management Strategy specifically allowed for private management of key areas in Johannesburg, which minimized the need for informal vending activities (Zack, 2015). In

October 2013, Operation Clean Sweep eliminated six thousand of street vendors from the city's central business district. Arias (2019) argues that street traders were not only forced to leave their trading locations but were also harassed, sometimes using tear gas and other violent means. According to Zack (2015) the operation took place regardless of the legal status of the street business, the metal stalls that had previously been provided by the municipality to be used on city sidewalks were loaded into police department trucks and taken away. The success of the operation counted on the following indicators: 528 incidences of impoundment of counterfeit goods, and the arrest of 192 undocumented immigrants (Arias, 2019). The operation was implemented without acknowledging that for survivalist operations, an interruption like this could easily cause a financial hardship that would be impossible to recover from.

The operation negatively impacted the street business survivalists because the source of the street traders' day-to-day livelihoods was taken away overnight (Bowling and Westenna, 2018). Operation Clean Sweep interrupted the livelihoods of day-to-day earners for many months, it would have caused more permanent damage to the future of the informal economy in Johannesburg had it not been for street trading organizations.

2.4.3 Foreign entrepreneurs

To scare and expel migrant entrepreneurs from a region, South African competitors in the informal economy have become more and more adept at using "violent entrepreneurship" as a technique (Crush et al., 2018). According to Chenzi (2021) two Bangladeshi shopkeepers were burnt to the third degree and eventually died in 2012 after a group of attackers attacked their container store in Thokoza with a petrol bomb and blocked the entrance to the building, making it impossible for them to flee. During widespread looting of Somali-owned businesses in the Valhalla Park neighbourhood of Cape Town, three establishments were petrol-bombed. Zirugo (2022) claims that in 2013, following an altercation involving a cell phone airtime voucher in Duduza on the East Rand between a Somali shop owner and a local youth, who was shot, 200 stores owned by Somali, Ethiopian, Eritrean, and Bangladeshi migrants had their contents removed, and several buildings had been burnt (Tarisayi and Manik, 2021).

The economic prosperity of South Africa also demonstrates how the xenophobic reaction against outsiders stunts the nation's development. The attacks that occurred in 2015 attracted so much attention that some South African companies operating abroad felt endangered

(Mamabolo, 2015). The attacks had a severe impact on local businesses that aimed to grow by entering African nations. The claim is that only local firms have shut down because of the proliferation of foreign businesses in most townships. Most migrants' enterprises are dependable and successful. It is challenging for South African citizens to compete with international corporations that seldom pay taxes because of South African government regulations about how their enterprises are operated (Mamabolo, 2015). Due to the level of competition, the spaces for trading tend to be extremely limited which is a challenge for informal traders (Zuma, 2021).

Migrant and local street vendors frequently find it difficult to work together because of competition and jealousy, which eventually affects their capacity to raise or maintain their income levels (Steiler and Nyirenda, 2021). According to Kabonga et al. (2021) factors such as a general decline in consumer demand, a lack of significant product differentiation, and increased rivalry from new traders can all result in fluctuating and lower earnings. This may further reduce informal traders' purchasing power, which may have an impact on suppliers' decisions to offer discounts or not (Steiler and Nyirenda, 2021). However, Johannesburg Street vendors claimed that more intense market competition led to more aggressive pricing and higher-quality produce (Kabonga et al., 2021).

Migrant street vendors provide loans to their customers or discount other goods to drive out competition and maintain customer loyalty (Agyemang, 2021). However, according to Kabonga et al. (2021) such measures result in losses for migrant traders. Migrant traders eventually adopt consumer-friendly tactics including offering high-quality items, exercising effective price control, being courteous, and being willing to sell more or various kinds of goods to avoid competition (Steiler and Nyirenda, 2021).

2.4.4 Vulnerability to crime

One of the highest crime rates in the world is found in South Africa (Bruderle et al., 2022). Pretoria, Cape Town, Durban, and Johannesburg are the cities with the highest rates of severe crimes, according to a study of crime statistics (Thornton, 2022). Migrants are projected to settle in South Africa's major cities and urban townships, according to Misgun (2022). Major cities and urban townships in South Africa frequently have high crime rates (Potgieter, et al., 2022). High unemployment, lack of education, and drug and alcohol abuse were identified as

contributors to crime in the townships (Mbane and Ezeuduji, 2022). Most migrants are at risk of crime and are terrified of being robbed. According to a study by Zuma (2021) many migrants lack access to banks, which makes them more vulnerable to robberies as thieves are aware that migrants carry cash when travelling home. Because there is no secure banking environment, foreigners are known to retain their money personally, which makes them more susceptible to theft and assault (Munkubang et al., 2020). Estafanos et al. (2019) further support that migrants cannot open bank accounts and are dependent on cash. This increases their exposure to violent crime. Despite the high rate of crime in South Africa, migrant street vendors secure themselves and their belongings by hiring security workers to monitor their safety in the area where they are conducting business (Crush and Peberdy, 2018). However, this sort of protection does not give the African migrants security when they go shopping or when they need to buy merchandise outside of the area's boundaries. Furthermore, migrants find it challenging to receive assistance from the police since, for instance, the police frequently question and further victimize the foreign complainant and fail to follow up on specific allegations, leading to a cycle of secondary victimization.

2.4.5 Inadequate financial resources

Moving into a new country, migrants experience financial difficulties, they lack the financial resources to cover some of their crucial expenses, such as food and accommodation. According to Zuma (2021) migrants who want to pursue their businesses in South Africa lack the financial resources to start their businesses. Most migrants often depend on their friends and families to assist them with the money that they need to start their businesses. Depending on their friends and relatives financially is the most adequate financial solution that they have, since they are unable to get loan approval from banks. Sidzatane and Maharaj (2013) claim that because many migrants lack capital, they are forced to struggle on the streets while selling their wares for low prices. They have a small customer base and unstable commercial operations, particularly in the middle of the month. Along with having limited financial means, migrants also need to have access to public services like health care whenever they need them, yet most of them are unable to do so since they are foreigners (Mushomi et al., 2022). Since people must pay for private healthcare, their access is restricted due to a lack of finances. Migrants frequently have trouble getting medical treatment in South Africa (Alfaro-Velcamp, 2017).

2.4.6 Availability of public services

One of the public services that immigrants struggle to access is health care (Mushomi et al., 2022). The health of migrants is influenced by biological factors, socioeconomic status, behaviour, and exposure to the environment (Norredam, 2011). In addition, migrants' health status may be influenced by the health risk profile that characterizes their country of origin or arises in the migration process. Crush and Tawodzera (2014) argue that the exclusion of migrants, often from social protection policies such as pensions, unemployment benefits, and safety-net programs like food transfers and health insurance, results in marginalization and social insecurity. Moreover, Norredam (2011) argues that health caregivers encounter various challenges in managing and caring for migrants. These challenges include language and culture barriers, resource constraints of migrants, and inadequate health systems. Undocumented migrants, because of fear of deportation, may not seek health care services whenever they need to do so. Furthermore, the healthcare personnel may have different attitudes towards migrant patients compared to non-migrant patients, considering migrants to be more demanding (Norredam, 2011).

The most important obstacle for migrants trying to access health care in South Africa is the denial of treatment for those who cannot produce legal documents (Landau, 2010). Nevertheless, Alfaro-Velcampo (2017) argues that private sector facilities do not ask for such documentation, usually being far more interested in a patient's ability to pay. Although in the public sector, those who cannot produce evidence of their legal right to be in South Africa are regularly refused treatment or turned away from government hospitals and clinics, no matter how sick they are (Mushomi et al., 2022). However, the demand for legal document and proof reduces migrants' access to health but heighten their vulnerability to chronic ill-health. Migrants without identity documents tend to regard clinics and hospitals as spaces to fear rather than seek relief.

2.5 Interaction with the locals

A positive relationship between migrants and local people empowers migrants by building confidence, skills, access to opportunities, and developing their relationships and networks with the locals (Orton, 2021). Additionally, when migrants and locals interact well, the other might see the value that immigrants contribute to their communities. Positive interaction also

offers a relational foundation for addressing challenges and disputes that may develop during the interaction, and it aids in creating a cohesive community that is beneficial to all. However, there are times when relations between locals and immigrants can be unfavourable since they may come against hostile attitudes, discrimination, and different forms of exploitation and oppression. Without engagement, migrants may end up leading "parallel lives" in which they have few connections to people in the larger community (Orton, 2021, p. 13). Nevertheless, Kindler et al. (2015) argue that migrants who interact with the locals can gain an advantage of accessing information that will open opportunities for them. According to Justin et al. (2021) the African value; 'Ubuntu' has a significant impact on the sustainable livelihoods of migrant youth in South Africa. Browne (2017) believes that migrants survive by relying on networks of other migrants and local people.

2.6 Socio-economic strategies of migrants

The local people perceive migrants as criminals, and job stealers and are often blamed for South Africa's social problems (Bollaert and Maharaj, 2018). Human capital such as work experience, which can be valuable and educational skills, is one of the crucial basics for migrants. Danso (2002) argues that one of the challenges that are faced by migrants in their adaptation to the physical environment was the difficulty in enrolling in the labour market.

"The migrants fail to secure a good standard of living because they struggle to integrate into the labour markets of their country of destination" (Posel et al., 2006: 837). Furthermore, foreign migrants experience challenges such as discrimination in the labour market, the absence of legal documents to facilitate employment and they have qualifications and languages that are not recognized.

Migrants that are excluded from working in the formal economy display high levels of creativity and enterprise in the informal market. A study by Sichone (2008) contends that in Cape Town some migrants are employed in the formal economy, and many earn their living in the informal economy. Crush and Chikanda (2015) argue that informal activities include entrepreneurial activities such as trading through StreetSide enterprise and spaza shops, hair salons, and the sale of beadwork. Furthermore, migrants choose to engage in the informal market because of the difficulties they experience in the labour market including

discrimination, the absence of legal documentation with which to facilitate employment, unrecognized educational qualifications, and language barriers. Therefore, Sichone (2008) argues that migrants face challenges in ensuring a good livelihood because of difficulties in participating in the labour markets of their countries of destination.

Migrants are protected by South Africa's constitution regardless of their nationality or legal status (Amit and Kriger, 2014). Nevertheless, migrants and refugees continue to experience challenges in their daily lives including the lengthy procedure of lodging an asylum claim and difficulty in acquiring legal documentation from the Department of Home Affairs (Amit and Kriger, 2014). Bansal et al. (2005) argue that the legal documentation will provide the migrants with refugee status and less harassment from the police. Furthermore, Crush and Chikada (2015) argue that migrants remain in low economic status because of their willingness to work for low wages and unfavourable circumstances in the informal sector. Moreover, migrants mostly experience challenges in finding employment in the formal sector in South Africa, one of the challenges is linked to challenges in accessing proper documentation. A study by Crush and Ramachandran (2017) in Cape Town, for example, showed that at least 30% had completed tertiary education. Many are unable to access the country's Department of Home Affairs for a legal migrant status, they find it difficult to access the bank system, and the fact that local people perceive migrants as criminals, and job stealers. Since most migrants are excluded from the formal sector, they show a high level of creativity and initiative in the informal sector.

2.6.1 Livelihood strategies

Family-owned enterprises are one of the livelihood strategies migrants employ to survive. Family employees are more productive than nonfamily workers when hourly earnings are low, and families can support self-employment by providing labour and facilitating the accumulation of capital and resources. Through self-employment, immigrants can heavily rely on family labour to cut operational costs (Carciotto, 2021). Additionally, Mokoene and Khunou (2022) contend that family members can be trusted in under-the-counter cash transactions and that family labour can be trusted to conduct sensitive transactions when there is a high danger of opportunism and malfeasance. According to a study by Okyere (2018)

Congolese are running salons where they exclusively hire friends and family, building trust while also assisting their relatives in getting jobs.

Current literature reports that migrants in various parts of the African continent have fashioned various survival strategies in their host countries (Tarisayi and Manik, 2021). Migrants use different livelihood strategies to survive in South Africa, their level of education does not allow them to work in the formal sector (Vearey, 2008). A study by Okyere (2018) discovered that most migrants work as street traders to earn income, buy and sell goods and an affordable price, and they use their skills to make and sell metal washing basins. The study further discovered that most migrants in Johannesburg work in hairdressing and barbering shops.

Northcote (2015) cited in Okyere (2018) noted that although some migrants are employed in the formal sector, many earn their living from informal, insecure economic activities. These include entrepreneurial activities such as trading through spaza shops and street-side enterprises like artisanship, tailoring, hair salons, hair braiding, and the sale of beadwork (Browne, 2017). Okyere (2018) stated that while permanent citizens depend on government services, they see a chance to start their small businesses. According to Estifanos et al. (2019) many Ethiopians join other local and foreign migrants in the booming fast fashion informal retail sector in major metropolitan areas, particularly Johannesburg and Durban. Moreover, with their small businesses, migrants also contribute to South African economic growth (Okyere, 2018).

2.7 Contribution of migrants to the country's economy

Migrants become entrepreneurs as a livelihood strategy to increase their standard of living. Entrepreneurship is a strong tool for immigrants' economic and social integration and is a means by which immigrants without education or technical skills can escape poverty (Kalitanyi and Visser, 2010: 12). Migrants-owned SMMEs are now an important element of the country's economy. In South, Africa migrants are involved in different types of SMMEs activities mostly in retail or service rather than in production (Kalitanyi and Visser, 2010). Their activities include selling curios, retailing ethnic clothes and foods, motor-car repairs/panel beating, and operating hairdressing salons. Other activities include the operation of restaurants, nightclubs, and cafés. These migrant businesses are usually owned by young

entrepreneurs who work approximately 64 hours per week, if they have employees, they work similar hours. A study by Bezuidenhout et al. (2009) reports that a male migrant was selling potato chips on a pavement near Cape Town's central rank. The study also found that the migrant's business was successful, now he is owning a successful business selling cell phones and accessories in a citycentre shop and looking to buy property. One could add that as migrants open a business, they hire local people which contributes to economic growth via the multiplier effect. The multiplier effect holds that an increase in one's spending leads to a proportional increase in another's income (Heidman, 2011: p15). Nevertheless, Estafanos et al. (2019) contend that migrants' contribution to the economy is often misinterpreted as a threat because they are always seen as people who are taking opportunities from the locals.

According to Adepoju (2022) the contribution of immigrants to the economy in general and the informal economy has not received favourable policy recognition. If there was any attention on their economic operations, it was on registration and regulation. Small-scale migrant enterprises are not highlighted in public communications for their good contributions (Makoni and Tichaawa, 2021). A study by Estafanos (2021) found that through their retail trade, Ethiopian migrant traders have benefited regional economies. Migrants have boosted access to reasonably priced clothing, sparking a significant cross-border retail industry, generating jobs, raising property values, and providing opportunities for other related firms in logistics and support services to serve this trade (Adepoju, 2022).

2.8 Access to accommodation

Housing has always been a contentious and pressing problem in South Africa. In 1994, a program called the RDP (Reconstruction and Development Programme) was created to address such issues (Texeria, 2014). However, even though one had to be a citizen of South Africa to obtain an "RDP house", the issue of the constitutional requirement for housing for everyone is far more complicated. RDP was intended to provide social housing for low-income South Africans. According to the South African National Housing Code, only citizens and lawful immigrants are eligible for social housing. One may also say that this has made it very unclear who is eligible for social housing and who is not (Antoniucci and Marella, 2017). A study by Shapurjee and Charlton (2013) argues that some locals saw migrants occupying social housing, and demanded that they vacate those houses, claiming corruption.

Therefore, since migrants cannot access social housing, it leaves them with an option to go for low-cost rental housing. Texeria (2014) argues that most migrants in South Africa are ordinary hard-working people who do not depend on state support for housing and resources.

According to Heidman (2011) a minority of wealthy foreigners are often blamed for buying property and inflating house prices in major cities. These migrants have lawful and financial resources that enable them to access adequate housing fairly and easily (Texeria, 2014). On the other hand, migrants in South Africa are normal hard-working people who do not depend on state support for housing (Antoniucci and Marella, 2017). However, though they can afford to pay for adequate housing, their uncertain legal status often leaves them living in totally inadequate housing and struggling to access the 'adequate' housing that the Constitution guarantees. Furthermore, the challenges that are faced by migrants start with legal documentation. According to Boal (2018), the Department of Home Affairs is often quite inefficient in processing and providing appropriate documents for migrants in a timely and proper manner. Moreover, most migrants have no legal documents which leads to problems with the police, a problem accessing banking, and social services, and difficulties with landlords who expect a South African identity document.

The South African National Housing Code stipulates that only citizens and migrants who hold legal documents are eligible for social housing (Boal, 2018). Nevertheless, their eligibility depends on a permanent residence permit. The problem is compounded when South African citizens, who do not understand what the law says about entitlement to social housing, see any social housing provision to migrants as either corruption or as taking housing away from deserving locals (Texeria, 2014). In Johannesburg's Alexandra Township, one of the recent xenophobic events occurred when some locals saw migrants occupying social housing and demanded that they vacate those houses, claiming corruption, only to find that it was legally acquired (Lekaba, 2014). Since undocumented migrants cannot access social housing, they are left with the option to reside in rental accommodation. Migrants face widespread xenophobia and discrimination by landlords and estate companies some of whom are unaware of who constitutes a legal migrant and whether it is legal to rent to refugees (Boal, 2018). Therefore, these constraints lead migrants to reside in informal housing, overcrowded and unhygienic conditions. Moreover, migrants some migrants usually pay bribes to access accommodation. All these issues experienced by migrants make the housing conditions of migrants to be inadequate and unstable.

Moreover, it can be challenging for migrants to find housing in their new country; most turn to their social networks and contacts for assistance (Greenburd and Polzer, 2008). Hlatshwayo and Wotela (2017) argue that the Zimbabwean foreign nationals found in Johannesburg had to rely on relatives for accommodation and access to employment when transiting. According to Orton (2021) connections with prior migrants might help potential migrants find resources, jobs, and accommodation. Older migrants assist prospective migrants in their search for a job, housing, and other resources through their social connections (Okyere, 2018). Makubang et al. (2020) suggested that if the government could help immigrants overcome some of the difficulties they encounter, their contribution and assimilation in South Africa might be improved.

2.9 Summary

This chapter covered the literature on the socio-economic strategies and adaptation of migrants. People migrate for different motives, migration causes involve push factors such as poverty, lack of job opportunities, warfare, and threats of conflicts, and pull factors such as job opportunities, income, wealth creation, and fewer political conflicts. Urban areas of Johannesburg, Durban, Pretoria, and Cape Town attract the largest number of migrants, there is a proportion of migrant labourers who still work on farms near the borders and in mining towns. Since the 1980s, there has been an increase of migrants from the other part of KwaZulu-Natal into the region, and Durban is regarded as one of the fastest-growing cities in the world. Regardless of xenophobic attacks, migrants start their businesses and sustain their livelihoods. For them to survive, migrants open spaza shops and work in hairdressing and barbering shops. Moreover, migrants are engaged in entrepreneurial activities such as trading through Spaza shops and street-side enterprises like artisanship, tailoring, hair salons, hair braiding, and the sale of beadwork. With their small businesses, migrants also contribute to South African economic growth. Nevertheless, the contribution of immigrants to the economy in general and the informal economy has not received favourable policy recognition. The government must interact with migrants by managing the informal employment and trade sectors in the city, proving, and managing accommodation, and provision of safety regulatory services in situations of xenophobic attacks

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This qualitative study explores the perspectives and experiences of migrants in Newcastle, KwaZulu-Natal. The qualitative method was effective to gain insights into the adaptation, survival, and experiences of migrants. This chapter is divided into four sections, the first section provides a brief overview and the background of the study area. The second section explores the research paradigms such as the qualitative research and thematic analysis adopted in this study. The third section summarises the data collection measures, in this section the researcher clarifies the chosen research instrument and sampling strategy. The final section focuses on the reflexivity and analytical frameworks such as data analysis procedure, ethical consideration matters, reliability, and the limitations of the study.

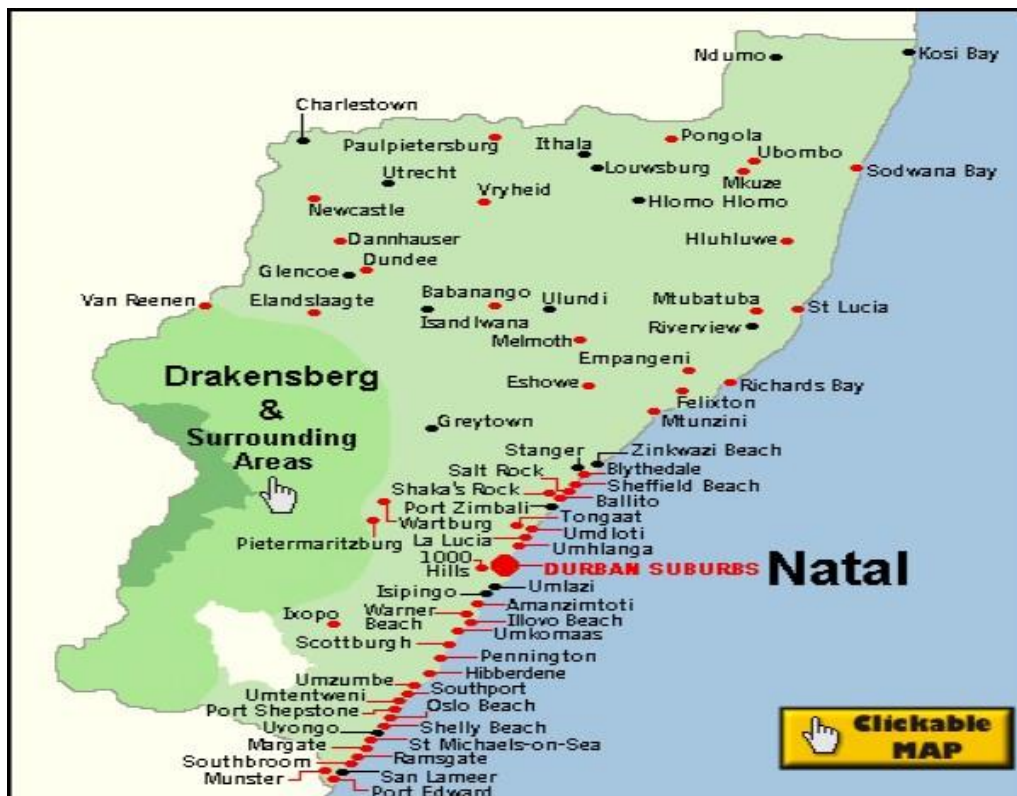
3.2 Study Area

The study area is in Newcastle, KwaZulu-Natal province. To avoid over-generalisation of data and maintain the study's scope, the research focuses on studying the case of the Amajuba district. KwaZulu-Natal has a land area of 94 361 square kilometres, according to the Census (Statistics South Africa, 2011). The population distribution in the province was 10 267 300. KwaZulu-Natal also has a diverse population, with 86,8% Black Africans, 14% Coloured, 7.4 Indians/Asians, and 4.2% Whites living there in 2011. When comparing the population between 2001 and 2011, it grew from 9, 6 million to 10, 3 million. In terms of education, over 30,4% of children over the age of 20 had completed matric, and approximately 40,8% had higher education credentials. Nearly half of young people in the labour force are unemployed (Statistics South Africa, 2011). This could relate indirectly to the fact that such youth do not have the necessary higher learning qualifications and skills to qualify for jobs in the formal sector. Although the results show a significant decrease between 2001 and 2011 in terms of the population who are unemployed, a third of the entire working-age population of KwaZulu-Natal is unemployed, which could be contributing to the poverty challenges faced in the province (Statistics South Africa, 2011).

Overall, KwaZulu-Natal's youth unemployment rate decreased from 58.4% in 2001 to 42.1% in 2011, according to Statistics South Africa. The unemployment rate in KwaZulu-Natal has

decreased from 49% in 2001 to 33% in 2011, indicating improvement. The employment rate for young people decreased positively from 70, 6% in 2001 to 45,6% in 2011, according to uMzinyathi. In both the UMkhanyakude and Zululand districts, the unemployment rate for the 2011 Census was above 50%. However, during Census 2011, Umzinyathi exhibited the largest improvement (a drop of over 25 percentage points moving from 62,5% in 2001 to 36, 6% in 2011). South Africa has 2 860 500 migrants, approximately 8% of these migrants settle in KwaZulu-Natal (MPI, 2021). Many migrants in KwaZulu-Natal prefer to locate in small towns and secondary cities (Masuku, 2020). The main driving force was towards areas of opportunity, especially in terms of social services like schools and hospitals in KwaZulu-Natal.

Figure 3.1 Map of KwaZulu-Natal



Source: Municipalities of South Africa (2021)

Figure 3.2: Map of the Amajuba district



Source: Municipalities of South Africa (2021)

This research was carried out in the Amajuba district municipality located in KwaZulu-Natal's north western portion. Newcastle is the primary location for the research. Amajuba District municipality shares a northern boundary with Mpumalanga province and a western border with Free State province. Newcastle is primarily urban (70.8%) with the municipalities of Newcastle, Madadeni, and Osizweni accounting for most of the urban population (Mlambo, 2018).

According to Statistics South Africa (2011) "the municipality has 84 272 households, with an average household size of 4.2 people per home. With a population of 363 236 people, Newcastle was placed 16th in terms of the population". From 2001 to 2011, the annual growth rate was 0.87%. At the turn of the century, the discovery of coal boosted the area's economic growth. ISCOR opted to build its third steelworks in Newcastle in 1969, and it

quickly became a major employer in the area. According to Statistics South Africa (2011) 37.4% of the 100 654 economically engaged people are women.

Newcastle presently has an estimated population of 491,102 people and a municipal area of 6,909 square kilometres, according to the KwaZulu-Natal Business Portfolio (2011). By road, rail, and an airport with asphalt runways, the region is connected to the country's commercial hub, Johannesburg, and the port cities of Richards Bay and Durban. Water is plentiful, and the region has a dependable workforce, well-developed facilities, world-class educational, medical, and community facilities, and internationally recognised tourism sites. All the country's main banks and financial institutions are in Newcastle's Central Business District.

Newcastle was established in the mid-nineteenth century as a British military garrison in colonial Natal (Todes, 1999). Between the 1960s and 1980s, non-white landowners and tenants were forcibly relocated, resulting in the formation of the nearby townships of Madadeni and Osizweni. The apartheid government provided subsidies to South African and foreign business people to build factories near townships in the early 1980s. Many Taiwanese industrial owners relocated to rural South Africa. By 1994, an estimated 1500 to 2000 Taiwanese immigrants had moved to Newcastle, opening over 60 factories that employed residents from the adjacent townships. Like many other cities throughout the world, Newcastle became a hub for the global Taiwanese diaspora. Knitwear was made by over 70% of Newcastle's industrialists (Todes, 1999).

3.3 Research Method

This research employed the qualitative research method. The qualitative research methodology is more expressive and seeks to explore deeper meanings and views from research participants. The qualitative method is more descriptive, and inferences can be drawn easily from the obtained data (Burns and Groove, 2014). Qualitative data have several advantages. It yields a wealth of valid data. Qualitative researchers may involve themselves in the research, which is impossible in quantitative research. Wilson (2000) argues that qualitative data investigates the real-life situation of people being studied and produces wide information. Respondents are allowed to reply to the interviewer's questions in their own words instead of being limited to specific responses, as is the case in quantitative research (Wilson, 2000).

According to Bouncken et al. (2021) qualitative samples are small and not necessarily representative of the broader population, so it is difficult to know how far we can generalise the results; the findings lack rigour; it is difficult to tell how far the researcher's own opinions bias the findings. Qualitative research is not statistically representative because qualitative research is a perspective-based research method; the responses given are not measured (Masuku et al., 2000). Qualitative data cannot be easily verified because it is open-ended, and participants have more control over the content of the data collected (Silverman, 2020). Qualitative research requires a labour-intensive analysis process such as categorisation and recoding (Ezzy, 2013).

This study used the qualitative research technique to better understand the perspectives and experiences of migrants in an urban township in KwaZulu-Natal, Newcastle. The purpose of this study was to explore the perspectives and experiences of migrants. The study further sought to examine the challenges facing migrants. Therefore, the qualitative technique was chosen, because it enables a researcher to acquire in-depth information about the adaptation, survival, challenges, experiences, and perspectives of migrants.

3.4 Data collection

This study benefited from primary sources of data extensively. The data was compiled through the execution of semi-structured interviews. According to McNamara (2005) interviews can also be used as a follow-up to select respondents (Macnamara, 2005). The interviews took place on Saturdays throughout the day when most people are expected to be at home. In the meantime, there is a global pandemic (Covid-19); thus, the researcher followed all the Covid-19 protocols by practising social distancing, wearing a mask, and sanitizing.

Statistical or geographical representations reveal less about migratory ambitions than stories or snippets from migrant narratives (Lewis, 2021). The interview guide and questions are carefully crafted to produce personal accounts of participants' life experiences and social relationships (Kallio et al., 2016). These semi-structured questions are less rigorous, allowing participants to build their own stories (Lewis, 2021). Participants can express themselves without being confined in semi-structured interviews, but the researcher can intervene with minimum response, probing, and encouragement. In this study, interviews were held with 20 migrants, both men, and women, living in Newcastle KwaZulu-Natal. The age of participants ranged from 20 to 40 years. Ten of the 20 participants were male, and the other 10 are female.

The semi-structured interview, valued for its accommodation of a range of research goals typically reflects variation in its use of questions, prompts, and accompanying tools and resources to draw participants more fully into the topic under study (Adeoye-Olatunde and Olenik, 2021). This research study allows participants to express their experiences, perceptions, and challenges that affect their livelihoods. According to Dearnley (2005) a semi-structured interview is designed to enable the participant to give detailed information in research. The semi-structured interview also helps the participants, to be honest, and open when engaging in the interview (Adeoye-Olatunde and Olenik, 2021). The interview consists of closed and open-ended questions to explore the perceptions and challenges of the migrants. The first section covered the demographic characteristics of the participants. The second included their reasons to migrate to South Africa, which are known as push and pull factors. The third section allowed participants to talk about their adaptation, assimilation, and challenges in South Africa and lastly allowed participants to recommend solutions to their challenges. During each interview, the researcher displayed an attentive, non-judgemental, and empathetic attitude.

The advantages of semi-structured interviews are that it allows the researcher to fully get the depth of information and allow the researcher to ask additional questions to follow up on any interesting or unexpected answers to the standard questions (Brown and Danaher, 2019). According to Harvey-Jordan and Long (2001) the semi-structured interview is intended to achieve clarification and understanding which is crucial because an understanding of the participant's response may be inaccurate. The greatest advantage of the semi-structured interview is it obtains information with a highly flexible framework, and it allows the interviewer to tailor the interview to the individual situation (Brown and Danaher, 2019).

Sampling is a process whereby a researcher selects a small part of the population that represents a large population, and the population must share the same characteristics (McEwan, 2020). The present study made use of the snowball sampling method to identify migrant respondents. Snowball sampling is a recruitment technique in which research participants are asked to assist researchers in identifying other potential subjects (Parker and Gedes, 2019). Snowball sampling deals with procedures in which the first respondents are chosen by probability method characteristics (McEwan, 2020). Additional respondents are then selected based on information supplied by the initial respondents. Snowball sampling commences with sampling units, which the researcher should choose carefully (Leighton et

al., 2021). When the researcher of the current study had obtained the necessary information from the first respondents, the researcher requested them to recommend other respondents (Parker and Gedes, 2019).

It must be noted that snowball sampling has the problem of bias (Leighton et al., 2021). Subjects tend to recommend people with whom they are acquainted and with whom they share characteristics and traits. To acquire a representative and valid sample, the researcher selected reliable cross-sectional estimations from the prevailing foreign migrant. The researcher selected respondents from different African countries to be able to determine the reliability of their responses (Parker and Gedes, 2019). Snowball sampling is more appropriate for studies of smaller dimensions.

3.5 Data Analysis

The search for primary data forms a key component of qualitative research. Examples of primary data sources include but are not limited to interview transcripts, notes taken during the interviews, and other non-textual resources that researchers gather to understand the social phenomena better. The essential technique in analysing the data is coding, which was used in this case. In methodology, coding involves categorizing data (Sgier, 2012). Coding is splitting raw data or information into smaller chunks and then categorizing them. In simple terms, codes are labels or tags that are used to assign discovered themes or subjects from the study's data. Traditionally, coding was done by hand, with coloured pens used to categorise data and then cut and sort the data. Electronic techniques for coding data are becoming more popular among qualitative researchers as software technology advances (Williamson et al., 2013).

This study uses thematic analysis, which is frequently used in qualitative research and is a technique for locating, analysing, organizing, characterizing, and reporting themes found in a data collection, is employed in this study (Nowell et al., 2017) The benefit of this analysis is that it offers a very adaptable methodology that can be altered to suit the requirements of numerous research, offering a rich and complete explanation of the data. Additionally, it helps compare and contrast the perspectives of various research participants and reveals unexpected findings. Thematic analysis helps summarise important aspects of data collection since it encourages researchers to handle data in a systematic manner (Braun and Clarke,

2019). Additionally, a researcher needs to maintain track of all the key phases of developing and arranging themes. Data from the interview must first be recorded, and a researcher must use a high-quality recorder so that data transcription is simple. The researcher begins with a set of data, such as an interview that has been completely transcribed. In open coding, codes are discovered while the researcher examines the material, and once the transcription is complete, codes are given to various meaning-containing sections or units (Castleberry and Nolen, 2018).

3.6 Validity, Reliability, and Rigour

Validity and reliability are critical components of any study. Paying close attention to these two characteristics can mean the difference between good and bad research and ensuring that other scientists accept findings as legitimate and trustworthy. This is especially important in qualitative research since the researcher's subjectivity can easily cloud data interpretation, and study conclusions are frequently questioned or viewed with scepticism by the scientific community.

A researcher must ensure that the answers to the research questions are of high quality when conducting qualitative research. Validity is dependent on sound research methodology, which includes questioning, constant verification, and interpretation of the results. Furthermore, the reliability, dependability, credibility, and confirmability of a researcher are all factors that affect validity. High-quality results were ensured using these validity tools (Daniel, 2019). To examine trustworthiness in this study, various theories and semi-structured interviews were used. The degree to which study findings can be duplicated is referred to as reliability. A reliable research strategy assumes that there is only one reality and that investigating it again will produce the same outcomes. By watching the participants' daily activities, the reliability of the data collection was examined in this study. Fan et al. (2022) state that a researcher has satisfied a condition impacting reliability if they carefully selected their site (sample) to match other like sites. Despite this, Daniel (2019) contends that generalization is problematic if the researcher made bad choices, which would affect reliability. The researcher made sure that by choosing participants who met the inclusion criteria, the degree of accurate data was guaranteed. The ability to generalize the data from the research study was impacted by the amount of time spent in the field as well. A researcher's ability to collect high-quality data

from participants depends on their ability to connect with them and make them feel comfortable during interviews.

3.7 Limitations of the study

It was challenging to recruit immigrants since some of them were unavailable and others lacked trust, there was one participant who did not trust the researcher about information he wanted to disclose. Because this study took place in Newcastle, it may not reflect the experiences of other migrants throughout the country. Because the respondents also come from Newcastle, the findings may not apply to other places. It was difficult to set up interviews with the respondents. Due to the migrants' high mobility, interviews were rescheduled numerous times. They also work lengthy shifts, including weekends. The interviews were arranged by appointment since the participant did not want the interview to interfere with the regular operation of their business, and the researcher had to be accommodating with the interview time. However, some of the interviews took place while the participants were at work, and these conversations were cut short. In addition, other participants had an assumption that since the researcher is interviewing them, they might get assistance from the government with their businesses.

The language barrier was yet another limitation. One of the participants was a non-native English speaker. He was able to understand the questions, but he needed his local friends to translate his responses. The participant may have been unable to properly describe his experiences as a migrant. One migrant chose to discontinue the research in the middle of the interview because he did not want to be recorded.

3.8 Ethical considerations

Ethical approval for the study protocol was obtained from the Humanities and Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee (HSSREC). In all research studies, the protection of human participants through suitable ethical norms is critical. Because of the in-depth nature of the study process, ethical questions have a special resonance in qualitative research. Existing ethical principles for conducting qualitative research sometimes focus on generic norms

rather than how to apply them in practice, especially when interviewing vulnerable groups of migrants

(Munhall, 1988). Given that qualitative research is inherently intrusive, ethical considerations are crucial (Neuman, 1994). Neuman (1994) asserts that the qualitative researcher must take care to avoid making participants feel uncomfortable or anxious. The researcher promised the respondents that the information obtained from the interviews would be handled as confidential when he set up the appointments for the in-depth interviews.

Consent must be freely granted (voluntary) individuals must comprehend what is being requested, and all parties involved must be competent to consent. This means that to participate in a research study; participants must be fully informed about the research, understand the material, and can choose whether to participate. All participants had to sign a written informed consent form. Individually, potential participants were approached and explained the study's purpose and data collection process. They were given ample opportunity to ask questions and voice any concerns (Chervenak and McCullough, 2021).

According to Creswell (1999) the researcher should respect those who are vulnerable and should not put them in danger. The researcher had to make it clear that the respondents' real names would not be utilized in the study; instead, pseudonyms would be. To safeguard the responders' identities, this arrangement was established. By not revealing the participants' names and identities during data collection, analysis, and publishing of the study findings, the participants' anonymity and confidentiality were kept. During the interview session, data processing, and dissemination of the findings, the privacy and confidentiality of the interview setting must be properly controlled (Chervenak and McCullough, 2021). Researchers must be completely aware of the barriers in their research and devise a plan to overcome them, as this may affect the research's timeliness. From the beginning of this project, the researcher was aware that migrants in various cultures may want permission from their partners to participate. As a result, the researcher gave eligible participants enough time to talk with their partners about their decision to join.

The researcher assured the respondents that the information collected through the interviews would be treated as confidential. None of the respondents was coerced into taking part in the research. The researcher advised the respondents that taking part in the study was voluntary. The researcher also stipulated that no rewards could be expected as a result of their participation. In other words, no false pretences were used to encourage them to participate.

3.9 Summary

This qualitative study explores the perception and experiences of migrants, using Newcastle as a case study. Newcastle is in the Amajuba District of KwaZulu-Natal's northwest province. The study uses snowball sampling. Data were collected from 20 participants, and semistructured interviews were conducted to obtain an in-depth understanding of the study. The data was analysed using thematic analysis, which is widely used in qualitative research, and it is a method for identifying, analysing, organising, describing, and reporting themes found within the data set. Because this study took place in Newcastle, it may not reflect the experiences of other migrants throughout the country. Because the respondents also came from Newcastle, the findings may not apply to other places. In all research studies, the protection of human participants through suitable ethical norms is critical. Because of the in-depth nature of the study process, ethical questions have a special resonance in qualitative research. The language barrier was yet another limitation. One of the participants was a non-native English speaker. Consent was freely granted (voluntary) and the researcher had to make it clear that the respondents' real names would not be utilized in the study; instead, pseudonyms were used.

CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

This study aimed to explore the perspectives and experiences of migrants in Newcastle, South Africa. The overall objective was to explore the perspectives and experiences of migrants in Newcastle. This chapter presents the findings of the study, the data was collected using indepth interviews. First, the demographic characteristics of the study are presented. The chapter outlines the motives that resulted in migrants starting their businesses as well as the reasons that led them to relocate to South Africa. This chapter also addresses how migrants survive in South Africa, discussing the livelihood strategies of migrants. Lastly, this chapter analyses the income and remittances of migrants, and further states the recommendations by migrant participants.

4.2 Sample characteristics

Interviews were held with 20 migrants, both men and women, living in Newcastle KwaZulu-Natal. The age of participants ranged from 20 to 40 years. Ten of the 20 participants were male and the other 10 were female. Eleven participants were in a relationship, seven of them living with their partners and four not living with their partners. Nine of the 20 participants were single. Seventeen of the 20 participants had a secondary level of education, two participants had tertiary and one had a primary level of education. In total there were 20 interviews, all participants were migrants from various African countries such as Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Congo, Mozambique, Lesotho, and Nigeria. Most were from neighbouring countries but mainly from Zimbabwe. Out of all participants, 11 participants had children, and the average number of children migrants varied from one to four. These details are displayed in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1: Study sample characteristics

Participant	Age	Country	Gender	Relationship Status	Number Of Children	Duration In South Africa	Level Of Education
1	26	Ethiopia	Male	In a relationship	0	years	Secondary
2	29	Zimbabwe	Male	In a relationship	1	Years	Primary
3	32	Zimbabwe	Male	In a relationship	0	years	Secondary
4	27	Congo	Male	Single	0	years	Tertiary
5	35	Zimbabwe	Male	In a relationship	3	years	Secondary
6	20	Zimbabwe	Female	In a relationship	1	1	Secondary
7	30	Zimbabwe	Female	In a relationship	4	years	Secondary
8	25	Zimbabwe	Female	Single	0	year	Secondary
9	27	Zimbabwe	Male	In a relationship	1	years	Secondary
10	32	Zimbabwe	Female	In a relationship	2	years	Secondary
11	33	Zimbabwe	Female	In a relationship	1	years	Secondary
12	33	Zimbabwe	Male	In a relationship	1	years	Secondary
13	28	Mozambique	Male	Single	1	years	Secondary
14	24	Lesotho	Female	Single	0	year	Tertiary
15	23	Mozambique	Female	Single	0	years	Secondary
16	25	Zimbabwe	Female	In a relationship	2	years	Secondary
17	28	Nigeria	Female	Single	0	years	Secondary
18	29	Nigeria	Female	Single	2	years	Secondary

4.3 Reasons for migration

4.3.1 Escaping political turmoil and war

Most participants from Ethiopia came to South Africa because there were political conflicts in their country, they did not like the way the Ethiopian government was treating them. Other migrants highlighted that they are more likely to move away from their countries to escape the war.

"I have been to South Africa for three years now, there were so many issues in Ethiopia, there were community conflicts, and I did not like the way the Ethiopian government was treating us. If you were a male after matric it was compulsory to become a soldier, I did not want to be a soldier, I came to South Africa to look for a job, peace, and no wars. I came to South Africa because I was saving my life from war, poverty, and unemployment. I chose South Africa because it is a democratic country and there is diversity, and it is peaceful" (Participant 1, Male).

Some migrants leave their home country due to political instability as well as social unrest, their government propensity is collapsing due to conflicts and threatening competition between different political parties. Many African countries still experience wars and conflict as a result the citizens are pushed to leave their countries to seek stability and peace. Corruption is another problem with migrants from Zimbabwe disclosing that sometimes they had to pay bribes to access healthcare and education facilities. Some of the participants from Zimbabwe said that they left Zimbabwe because of the unacceptable political behaviour of the leading political party (ZANU PF) they believe that the political party is using dictatorship. The participants disclosed that former president Robert Mugabe was an obsessed autocrat willing to unleash death squads, rig elections and trash the economy for the relentless pursuit of control. They leave their home country to seek peace in their host countries, they find it difficult to live in unstable conditions. Participants from Zimbabwe said that they left because they did not feel safe living country where there are civil wars, coups, and political assassinations. Most participants feel that however South Africa also has political issues, but the situation is better here than in their own country of origin.

"I came here in 2005, after the elections in Zimbabwe. That time was tough, I was in an opposition party (MDC) and the ruling party was ZANU PF, so ZANU PF was using dictatorship, the elections came, and we won (MDC) but President Robert Mugabe requested the elections start afresh because he did not want to accept defeat. Therefore, the elections started afresh, and ZANU PF won this time, so after the election, ZANU PF members started a war with MDC members, it was a war and there were casualties, that when I decided to run and came to South Africa, I was saving my life. In 2016, they killed my brother, I went back home to prepare for his funeral. Before coming to Newcastle, I used to stay in Limpopo, I came here looking for work, I chose South Africa because there are so many opportunities, and I can move freely knowing that no one will kill me" (Participant 3, Male).

One participant from Congo disclosed that he came to South Africa because the government in Congo had dealt with the American government which affected their livelihoods. He also mentioned that the government policies were controlled by the American government in their country, therefore, he came to South Africa seeking peace.

"I left Congo because of the of the political system that they are using, the government does not priorities their people, they make deals with America that sacrifice the lives of the Congolese, the economy is controlled by the Americans, even most of the soldiers are either from America or trained by America" (Participant 19, 32 years).

Some migrants claim that wars are the primary motivator behind their decision to leave their home country. According to migrants, they had no peace in their home country and were looking for it in their new one. Although it is challenging for migrants to live in such unreliable circumstances, this does not imply that South Africa is free from these issues. Nevertheless, migrants believe that the situation in South Africa is still better than in their country of origin.

"My country has a lot of wars, so that's why I chose to come to South Africa. Coming here is cheaper than travelling to other nations." (Participant 20, 33 years).

"Life is incredibly difficult, and the government is highly corrupt; they do not care about how we live since they are happy being in positions of power." (Participant 4, 27 years).

4.3.2 Poverty

As a result of high unemployment, poverty was one of the main reasons most participants revealed for moving away from their home countries. They left their countries because of high levels of poverty, and they came to South Africa looking for business and employment opportunities.

*“I left Ethiopia because of poverty, I came to South Africa looking for employment”
(Participant 1, 26 years).*

“I came to South Africa looking for good business opportunities, life is not difficult in Zimbabwe, it is just that there is poverty and Inflation, and food prices change now and then” (Participant 5, 35 years).

Most participants from Zimbabwe disclosed that life is hard in Zimbabwe, there is poverty, inflation, and dramatic change in food prices, The South African rand is stronger than their currency, so even if they are aware of the inflation there, they will bring more money home. Most participants revealed that in Zimbabwe, the currency is weak, there are no jobs, and money changes every day. One woman stated that in Zimbabwe they pay for almost all basic services, including health care, unlike here where they go to the nearest hospital and get medication for free.

“I came to South Africa because life was hard in Zimbabwe, there is poverty and inflation. In Zimbabwe there is a dramatic change in food price” (Participant 5, 35 years).

"I came here in 2015. Life was not easy in Zimbabwe, the currency is weak, there are no jobs, and money changes every day. In Zimbabwe you pay almost for everything, including health facilities, unlike here where you go to a hospital and get medication without paying any fees" (Participant 10, Female).

Other migrants admitted that they fled their home countries to escape hunger; they also said that they were aware that South Africa suffers from similar problems, but the overall things are much better than they were back home. Another immigrant said that because nobody worked at home, he had to come to South Africa in search of employment to support his family.

They remarked:

“I left Ethiopia because of poverty, I came to South Africa looking for employment” (Participant 1, 26 years).

“The reason for migrating from Zimbabwe to South Africa, was poverty, in Zimbabwe, there are no opportunities than in South Africa” (Participant 7, Female).

“There is no one working at home, I left my mother and child, so I had to make money for them to survive, then I came to South Africa looking for a job” (Participant 13, Male).

4.3.3 Better opportunities

Concerning the perception of business opportunities in South Africa, most participants left their home country as the reason for pursuing business opportunities. Out of 20 participants, seven participants who were interviewed disclosed that they moved to South Africa for job and business opportunities. Most participants mentioned that life is difficult in their home countries because there are few economic opportunities. They also mentioned that there is always a dramatic change in food prices in some of their countries. They stated that they are also aware of South Africa's high unemployment rate, but they are willing to take on tasks that South Africans do not desire, such as household work, selling goods, building, and operating spaza businesses. However, a few also mentioned that their home countries have similar skills which makes it difficult for them to operate in their countries.

“Life was good in Zimbabwe, their problem was money, unemployment, and poverty. I have three years in South Africa. I came to South Africa looking for business opportunities, the job (Welding) that I do has no Demand in Zimbabwe than in South Africa” (Participant 2, Male).

“I came to South Africa looking for good business opportunities, life is not difficult in Zimbabwe, it is just that there is poverty and Inflation, and food prices change now and then” (Participant 5, 35 years).

“I came to South Africa to do business as I am good at doing make-up and I am a hairstylist. I have been in South Africa for 5 years. I chose to come to South Africa out of all the countries because it was great in supporting the local businesses” (Participant 18, 29 years).

Other participants remarked that there is a lack of educational facilities in their countries, therefore South Africa is of the best countries that provide quality education in Africa, South Africa, which has one of the best colleges and universities in Africa, also offers financial aid to international students. They believe that the education in South Africa can provide them with skills they were not going to get in their countries. Migrants also mentioned that they moved to South Africa searching for better economic opportunities, their home countries are lacking job opportunities coupled with declining economic and social conditions.

“I moved to South Africa because I wanted better job opportunities, and good education” (Participant 15, 23 Years).

“Life in Lesotho, I would say it was normal but having South African exposure kind of opened my eyes to see that, it may have been normal but having a broader picture of big cities and education facilities in South Africa” (Participant 14, 24).

“Life was hard in Nigeria, I could not afford to survive financially, so I heard that there are opportunities in South Africa, I came here for better opportunities” (Participant 17, 28 years).

4.3.4 Proximity to South Africa

Most of the participants from neighbouring countries said that it was easier to come to South Africa because it is closer to their home countries, and they had easy access to it. They also mentioned that it takes a few hours to access the border gate, the participant also mention that South African soldiers are kind and hardworking at the border gate. One female participant

explained that she moved to South Africa because it is a neighbouring country with easy access.

The majority of migrants said they needed simple access to South Africa since it was more economical for them to get there, and it was simple to erect border fences.

"South Africa is closer to Zimbabwe, it has easy access, it only takes a few hours to access the border, and they are no difficulties at the border gate. The soldiers are kind and doing their jobs well" (Participant 5, 35 years).

"I chose to come to SA because it is closer, and it is the only country that I have got easy access to" (Participant 16, Female).

4.4 Adaptation to the home country

4.4.1 Relationship between migrants and the locals

Most participants get a chance to socialize with the locals when they are running their businesses, they socialize with them because they are their customers, and they find them welcoming. Most participants remarked that they socialize with their local customers and have a good relationship with them. Most participants also revealed that they have a good relationship with the locals, and they also work with them to run their businesses. Most migrants said they provide products that are in demand to their customers, and this makes them feel welcome.

"I do socialize with the locals, especially my customers, our relationship is good so far" (Participant 1, 26 years).

"The local people are welcoming and good so far, I know almost everyone in this area, I am good to them, they are good to me, they treat me as one of their own, I also work with them" (Participant 3, 32 years).

Other migrants mentioned that they have a close relationship with their customers and that this is because she sells products virtually every day, allowing her to talk to them. They stated:

"Most local people are good to me, I have a good relationship with them, especially with my customers" (Participant 10, 32 years).

“I interact with the local people, they also help me to run my business by suggesting customers who will buy my products, our relationship is good” (Participant 12, 33 years).

Most migrants stated that they get along well with the locals and that they have learned their language to converse with them. Other immigrants admitted that South Africa is a rainbow nation where they can engage with one another and that they are enjoying their lives there.

They remarked:

“I have a good relationship with locals, I know almost everyone in this township, I can speak their language properly, Zulu is more like Shona which we speak in Zimbabwe” (Participant 5, 35 years).

“I can communicate with the locals; I can also understand their language” (Participant 9, 27 years).

“I think life is good here and I can communicate with the local people as I’ve learned isiZulu” (Participant 18, 29 years).

Nevertheless, other participants remarked that their relationship with the locals is not that good, they interact with them, but not that much, and they feel like they are not one of the locals, since they are not from South Africa. Some migrants prefer their own space without interacting with the local people. Other migrants said they try their best to build a relationship with the locals the problem is their culture and language, they try to communicate with their customers in English since he does not understand their language.

“My relationship with South Africans is not that good, I do interact with them but not that much since I feel like I am not one of them, I prefer my own space sometimes” (Participant 8, 28 years).

“I try to have a good relationship with the locals, especially my customers, but sometimes I do not understand their culture, I am trying to learn their language, and so far, I am using English to try and communicate with them” (Participant 4, 27 years).

“I socialize with the locals, they are those who are good when interacting with them, sometimes we even buy alcohol and drink together, but those who are doing the same

business that I am doing, they hate me since they think I am here to take their jobs, of which is not true, I am here trying to survive” (Participant 13, 28 years).

4.4.2 Livelihood strategies

During the interviews, participants were asked about their employment status and their main source of income. Migrants generate new strategies of development; they get involved in different trading activities. Most participants are involved in a range of economic activities. Many are involved in selling goods in their shops, others are bricklayers, and welders, and a few sell their products door-to-door. Women are involved in activities such as the sale of food, and cosmetic services such as hairstyling and makeup artists. They are also employed as domestic workers. Men are involved in construction and welding activities.

4.4.2.1 Shopkeeping

Most of the participants said they do not have a permanent job, but they operate in spaza shops. They said they are only working there to survive. Three of the participants said they do not have formal employment; they are just working as shopkeepers.

*“I do not have a permanent job, but as you see I am working here selling in this **spaza** shop. I am only working here to survive” (Participant 1, Male).*

“I am unemployed, as you see that I am a shopkeeper” (Participant 4, Male).

"I run a tuck shop, yes, I can survive, with the money that I make I support my family. I encounter safety and security challenges, they once stole my stuff the other day, there is nothing I can do to solve this since I do not have money to hire security, I just must deal with it when if it happens again" (Participant 17, 28 years).

4.4.2.2 Door-to-door selling

Other migrants choose to sell door-to-door human-made products, such as brooms, dust pans, and metal washing basins. Two of the participants remarked that they buy products and sell them door to door. Nevertheless, participants stated that door-to-door marketing is

challenging because some locals refuse to pay their debts on time or do not pay them at all after purchasing from them on credit.

“I buy things and sell them door to door in this area. I support my mother, my grandmother, and my children. Some people do not pay us after taking our stock on credit, they take advantage because we are foreigners” Participant 7, 32 years).

“I am unemployed, I buy and sell brooms door to door” (Participant 10, 32 years).

4.4.2.3 Bricklayers

Other participants said they are building houses for a living, nevertheless, some of them mentioned that they encounter some challenges, and some of the customers do not pay their debts timeously. Two participants said they are brick layers; they build houses for a living.

“I build houses for a living. The challenge is that people request me to build their houses, and they do not pay on time, now I must wait for the money that I have worked for, but I am now used to it, there is nothing I can do without being patient. I cannot control that, if they do not pay, I leave that job and carry on with other paying customers” (Participant 3, 32 years).

"I am self-employed, I came here looking for a job, I was a bricklayer, but my permit expired, so I am still waiting for the permit to be approved so that I can look for a formal job again, I earn income by welding, selling metal washing basins. Sometimes customers do not pay, they always postpone the paydays. I end up leaving them and getting other paying customers. The challenge is that other people are in the welding industry think we are here to take their jobs, there is a tense competition" (Participant 13, 28 years).

4.4.2.4 Welding as a livelihood strategy

Some participants stated that they are self-employed, that they engage in welding activities, and that they sell basins; however, they occasionally sell on credit, and individuals do not pay on time. They manufacture and install burglar guards. They make and sell metal washing basins, as well as collect old metals and sell them to scrap yards for cash.

“I am self-employed. I am welding and selling basins, sometimes I sell at a credit and people do not pay on record time” (Participant 2, 29 years).

“I am a mechanic and welder, when the car business is down, I make, sell, and install burglar guards for people. Sometimes I buy cars here in South Africa and sell them to Zimbabwe with profit” (Participant 5, 35 years).

“I am self-employed, I do almost anything to get money, but my main activity is to sell metal washing basins, I also collect old metals, the ones that they do not use, and sell them to the nearest scrapyards to get money” (Participant 9, 27 years).

4.4.2.5 Hairdressers

Other participants are working at the salons as make-up artists and hairdressers. Some migrants work as hairdressers and makeup artists in different salons. They make money by giving customers haircuts, styling hair, and other beauty treatments. One participant highlighted that she could provide for her two children, feed them, and cover their educational costs by only working as a hairdresser. One of the difficulties they experience is that they may only have a few clients each day.

“I am a makeup artist and a hairdresser, I work at a salon and earn income by doing people’s makeup and haircuts and hairstyles, so I can survive. I can support my children, buy them food, and pay their school fees. The challenges I face is that sometimes I got few clients a day and be not able to make enough money” (Participant 14, 24 years).

“I earn income by doing people a makeup and their hair, so I can survive. I can support my 2 children, buy them food, and pay their school fees” (Participant 18, 29 years).

4.4.2.6 Domestic workers

Some migrants that possess a South African ID or work permit, work as a domestic helper in the nearest suburbs of Newcastle. They revealed that they commute to the suburbs of Newcastle by taxi from the Osizweni community. Although they are perceived as a competitor by other local women who work as domestics.

“I have a South African work permit, I live in Osizweni, but I am employed as a domestic worker in Arbor Park. Although other local women who are also domestic workers feel as if I am competing with them in this profession.” (Participant 16, 24 years).

4.5 Access to accommodation

Most participants obtain accommodation through friends, family, and families who have already visited South Africa. Furthermore, while most participants are excited to settle in their new country, many are apprehensive about their safety after witnessing and experiencing crime. Other participants were able to find accommodation through their co-workers and extended family. Most participants are satisfied with their chosen locations, while some are concerned about their safety.

“My boss offered me a place to stay for free because I do not have money to afford a place to rent. Therefore, I sleep here in the shop. I got information from one of my friends that there is a person who needs someone to look for his shop in Newcastle so that is how I came here. I am happy with this place, it is a safe place compared to Ethiopia, I feel safe here” (Participant 1, 26 years).

“IsiZulu says “Umuntu ungumuntu ngabantu”, which means a person is a person by people, so I knew people who were living this side, and I stayed with them until I found my place to stay. I am happy with this place; I also feel safe.” (Participant 3, 32 years).

Some participants stayed with friends of their parents until they were able to find their accommodation. Some participants said they had friends here in South Africa whom they also met through their families.

"I found accommodation through my extended family, but I found my place now, I visit them during the weekends, I happen y with this place, but sometimes it is not safe." (Participant 17, 28 years).

"I stayed at my friend's place; I ended up getting my own place to stay. This place is fine; I do not have any problem with it. I feel safe so far" (Participant 2, 29 Years).

Although many women migrants are satisfied with their accommodations, they remarked that they do not feel secure due to South Africa's high crime rate and the fact that being a woman is so dangerous these days. South Africa is a violent country and has an unprecedented level of crime.

"I got a place to stay here in South Africa by that my parents have friends here in South Africa that they also got through my uncles as they were staying here and that is how I ended up here, so I was staying with my parent's friends until I was able to find my accommodation. I am happy with where I am staying however, I am not feeling safe because of the high crime rate in South Africa, and being a woman is so risky these days so anything can happen" (Participant 15, 23 years).

Other migrants who were working as shopkeepers in one of the shipping containers shops, said they also used this container as their place to sleep. Some migrants mentioned that they got their accommodation through their jobs. One participant disclosed that he was hired as a shopkeeper, and he is currently sleeping in one of the backrooms. He also mentioned that he received a call from his buddy notifying him of this location and position, so he went there, and he got both the job and accommodation.

"I got a job as a shopkeeper; I am sleeping in one of the backrooms here. I got a call from a friend informing me about this place and work, so I went there and got the place as well as the job" (Participant 4, 27 years).

Migrants from Osizweni Township highlighted that they got accommodation through scouting. They discovered landlords in Osizweni, they said the landlords allow them to pay R300 per month, without a deposit. Migrants from Osizweni also disclose that there is no

stress with their accommodations, they feel safe especially when they are inside, but they said sometimes it is not safe to go outside, especially at night.

“I found this landlord here in Osizweni, she allowed me to pay R300 per month, there is no stress in this place, I feel safe especially when I am indoors, I don’t feel safe outside, especially when I am going to collect money from my customers, the thieves know our collection date, so they once followed me and mugged me all the money that I collected” (Participant 10, 32 years).

“I scouted and found a lenient landlord in Osizweni township, he allowed me to stay without paying the deposit, so you see it is one room can cook and sleep here. I am happy with this place because there is no place, I see than this one, I have a good landlord, he is so accommodating the landlord always solves all the maintenance issues that I have, like water and electricity problems. Other landlords do not like migrants. But I would not say I am safe because there are thugs here who stole my stuff and sold them to the scrapyards, so I would not say it is hundred percent safe” (Participant 13, 28 years).

4.6 Challenges

4.6.1 Language barrier

One of the most significant obstacles that migrants face is the language barrier with their customers. Some of the participants mentioned that they are still learning the native language, isiZulu and that their clients, particularly the elderly, do not speak English. Some consumers believe that most locals believe that they can understand isiZulu because they are black, but this is not true. Because talking is the only way to communicate, it can be challenging for the two parties who do not understand each other, and it can also be a business constraint. Most participants learn the local language as they adapt to their host environment.

“I can understand isiZulu, but I cannot speak properly, sometimes it is difficult to hear what someone is saying in isiZulu” (Participant 1, 26 Years).

“Sometimes I do not understand isiZulu, there is a misunderstanding between me and my customers, sometimes they buy on credits, and tell me to come back when they have money, I end up mixing dates because I do not understand when they say it in

Zulu. Sometimes I must try to explain my prices and my collection dates in English, some of them understand English” (Participant 10, Female).

“Sometimes language is a challenge, but I can understand and speak isiZulu” (Participant 7, 32 years).

Most participants from Zimbabwe said they can understand and speak isiZulu since it is more like Shona and Ndebele which they speak in Zimbabwe. Sometimes migrants do not understand

English as well and they are unable to communicate with their customers in English as well.

Most migrants from Zimbabwe said that the local language is not an issue for them, because where they are from, they speak "isishangane," which is quite like isiZulu. Other migrants remarked that they speak isiNdebele back in Zimbabwe, therefore they can understand IsiZulu.

They can easily communicate with the locals because they have a common language.

“I can speak their language properly; Zulu is more like Shona which we speak in Zimbabwe” (Participant 5, 35 years).

“The language is not a problem because where I come from, we speak “isishangane” and there is no way much difference between it and isiZulu” (Participant 15, 23 years).

“I understand IsiZulu since we speak IsiNdebele back in Zimbabwe. It is easy to communicate with the locals because we both understand each other” (Participant 3, 32 years).

Some migrants argued that they experienced some difficulties in understanding the local language. Migrants that are involved in selling activities said they sometimes do not understand isiZulu, which causes misunderstandings with their clients. They disclosed that sometimes customers buy on credit and tell them to come back when they have money. As a result, they end up mixing up dates because they cannot comprehend what they are saying in Zulu. Some of them understand English, so they occasionally try to explain their prices and collection dates in English.

“I cannot properly speak isiZulu like I only understand a few words, but I do want to learn it” (Participant 8, 29 years).

When selling to locals, some migrants claim they have linguistic barriers to overcome. They also allege that locals are unfriendly and will not speak English with them. Other migrants report that while learning Zulu initially was challenging, they are now proficient speakers and understand the language. Participants said that when he first arrived in South Africa, he was unable to grasp a single word of Zulu, but that his skills have developed, and he is now able to speak and understand the language.

“The first time when I came here, Zulu was difficult to speak, but now I can speak and understand their language” (Participant 13, 24 years).

“When I came here, it was difficult to communicate with the local people, because I did not understand a single word that they were saying, but now I have improved, I can speak there and understand their language, I could say I have a good relationship with them” (Participant 20, 33 years).

Some migrants have also complained that the locals are obstinate, unwilling to make accommodations for migrants, unwilling to make concessions if they cannot understand Zulu, and they were finding it difficult to communicate in English. One of the difficulties, according to migrants, was talking with the locals because they did not comprehend their language. They asserted that if one does not speak the local language correctly, one is referred to as "amakwerekwere".

“When it comes to language dynamic females are very stubborn, they do not want to accommodate other people. For, example if you are not able to speak Zulu then they do not compromise those people, therefore it is difficult for them, but for, me I did not experience such because we get along” (Participant 14, 24 years).

“One of the challenges is communication as at first, I had to learn proper Zulu and English and being in a workplace were hard because I get called ikwerekwere” (Participant 16, 25 years).

Other migrants had trouble understanding the language at first, but now they have improved, they still must learn to speak the language fluently. They explained that when they first came to South Africa, it was challenging to interact with the locals since they could not understand a word they were saying, but now they have improved, and they can speak and comprehend their language. They remarked:

“At first, I didn’t understand the language, but now I can understand, but I barely speak the language, but I will master the language as time goes on” (Participant 17, 27 years).

“When I came here, it was difficult to communicate with the local people, because I didn’t understand a single word that they were saying, but now I have improved, I can speak there and understand their language, I could say I have a good relationship with them” (Participant 20, 33 years).

4.6.2 Crime

Participants have varying levels of criminal experience; some have been victims of crime, while others have never been victims of crime. Participants also reported that they have never received assistance from the police. Some participants have experienced crime, and some have experienced and witnessed crime, but they never reported it to the police. Most migrants disclosed that they do not report the crime, they feel as if they do not deserve police assistance since they are not from South Africa. Some migrants report the crime to the police, but the police take their time to respond. Other participants claimed to have encountered criminality; thankfully, they were not home during a break-in that resulted in the theft of their television and a few of the washbasins.

“No, I have never experienced crime in South Africa, but they once mugged my girlfriend. I never reported to the police.” (Participant 1, 26 years).

"Yes, I once experienced crime, it was housebreaking, they stole my television, and took some of the washing basins, but luckily, and I was not around. Some thieves also stole my washing basins when I am not around, I ended up installing burglar guards, they cannot go to the door easily" (Participant 9, Male).

"Yes, I got mugged like three times as I was coming my way back to work. The police could not help me because when I opened the case like they kept on saying they are still investigating until the case was dismissed without getting any help" (Participant 15, 23 years).

The majority of migrants claimed that young males had stolen their belongings. The migrants are forced to use their funds to compensate for the stolen products. Other immigrants argued that despite being the victims of a few robberies where one of the stocks was taken, no crimes were perpetrated in their neighbourhood. The migrant said that they do not get much assistance from the police and that they frequently show up late to crime scenes. Despite the police's repeated assurances that they will investigate crimes, they have not heard from them since. Migrants have little faith in the police or any other South African institution, believing that the legal system will always favour locals.

“They stole my brooms one day, and I had to use money from my saving to buy new stock. Nope, I did not report to the police, I feel like I do not deserve their assistant since I am not from here.” (Participant 7, 30 years).

“I once experienced crime, there are boys who steal metals, they came here and stole my washing basins and my welding machine, and I had to buy a new one. Even my friend Billy experienced the same, he went out and when he came back, some of his stuff was stolen” (Participant 13, 28 years).

“There is no crime here, but I have experienced a few robberies, where they stole my metals and basins. The police took their time to arrival in the crime scene, but it was too late, the robberies were gone, they said they will investigate, but up until now I have heard anything from them” (Participant 2, 29 years).

Most migrants believed the police were not doing enough to safeguard them from criminal activity, many migrant small business firms were anxious and concerned about their safety and security. Additionally, they believed that police officers were dismissing their worries. However, several immigrant small businesses had the opposite impression, believing that the surroundings were secure. They said they thought South Africans have Ubuntu humour, which means that they are hospitable and kind.

“I have never been robbed, attacked, or threatened in any way. So many South Africans I have encountered have been friendly and inviting, and they have helped me resolve a number several issues” (Participant 19, 32 years).

4.6.3 Xenophobia

The participants were also questioned if they had ever experienced xenophobia; it is worth noting that most of them had not. Most of the participants had never experienced xenophobia, although they had seen it on television. Most participants stated that everything is well and that they had never encountered discrimination or xenophobia. Nonetheless, some migrants recognize that locals do not accept them as migrants, that others laugh at them because they are impoverished, and that they are discriminated against because they are not South Africans. Some of the participants stated they saw xenophobic acts on television in Johannesburg, but that Newcastle, aside from the looting of foreign-owned stores, is not a xenophobic town.

"I have never experienced xenophobia, but I have witnessed it on television"
(Participant 1, 26 years).

"Yeah, as I said people from here do not like us, some of them laugh at us because we are poor, and they are discriminating against us since we are not from here. Some of the people in this community are good, they treat us well, some of them pretend, but most of them hate us, and they believe that we are here to steal their jobs. I do socialize with them, especially my customers" (Participant 7, 30 years).

"I heard there were xenophobic attacks in Johannesburg, I have never witnessed xenophobia here in Newcastle, besides the looting of shops owned by foreigners"
(Participant 10, 32 years).

Some of the participants claimed that they had seen xenophobic crimes on television in Johannesburg, but that Newcastle is not a xenophobic city, save for the theft of foreign-owned establishments. Nevertheless, other migrants said they have a problem with the neighbourhood children because they treat them so disrespectfully, calling them "amakwerekwere." Migrants disclosed that the persistent labelling of them creates a negative stereotype about them, which builds resentment and therefore makes them fair targets of attack. Although most locals in this area are tolerant of migrants and do not discriminate against them, others do not accept them as migrants. Other migrants frequently encountered discrimination, notably from the owners of the nearby shops who take them as people looking to steal their business chances and use derogatory terms to refer to them.

“I have a problem with local children, they are so disrespectful they call us “amakwerekwere” (Participant 12, 33 years).

“Most of the people in this area understand migrants, they do not discriminate, some of them do not accept us as migrants” (Participant 13, 28 years).

“I usually experience discrimination, especially from the local shop owners, they think I am here to take their business opportunities, they get jealous and call me “kwerekwere” (Participant 17, 28 years).

4.7 Income and remittances

Most of the participants work as street traders, and their pay is based on the number of things sold or earnings made at the time. Participants were asked if they have relatives in South Africa or abroad. They were also questioned if the money they earn is sufficient to maintain themselves and their families. The majority of participants stated that their earnings are insufficient to support their families, but that they strive to send money home every month. One of the participants stated that he had family in South Africa and Congo, but that he is unable to send them money because he is unemployed.

“I do not have family in South Africa, my family is in Ethiopia. I do not have enough money currently; I do not send anything. The money that I make is not enough, that is why I do not send them anything, but I do chat with them on Facebook and WhatsApp when I have data” (Participant 1, 26 years).

“I have a wife and a child. I also have family in Zimbabwe, I always send money home every month. Sometimes the money that I make is not enough to support my family, but I force to send whatever money that I have” (Participant 2, 29 years).

To support their family, migrants send home a portion of their earnings in the form of cash or products, nonetheless, migrants report that sending money or goods home is difficult due to their low salaries. Other migrants argue that the money they earn is insufficient to maintain themselves and their families and that their livelihood is dependent on the profit they generate.

“The only family that I have is my girlfriend. I do have family in Zimbabwe, and I try to send money maybe monthly, but it depends on the money that I have at that time. I

will not say that money is enough, money is not always enough for everyone. It is not enough." (Participant 3, 32 Years).

"The income I get is not enough, but we are surviving, me and my children. I do not have any family here in South Africa. I have a family back home in Zimbabwe. I try to send money back at home but not every month as I have also got to look out for my children, sending them to school and so on" (Participant 16, 25 years).

Some participants reported that they have families in other cities like Johannesburg, and they said they try to support them with their income. Most participants have family in South Africa and in their home countries, since they are not working, they are not able to send money to support their families in Congo. Most women migrants said they are living with their husbands and children, most of them left their parents back home, and they try to send money monthly, but the money is sometimes not enough to cover their expenses. Most participants reported that the money they make is not enough to support their families, but they try to send money every month.

"I have a brother in Johannesburg, he is the one that I am supporting with my income. For now, I am I have not sent anything from home, I am still trying to settle and secure more income. The money that I get here, is not enough to support my family, but I will try to save" (Participant 4, 27 years).

"I do have a family here in South Africa and back at home I also have a family, since I am not working, therefore, I am not able to send money back at home" (Participant 6, 20 years).

"I have family here in South Africa, it is my husband and four children, I left my both parents and my grandmother in Zimbabwe, yes I try to send them money every month, but the money is not enough because some of the customers do not pay us on record time or doesn't pay at all" (Participant 7, 30 years).

Most participants lack steady employment, yet they try to maintain their families with what little money they do have. Other migrants live with their spouses and children, have relatives back home, and send money every month, but many every month client.

"I do not have formal employment but with the little income, I get I can support myself and my family" (Participant 8, 29 years).

“I live with my wife and children, but I also have a family back home, I send them money, monthly but it is not enough” (Participant 9, 27 years).

One participant from Zimbabwe stated that she left her mother and father in Zimbabwe and now lives with her husband, daughter, and son. She said she sends money to them every week because there is no old age pension in Zimbabwe, so even if she makes R1,000, she must send them R400 or R500.

“I have family in South Africa, my husband, daughter, and son, I left my mother and father in Zimbabwe, I send money monthly to them, because in Zimbabwe there is no old age grant, maybe if I make R1 000 I must send maybe R400 or R500 to them. I sell here knowing that I must support them back home. The money that I make is not enough, it depends on the number of brooms sold at that time.” (Participant 10, 32 years).

4.8 Recommendations by participants

Migrants made suggestions based on their personal experiences in South Africa. During the interviews, the majority of participants stated that they are surviving in South Africa, but that they are concerned about their safety. Migrants claim that if safety and security can be addressed, their lives in South Africa will be better. Other migrants argue that the government should also implement programs that benefit them; they argue that they are on par with locals because they pay taxes indirectly. Migrants who engage in informal trade feel they are taxed indirectly for the goods they purchase and sell. When asked about their suggestion and survival during the interviews, they responded as follows:

“I am surviving so far. Security can be improved so far. The government must strengthen the police department, especially in this place, crime is more likely to increase” (Participant 1, 26 years).

“I’m adapting in South Africa; however, I think security must be improved to feel safe” (Participant 18, 29 years).

Most of the migrants mentioned that the South African government should make the acquisition of documentation easy and flexible so that they can move about and work freely. Other migrants suggested that services like home affairs and retail malls must be decentralized by the South African government because they must travel a distance to reach them.

“I am surviving, the people love me, I love them, as I said, I think roads need to be improved in this area, also educational facilities. The South African government must decentralize services such as home affairs, and shopping centres. For example, I must go to Pretoria to renew my South African permit” (Participant 3, 32 years).

Other migrants recommended that the government subsidize migrants who want to continue their education here in South Africa and deduct when they are employed. For their children to study their native tongues, migrants from Zimbabwe have proposed that it would be preferable if the South African government could also help by adding languages like Shona and Ndebele to the curriculum.

“I am surviving so far, nothing I have seen that needs to be improved. I think government can also fund migrants on their studies, like me, I want to continue with my electrical engineering course, but I cannot afford tuition” (Participant 4, 27 years).

“I recommend that the South African government can also assist by expanding languages like Shona and Ndebele to schools. Well, I am not sure if I will live in South Africa for the rest of my life because I mean home is where the heart is. Therefore, one day when I have made enough money I will go back home” (Participant 16, 25 years).

Most migrants suggested that they are adapting in South Africa, but sometimes the situation makes it difficult for them to survive, they contended that there is also high youth unemployment in the country and the food prices are increasing now and then.

“I can survive and adapt, but I cannot survive the situation of South Africa, it changes now and then. The prices increase now and then. Government can provide job opportunities for all, must also create jobs opportunities for those who are not educated, but who can work with their hands” (Participant 2, 29 years).

Some migrants claimed they were able to make it and that their little enterprises were profitable, but they urged the South African authorities to stop the xenophobic attacks and violent pursuit of migrants. Additionally, immigrants desire that locals would cease referring to them as "amakwerekwere" or other derogatory terms. The government, according to migrants, should emphasize to the populace that there is nothing wrong with immigrants; they are also people, and they should not be treated unfairly.

"I am surviving so far, I got a small selling business, and I got a place to stay, I support my family, I am adapting so far. The government must discourage the xenophobic attacks and the chasing of migrants by South Africans, and tell them to stop calling us "amakwerekwere" (Participant 7, 30 years).

"I think what the government should do is to teach especially in schools that foreigners have the right to stay in South Africa as they can migrate to other African countries and be warmly welcomed therefore it is very important to emphasise that there is nothing wrong with foreigners" (Participant 15, 23 years).

4.9 Summary

Concerning the perception of business opportunities in South Africa, most migrants left their home country for the reason of pursuing business opportunities. Participants use different livelihood strategies to survive in South Africa, their level of education does but not allow them to work in the formal sector. Therefore, most participants work as street traders to earn income, they buy and sell goods at an affordable price, and they use their skills to make and sell metal washing basins. Other participants have family in South Africa and another one back home. Migrants send home part of their earnings in the form of either cash or goods to support their families, these transfers are known as workers' or migrant remittances. Participants who were interviewed disclosed that they moved to South Africa for business opportunities and suffer more from language barriers. Furthermore, participants find it difficult to find accommodation in their country of destination, their migrants use their connections and social networking to find accommodation. Local people find it difficult to accept migrants. Migrants are vulnerable to crime and xenophobia, they become abused and exploited by the local people since they are not from South Africa, they even call them negative terms. Most participants recommended and suggested that they are surviving in South Africa, nevertheless, they are concerned with their safety. Most participants suggested that if safety and security can be improved, their lives can be better in South Africa.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

The overall aim of this study was to shed insights into the perspectives and experiences of migrants in Newcastle, South Africa. This final chapter of the study provides a clear discussion of the experiences and perspectives of migrants in South Africa. In this chapter, an attempt is made to show how migrants survive and adapt in Newcastle, KwaZulu-Natal. The experiences and challenges facing migrants are also highlighted. In this chapter, recommendations are made on the way forward in dealing with different challenges that concern migrants in South Africa. This chapter discusses the findings of this research and draws on other research studies to corroborate and contrast the results. This chapter also discusses the theoretical framework and its relevance to the findings of the study. The chapter provides recommendations based on the findings of the study.

5.2 Discussion

The push and pull theory argue that people migrate because of political, economic, and social factors that push them away from their countries and pull factors that attract them to their country of destination. Push factors are the hostile conditions that make a place to be inhabitable. The push-pull theory contends that people migrate intending to improve their standard of living (Mbatha and Mafokeng, 2021). Zhang et al. (2015) argue that migrants perceive the country of destination as offering higher economic opportunities. In this case, the push factors were used to explore the background of migrants, while the pull factors were used to capture the reasons that attracted migrants to South Africa. In this study, the push factors that motivated migrants to migrate were political turmoil, poverty, and unemployment, and the pull factors were the search for better jobs and business opportunities in South Africa.

In the interviews, migrants explained that they came to South Africa because of community conflicts in their country. They left Zimbabwe because of the unacceptable political behaviour of the leading political party (ZANU PF). Since the early 1980s, Zimbabwe has been experiencing socio-political chaos. Some migrants leave their home countries to seek

peace in their host countries, they find it difficult to live in unstable conditions (Mhlanga and Ndhlovu, 2021). Policies like Operation Murambatsvina, a government initiative to forcibly eradicate slum areas throughout the nation's urban centres, contributed to the political unrest in Zimbabwe (Mbiba, 2019). The operation, which started in 2005, directly affected at least 700,000 individuals by destroying their homes or means of subsistence (Mhlanga and Ndhlovu, 2021).

The operation was widely viewed as ZANU-PF's punishment of the urban dwellers who had rewarded the MDC with 41 seats in parliament during the 2005 elections. Therefore, migration into the new South Africa has dramatically increased, particularly as economic, and political conditions in neighbouring African countries have deteriorated. Furthermore, migrants leave their countries because of political instability in their countries (Ruhe, 2021). Kalitanyi and Visser (2010) argue that with political instability, migrant entrepreneurs have confirmed that their lives and those of their children are threatened. Without peace, there is no success in business, and children do not receive a proper education. Moving to South Africa becomes a better option than living with stress and trauma. According to Fengler et al. (2022) the main reasons for migration from underdeveloped to developed nations are income, proximity, and networks.

Browne (2017) further supports that people migrate because of different reasons, such as escaping political conflict to search for peace and better opportunities in other countries. This study discovered that migrants from Ethiopia came to South Africa because there were political conflicts in their country, they did not like the way the Ethiopian government was treating them. Since April 2018, Ethiopia has seen political liberation, the country has experienced a surge of violent conflict which forced many Ethiopians to leave the country (Abrha, 2019). South Africa hosts the largest single concentration of (non-camp) refugees and asylum-seekers in Southern Africa, Ethiopians are among the most significant among migrant populations (Estifanos et al., 2019).

Poverty and unemployment were one of the reasons most participants revealed for moving away from their home countries. Furthermore, migrants disclosed that life is hard in their home countries, there is poverty, inflation, and dramatic change in food prices (Mukoka, 2020). They came to South Africa looking for business and employment opportunities. Poverty levels in Zimbabwe have been increasing in recent years (Mhlanga and Ndhlovu, 2021). In addition, Makoka (2020) argues that the lack of jobs in Zimbabwe is one of the

most serious challenges which the government faces. In 2017, unemployment in Zimbabwe stood at 85% (Mhlanga and Ndhlovu, 2021). The former president Robert Mugabe simply wanted people to create jobs for themselves and not wait to be given work, the president wanted the Zimbabweans to create jobs and employ others. Most of the Zimbabweans were not able to create jobs, therefore they migrated to South Africa in search of job opportunities. In 2011, it was reported that a total of 672, 308 Zimbabweans lived in South Africa, and about 391, 992 were working in the country (Statistics South Africa, 2011). Antosik and Ivashina (2021) further support that the high rate of poverty and unemployment in migrants' home countries are the main reasons that support their migration. This study also found that migrants from Nigeria migrated to South Africa because their lives were hard in Nigeria, and they could not afford to survive financially. According to Oyebamiji and Asueline (2018) one of the main reasons why South Africa attracts a respectable number of migrants from Nigeria is the relative economic advantage it has over other African countries.

During the interviews, migrants argue that life is difficult in their countries because there are no jobs and business opportunities. However, because of the heated competition, it is difficult for them to operate in their nations where their skills are practically identical. Migrants disclosed that they moved to South Africa for job and business opportunities. Most migrants remarked that there is a lack of educational facilities in their countries, therefore South Africa is of the best countries that provide quality education in Africa. According to Zuma (2021) compared to other African nations, South Africa is still seen as having a robust economy. Hence this research discovered that most migrants thought South Africa offered more prospects than their own countries did. Justin et al. (2021) argue that migrants are triggered to migrate from their countries of origin because of scarcer socio-economic opportunities in their countries of origin.

It is reported from this research that migrants from Zimbabwe disclosed that it was easier to come to South Africa because it is closer to their countries, and they had easy access to the country. They also mentioned that it takes a few hours to access the border gate and that the South African soldiers are kind and hardworking. Most of the participants from Zimbabwe said that it was easier to come to South Africa because it is closer to their countries, and they had easy access to the country. They also mentioned that it takes a few hours to access the border gate and that the South African soldiers are kind and hardworking. Magam (2021) states that Zimbabweans can visit South Africa visa-free for up to 90 days. However, the new

application process for the South Africa electronic visa may make it possible for Zimbabwean passport holders in the future to obtain travel authorization quickly and easily to the country. Nyabankawu (2021) asserts that the government's relaxation of immigration regulations is another factor contributing to easy access to South Africa. He notes that on 3 April 2009, the Department of Home Affairs announced its intention to grant Zimbabweans living in South Africa a 12-month "special dispensation permit" based on section 31 of the 2002 Immigration Act. Migrants rely on social networks in their journey to South Africa and upon arrival, they also remark that once they came to South Africa escaping political instability and war.

This study found that most migrants can interact with the locals while running their enterprises; they do so since the locals are their clients, and they find them to be hospitable. Most migrants mentioned that they interact socially and favourably with their clients. According to this study, migrants also admitted that they get along well with the locals and collaborate with them to manage their enterprises. Because they also recommend to other clients who need their products, most migrants are said to have positive relationships with their consumers. A positive relationship between migrants and local people empowers migrants by building confidence, skills, access to opportunities, and developing their relationships and networks with the locals (Orton, 2021). Moreover, positive interaction between migrants and locals enables the locals to recognize the contribution that migrants bring in their communities. Furthermore, positive interaction also provides a relational basis for resolving difficulties and conflicts that may arise in the process of interaction, and it helps to build a cohesive society that benefits everybody. Nevertheless, some interactions between the locals and migrants can be negative, in the sense that they may encounter hostile attitudes, discrimination, and various forms of oppression and exploitation. Orton (2021) argues that "without interaction, migrants can end up living 'parallel lives where they have only limited relationships with others in the wider community". This research further notes that due to their hectic work schedules, migrants claim they hardly ever communicate with the locals. However, others have noted that they do communicate with them, so in the hopes of receiving aid from them. According to Kindler et al. (2015) migrants who interact with the locals can gain an advantage of accessing information that will open opportunities for them. According to Justin et al. (2021) the African value; 'ubuntu' has a significant impact on the sustainable livelihoods of migrant youth in South Africa. Browne (2017) believes that migrants survive by relying on networks of other migrants and local people.

According to Ncube (2019) the sustainable livelihood framework shows how vulnerability determines people's ability to survive and earn a living, which may result in them engaging in migration. The livelihood framework benefits from being cross-sectional. It considers the full range of economic, political, social, and cultural elements that affect people's lives and livelihoods" (Deligiannis, 2012). This theoretical approach was used to rate the human, economic, physical, social, and financial capital to ascertain the most evident indicators that influenced migrants' coping and adaptation in South Africa. In this context, the experiences and perspectives of migrants are clarified concerning the livelihood framework. In addition, in this study, the livelihood framework was used to determine the livelihood strategies of migrants in South Africa. Concerning the livelihood framework, this study found that migrants use different strategies to cope in South Africa. These strategies are not limited to street trading, door-to-door selling, welding, brick layering, shopkeeping, hairdressing, and housekeeping.

Most participants are involved in shopkeeping, brick layering, welding, and the door-to-door selling sector. Some migrants choose to sell human-made products, such as brooms, dust pans, and metal washing basins. Some of the participants that were interviewed, remarked that they buy products and sell them door to door. Migrants use different livelihood strategies to survive in South Africa, their level of education does not allow them to work in the formal sector (Vearey, 2008). Therefore, migrants work as street traders to earn income, they buy and sell goods at an affordable price, and they use their skills to make and sell metal washing basins. Furthermore, migrants work as hairdressers, restaurant waiters, welders, bricklayers, and shopkeepers to earn income. To earn money, migrants do entrepreneurial activities such as trading through spaza shops and street-side enterprises like artisanship, tailoring, hair salons and hair braiding, and the sale of beadwork (Browne, 2017). Migrant entrepreneurs in South Africa are visible in a narrow band of activities of Small and Medium Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) mostly in retail or service rather than in production (Kalitanyi and Visser, 2010). Landau and Segatti (2009) argue that their activities involve selling curios, retailing ethnic clothes and foods, motor-car repairs/panel beating, and operating hairdressing salons. In many different countries, immigrants are thought to be more likely than native-born natives to start small companies (Justin et al., 2021). In South, Africa migrants see an opportunity to start their small businesses, while locals rely on government services (Okyere, 2018). By establishing spaza shops (convenience stores) and street markets in townships and

rural regions that offer goods at reasonable costs and maintain lengthy operating hours, migrants are thought to have changed the character of retail and wholesale business in South Africa (Justin et al., 2021).

On a daily level, language challenges may inhibit effective communication with the local population, limiting access to important services and support (Lu et al., 2019). Most migrants do not speak any of the local languages, and most of them know basic English, but not enough to communicate freely. Language problems, according to Fakoti and Patswawairi (2012) are one of the challenges faced by immigrant entrepreneurs in South Africa. These entrepreneurs' businesses suffered because of the language barrier. This research found that migrants that are involved in selling activities said they sometimes do not understand isiZulu, which causes misunderstandings with their clients. One of the difficulties faced by African immigrants in the workplace is that most clients assume they speak the local tongue, such as Zulu or Xhosa, even though they do not (Khoza and Kalitanyi, 2014). This study discovered that migrants struggle to communicate with their consumers in English since they do not comprehend the language as well. One of the major challenges for migrants is the language barrier, the inability to communicate in the local spoken language. Language acquisition is a common experience among migrants in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa (Lu et al., 2019). Most migrants are stigmatised for not understanding the local language. A study by Makumbang (2020) reported that migrants find it difficult to learn the local languages such as English and Zulu, and if they cannot speak Zulu or the other local languages they are seen as foreigners, and they become discriminated against. Migrants' failure to learn the local language exacerbates their ability to assimilate easily into the host communities (Hiralal, 2018).

Migrants find it difficult to find accommodation in their country of destination, most migrants use their connections and social networking to find accommodation (Greenburd and Polzer, 2008). Moreover, migrants find accommodation through other migrants that were already in South Africa. Furthermore, migrants find accommodation through their friends, relatives, and families that were already in South Africa before them. Migrants are happy to settle in their country of destination, but they are concerned with their safety since they have experienced and witnessed crime in their accommodation. Moreover, migrants look for locations where they know people or organizations who can assist them in making the trip and settling most conveniently to reduce their risks when they relocate (Niemandt, 2013). Phiri (2021) contends that social networks offer the relationships required to enable migration and settling in the

home country. According to Orton (2021) potential migrants can get resources, employment, and housing through relationships with previous migrants. Through their social connections, former migrants aid prospective migrants in their search for employment, housing, and other resources. According to the research, these migrants' ability to locate housing depends on their social capital. Besides the challenge of accessing accommodation, migrants also have different experiences of xenophobia and discrimination (Phiri, 2021).

Xenophobia is derived from the Greek words "Xenos" (foreigner) and "phobia" (fear) (Sundstrom and Kim, 2014). This subjective fear and absolute dislike seem to have translated itself into intense tension and violence by South Africans towards migrants. It is caused by personality traits and ethnic affinities among local people, not by rivalry for employment and resources, as is commonly assumed (Sundstrom and Kim, 2014). Therefore, local people find it difficult to accept migrants. Migrants are vulnerable to crime and xenophobia, they become abused and exploited by the local people since they are not from South Africa, they even call them "amakwerekwere". Their safety and even their lives are often put at risk. According to Justin et al. (2021) migrants face problems such as xenophobic attacks which reach a point where more and more migrants get displaced, assaulted, and killed in South Africa. This research found that some migrants had never experienced xenophobia, they have witnessed it on television, and most of them recall the 2008 xenophobic attacks in Alexandra. Phiri (2021) contends that the first recorded attacks were in the township of Alexandra, where South Africans attacked and killed many migrants. A study by Dele (2021) supports that the worst event was in 2008 when rioting broke out in Alexandra Township. This animosity is not just xenophobic; it is also an unspoken expression of dissatisfaction with post-apartheid South Africa's inability to change a legacy economic structure that was built to favour minorities while dooming the majority to poverty (Akinrinde et al., 2021).

It is reported in this research that migrants earn income from dominant economic strategies namely shopkeeping, brick layering, welding, and the door-to-door selling sector. Furthermore, migrants have back home which they have to support with the little income that they make. Remittances are very often an important source of income for sending families, and any changes in the number of remittances they receive will have a direct impact on the food security status, health, and well-being of families in the countries of origin (Azizi, 2019). Money sent by migrant households to family and friends in the origin country referred

to as remittances help to keep loved ones out of poverty, whether during a temporary economic or health crisis or supports the education of migrants' children (Kakhkharovu, 2019). In some cases, remittances are an important source of investment in national education, health, and infrastructure projects. Collectively, remittances are larger than the foreign direct investment and official development assistance received by low- and middle-income countries. It is reported in this study that migrants use their earnings to access decent accommodation and to take care of their families (Piteli et al., 2021). This research discovered that the money that migrants earn is not sufficient to support their families and cover all their expenses. A study by Okyere (2018) found that the money earned by migrants is not sufficient to help them access decent, comfortable accommodation, or private medical insurance. Employers who are dishonest and exploitative will occasionally underpay their migrant employees (Lu et al., 2019).

5.3 Recommendations

The key findings from this research are that migrants move from their home countries to South Africa in search of decent livelihoods or jobs. This study further argued that jobs and business opportunities are the major pull factors in South Africa. Hence, the government of their (migrants') home counties should implement youth employment policies that are specifically directed at giving start-up capital to their youth. Furthermore, these policies should be politicized, and they should be sustainably implemented.

It is reported in this research that some migrants find it difficult to interact with the locals, which affects their social capital. Hence the international migrants' commissions to ensure that there are social mechanisms in place to look after the welfare of these migrants, South Africa should examine the welfare of its migrants and coordinate the development of migrants' organizations and self-help groups. It is important to urge these migrants to band together and utilize services that can help them survive. By having these associations, problems with housing and other situations can be resolved.

This research discovered that some migrants recognize that locals do not accept them as migrants, that others laugh at them because they are impoverished, and that they are discriminated against because they are not South Africans. Hence, community organizations should start anti-xenophobia initiatives. The media should also help to draw attention to and

inform the public about the migrants' valuable contributions. The municipality should include a section describing how they anticipate the media to help them educate the public about their policies. This research further notes that some migrants had never received assistance from the police. Hence, the government can provide training and awareness raising for local government authorities on refugee and migrant rights. Because they need to be extensively instructed and re-educated on the repercussions of discrimination, police officers and municipal officials should take part in training sessions and workshops provided by their respective institutions.

There is a need to develop programs to educate landlords about the legality of renting to documented refugees and asylum seekers and monitor and penalize those landlords taking illegal advantage of migrants. Moreover, some migrants disclosed that it took a long time for them to have legal documents, therefore the Department of Home Affairs can make it easier for immigrants to obtain identification documents so they can work and sign legitimate rental agreements. The government must develop educational initiatives for local government officials and the Department of Housing to improve the recognition of identity documents for refugees and asylum seekers. The South African government ought to make obtaining paperwork simple and adaptable. To reduce xenophobia and discrimination, the South African government should continue to encourage respect for outsiders in its people.

The safety of migrants in South Africa is not assured. Xenophobic attacks, a hostile political discourse, and high levels of violent crime impact the security of asylum seekers and other migrants. There must be an intensive political commitment to international rights and protocols around migration, considered and consistent messaging about the rights of migrants, and programs to enable social cohesion are important policy interventions required in the receiving country. This also requires high-level political championing of a different face of South Africa as inclusionary and welcoming. Furthermore, it requires that the country be seen to be and to be acting against violence and violent rhetoric against foreign migrants. The efforts of the South Africa Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) in this regard are noted.

South Africa has continued to receive migrants from its neighbours, but in progressively larger numbers, necessitating more administration and provision to handle this growth (Palmary, 2002). The city's informal employment and trade sectors must be managed by the government to connect with migrants. It must also provide and manage housing as well as

safety regulatory services in the event of xenophobic attacks (Palmary, 2002). Additionally, the government has been able to address migrant difficulties thanks to several organizations, including the South Police Service (SAPS) the Lindela Repatriation Centre (LPC) and the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) (Amit and Kriger, 2014).

The first step in combating xenophobia must also involve raising public awareness and educating the people (Kaida et al., 2020). Additionally, as public efforts against xenophobia have demonstrated, education is vital in addressing how individuals relate to others with whom they are unfamiliar. Police and state officials should have the correct information regarding who migrants are, what they are, and their legal standings (Lamb, 2020). Additionally, there must be a strong awareness among police that everyone has a right and deserves respect and protection from the police, regardless of who they are and whether they have any legal documentation.

Both the home country and the host country are impacted by migration; as the more economically active population leaves, the host country is left with a population that is less economically active, which slows economic growth. While the populations of the host countries are growing, there are not enough resources. In this context, it is advised that the host nations should push the migrant home countries to adopt youth-inclusive policies that will open opportunities, particularly for the economically active population. Additionally, countries like Zimbabwe must strengthen their democracy and promote efficient and effective government. This could ensure that the country at least builds and sustain the livelihoods of its people as part of the first step towards the construction of a better future for all.

5.4 Conclusion

The results of the study suggest that migrants in Newcastle encounter a lot of challenges. Whilst the findings demonstrate that migrants rely on social networks in their journey to South Africa and upon arrival, they also remark that they come to South Africa to escape political instability and war. Most migrants are more likely to move away from their countries to escape the war in their country. Migrants leave their countries because of political instability as well as social unrest, their government is collapsing due to conflicts and competition between the different political parties. The study further demonstrates that migrants left their countries because of poverty and unemployment and came to South Africa looking for business and employment opportunities. The pursuit of business opportunities

was an important motivating factor. Migrants whose countries are near South Africa said it was easier to come to South Africa because it is closer to their countries, and they had easy access to the country.

This study also demonstrates that migrants use different social and economic strategies to ensure their survival in South Africa. Migrants earn an income from a number of economic strategies including namely shopkeeping, brick-layering, and door-to-door selling. This research further notes that migrants use their earnings to access decent accommodation and to take care of their families. It is noted that migrants have families in their home countries which they try to support with their earnings, nevertheless, the money they earn is not sufficient to cover all their expenses. The government of South Africa should also erect sufficient shelters to accommodate immigrants who are illegally in the country while working on the provision of necessary assistance.

The study also shows that migrants experience challenges such as language barriers, crime, and xenophobia. The language barrier is the most significant integration challenge. Co-integration challenge that they are still learning the native language, isiZulu. They learn the local language as they adapt to their host community. This research further discovered that migrants have various levels of criminal experience, they also reported that they never received assistance from the police. Moreover, it is reported in this research that most migrants indicated that local people do not accept them as migrants, others laugh at them because they are poor, and they stated that they are discriminated against because they are not South Africans. Migrants recommended that their lives could be better in South Africa if safety and security is improved. Migrants also wish the government to open business opportunities for them and encourage its people to discriminate against them.

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Appendix A: Interview guide

Section A – Personal details

1. Are you a male or female? Should you ask this or just determine?
2. How old are you?
3. What is your religion?
4. What is your level of education?
5. Do you have a partner? If yes, are you married or living with your partner?
6. Do you have children? If yes, how many?
7. In which country were you born?
8. How was your life before coming to South Africa?
9. How long have you been in South Africa? Why did you move to South Africa? Why did you choose South Africa?

Section B- Adaptation, survival and challenges

1. What is your employment status?
2. How do you earn income? Are you able to survive with the income that you make?
Whom do you support with your income? What challenges do you face when trying to secure income?
How do you solve those problems?
3. Do you have family here in South Africa? If not, do you send them money or anything?
4. Is the income that you make enough to support your family?
5. How did you find accommodation? Why did you choose this place?
6. Are you happy with this place? Do you feel safe in this place? Please explain.
7. What can be improved in this place?
8. What are the daily challenges that you experience?
9. Have you experienced crime or xenophobia? Please explain.

10. Do you get help from the police?
11. How is the societal situation in terms of life and crime? Please explain.
12. How is your relationship with the locals? Do you socialize with them?
13. Is the language a barrier in terms of interacting with the locals?

Recommendations

1. Are you surviving or adapting in South Africa? What can be improved?
2. How can the government assist you?

10 February 2021

Mr Philane Bongumusa Mazibuko (216065683)
School Of Built Env & Dev Stud
Howard College

Dear Mr Mazibuko,

Protocol reference number: HSSREC/00002308/2021

Project title: Adaption and Survival: Perspectives and experiences of migrants in an urban township in KwaZulu-Natal.

Degree : Masters

Provisional Approval – Full Committee Reviewed Protocol

This letter serves to notify you that your application received on 11 November 2020 in connection with the above, was reviewed by the Humanities and Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee (HSSREC) on 27 January 2021. The protocol has been provisionally approved, subject to the following conditions set out below being addressed:

1. Has data collection commenced? If not, please amend timelines.
2. Please edit the information sheet to remove instructions. Include the information that interviews will be conducted via WhatsApp.
3. TAB 3 - Interview schedule should be YES.
4. Research site: You only mentioned the population without stating whether there are immigrants in the area.
5. Is the study about immigrants or migrants?
6. Please attach gatekeeper permission letter.
7. How will the participants be recruited?
8. The title is presented inconsistently. See consent form. Please rectify
9. Please revise this statement: The primary data will be used to collect data (Tab3).
10. Please check language for relevance: by a researcher using his or her own experiments (Tab3).
11. Please explain recruitment of participants (actual fieldwork)
12. Please explain inclusion and exclusion selection criteria.
13. Please revisit the question: Will data collection involve any of the following? (Tab3)

Kindly upload your response on Tab 8 of the RIG online system as soon as possible. Please do not submit a new revised application.

This approval is granted provisionally and the final clearance for this project will be given once the above-mentioned condition(s) has been met. Note that data collection may not proceed until final ethics approval letter has been issued after the remaining conditions have been met and approved by the research ethics committee.

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