

**CHALLENGES OF CHILD BIRTH REGISTRATION IN ZAMBIA:  
A CASE STUDY OF LUSAKA AND CHONGWE DISTRICTS**

**By**

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## DECLARATION

I, STEPHEN MONSI SIAME, hereby declare that the work presented in this dissertation is the result of my research work and that it has not previously been submitted for a degree, diploma or other qualification at this or another University.

Sign: .....

Date: .....

## APPROVAL

This dissertation of STEPHEN MONSI SIAME has been approved as partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of Master of Public Administration Degree by the University of Zambia.

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## ABSTRACT

Birth registration is both a fundamental human right and an essential means of protecting a child's right to identity. The Zambian government enacted the Births and Deaths Registration Act, Cap 51, on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 1973 which provides for compulsory registration of all births in the country without distinction of origin or descent. The responsibility to register all births in Zambia is placed under the Department of National Registration, Passports and Citizenship (DNRPC). A birth certificate can be utilised to promote children's rights and freedoms addressed at the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). These were adopted by the UN General Assembly on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 1989. Despite the advantages associated with child birth registration, studies indicate that levels of birth registration in Zambia are low. This therefore, implies that there could be some challenges that government could be facing in the child birth registration process. Little is known about the challenges that could be associated with child birth registration. This study therefore, sought to investigate the challenges for child birth registration in Zambia. The study was an evaluation research and was a one-time case study. It utilised questionnaires and semi-structured interviews to collect quantitative and qualitative data, which were analysed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences and content analysis, respectively. The sample size was 117 comprising 109 parents and guardians. Of the 109 parents and guardian, 75 (68.8 %) were drawn from Lusaka District and 34(31.2%) were drawn from Chongwe District), five key informant from the DNRPC Headquarters, two key informant from Lusaka City Council, one key informant from Chongwe District Registration office.

Using a detailed literature review and questionnaire surveys, the results of the study confirmed the prevalence of challenges faced by government in the process of child birth registration in Zambia. The study found that the challenges faced by government in child birth registration are; poor attitude towards child birth registration, financial challenges, inadequate manpower and poor infrastructure among others. The study also established that socioeconomic factors like income, education and employment status of the child's parent and guardian had an effect on child birth registration. It was found that more children with parents and guardians who earn a higher income, who are more educated and in formal employment are registered compared to children whose parents and guardians have low income, less education and without formal employment. In terms of geographical location, the study found that few children from rural areas have their births registered compared to their peers in urban areas. It has also been established that higher levels of child birth

registration is found among parents and guardians residing in low population density areas as compared to the high population density areas. It was also found that long distance to the child registration centre prevent parents and guardians to register their children. Based on the above findings, government and the DNRPC should create demand for child birth registration; provide adequate finances; including adequate staff and re-engineer the child birth registration process; provide socioeconomic help to some parents and guardians as an incentive for child birth registration and provide easy access to child birth registration centres. This will lead to high quality of child registration services and increased levels, if not universal birth registration in Zambia.

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### LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BOMA	British Overseas for Military Administration (BOMA)
BSAC	British South Africa Company
CDC	Centre for Disease Control
CRVS	Civil Registration of Vital Statistics
CSO	Central Statistical Office
DNRPC	Department Of National Registration Passports and Citizenship
GRZ	Government of the Republic of Zambia
GWAN	Government Wide Area Network
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Viruses/ Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
LCC	Lusaka City Council
LGA	Local Government Areas
MHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MMD	Movement for Multiparty Democracy
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	Members of Parliament
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NRC	National Registration Card
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SAVVY	Sample Vital Registration with Verbal Autopsy
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

UNICEF United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund  
USAID United States Agency for International Development

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background

A name and nationality are every child's rights. The United Nations (UN), the world's largest intergovernmental organisation composed of 196 sovereign states adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) to ensure universal child birth registration. The UN General Assembly adopted the Convention and opened it for signature on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1989 (the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its Declaration of the Rights of the Child. It came into force on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1990, after it was ratified by the required number of nations. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is a human rights treaty which sets out the civil, political, economic, social, health and cultural rights of children. With regard to the rights of a child to a name and nationality, according to article Seven of the CRC, "a baby should be registered immediately after birth" (United Nations Children's Emergency Fund [UNICEF], 2005: 5). This implies urgency and the need to act within a reasonably short period of time to register a birth without any discrimination as a matter of right. Upon child birth registration, the registration authority issues a birth certificate (Appendix C). According to Elemu (2007), the age of reason and the enlightenment saw the development of the concept of human rights. He indicates that John Locke developed a comprehensive concept of natural rights in 1688. His list of rights consisted life, liberty and property. But then in 1789, the term 'human rights' appeared for the first time in the French Declaration i.e. "Declaration des Droits de l'Homme et du Citoyen". Elemu (2007) explains that these rights involve all elementary preconditions for an existence worth of human dignity. These rights also include the right of an individual to an identity, family ties, culture and nationality. With this in mind, all children in the world, regardless of their socio-economic status, have the right to be registered by the relevant civil authorities and be issued with a birth certificate.

Bequele (2005) observes that while the birth of a child is traditionally marked by salutations and expressions of joy, official acknowledgment through formal registration has been conventionally frowned upon. UNICEF (2013) shows that the births of nearly 230 million children under the age of five worldwide have never been officially recorded. Possession of a birth certificate is even less common. 290 million of the world's children under the age of five years do not have a birth certificate. Although these statistics indicate that there are many unregistered children worldwide, World Bank/ World Health Organisation (2014) state that

there has been some progress, albeit small in raising birth registration levels. They claim that between 2000 and 2010 global birth registration levels rose from 58 percent to 65 percent.

There are significant disparities in child birth registration levels among different regions of the world. Smith and Brownlees (2010) claim that registration levels for children under five years of age is almost universal in the majority of all industrialised countries and among some countries in Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and Latin America and the Caribbean. The vast majority of unregistered children are in less developed countries, particularly in the South Asian and sub-Saharan Africa regions, where only half of the children under five years of age have their births registered. Smith and Brownlees (2010) indicate that Western Europe and North America have the highest levels of birth registration, with 100 percent of children under five registered. This is followed by Eastern Europe and Central Asia, at 99 per cent, and Latin America and the Caribbean, at 95 percent. Smith and Brownlees (2010) further claim that South Asia, the region with the largest overall number of births has the highest percentage of unregistered births at 65 percent followed by sub-Saharan Africa where 64 percent of births go unregistered. Even within the Sub-Saharan region there are differences in the child birth registration levels. For example, in Eastern and Southern Africa, only 41 percent of children are registered by their fifth birthday, while the rate in West and Central Africa is slightly higher, at 45 percent. The above scenario shows that despite child birth registration being considered important by many nations, ensuring its universality has proved to be a challenge.

The process of child birth registration and ultimately issuance of birth certificate is one of the many public services that is offered by the Zambian government through the Department of National Registration, Passports and Citizenship (DNRPC) which falls under the Ministry of Home Affairs. Other services offered by the DNRPC include death registration, marriage registration and issuance of vital documents like passports and related travelling documents (Republic of Zambia, 2013). Birth registration is an activity that has been practiced in Zambia from the late 1800s (Simson, 1985). Child birth registration in Zambia can be analysed by considering how it has been administered from the time colonial settlers came into the country to date. Three significant eras with regard to child birth registration in Zambia can be identified. These are, during direct rule, during indirect rule and the post-independence era. Kambole and Silanda (1994) explain that the European, Aliens and Coloured Births and Deaths Registration Act of 1898 was the first legislation to facilitate registration of child births in Zambia, then known as Northern Rhodesia. This was during the

era of direct rule which ran from 1889 to 1923 when the British government in 1889 granted a Charter to Sir. Cecil John Rhodes' newly formed British South Africa Company (BSAC) giving it powers to make treaties and conduct administration north of the Limpopo River (Simson, 1985). Under this era, births among natives or Africans were not registered. Natives could only notify colonial administrators of any birth that occurred in their respective localities. Notification was done through the Registration Officers and Traditional Chiefs (Republic of Zambia, 2005).

Kambole and Silanda (1994) state that the BSAC rule ended in 1923 and the administration of Northern Rhodesia was transferred to the British Colonial Office in 1924 as a protectorate. This saw the dawn of the second era. Simson (1985) indicates that the switch from Company to Crown rule did not change much of administrative procedures including registering of births. During the second era, native births were not registered just as was the case in the first era. According to Kambole and Silanda (1994), the reason for this was that during the second era, colonial masters continued to apply the Europeans, Aliens, and Coloureds Births and Deaths Registration Act of 1898 and later the Native Registration Ordinance of 1930 for child birth registration. Therefore, like in the previous era, no native could apply for a birth certificate.

The third era started from 1964 when Zambia attained independence from Britain to date. Olowu and Sako (2002) note that upon attaining independence in 1964, the Government of the Republic of Zambia abolished the Native Authorities by the enactment of the 1965 Local Government Act. Under this new Act, City, Municipal, and Town Councils were created to replace Native Authorities. Lusaka City Council (2013) indicates that the 1965 Local Government Act became the legal instrument for the management of births in the post-colonial Zambia. However, according to UNICEF (2005), even after independence and enactment of the 1965 Local Government Act, the challenge of indigenous Zambians not being allowed to apply for a birth certificate continued because child birth registration was still based on the laws inherited from the colonial masters, namely, the Europeans, Aliens, and Coloureds Births and Deaths Registration Act of 1898.

In order to overcome the challenges associated with non-registration of births among indigenous Zambians, on 14<sup>th</sup> March 1973, legislation was passed to make child birth registration mandatory through the Birth and Death Registration Act, Cap 51 of the Laws of Zambia (Republic of Zambia, 2017). Henceforth, the responsibility to register all births in

Zambia was placed under the DNRPC. Under this law, every registered child is issued a birth certificate. To ensure that members of the public easily access child birth registration services, the DNRPC devolved its operations to all the ten provinces and has representation in almost all districts (Piper, 2015).

The new Birth and Death Registration Act, Cap 51 of the Laws of Zambia provides for a uniform law for the registration of all births in Zambia, without distinction of origin or descent. Furthermore, it provides that registration of a birth is now compulsory and birth certificates are available to any applicant born on or after March 1973 and can be obtained by the applicant applying to the Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages who is the only officer mandated to sign the certificates. Kambole and Silanda (1994), however, explain that even after the enactment of the new law in 1973, gazetted sub-centres/registration offices and District Executive Secretaries at British Overseas for Military Administration (BOMA) or district headquarters continued to be agents of the Registrar General as District Registrars of births. Even then, accessing birth registration services was characterised by inefficiencies. The major challenge was that the birth registration system was highly centralised. Although the process of child birth registration is initiated in the district where the child is born, all birth registration forms filled in by a parent or guardian are forwarded to the central registration office based in Lusaka (Republic of Zambia, 2008). This means that while births can be registered in district/ province where the birth occurred, certificates can only be issued and signed in Lusaka by the Registrar General.

Kambole and Silanda (1994) acknowledge that Zambia has a legal and administrative structure stipulating official registration of births according to standard procedures and is a signatory to the UNCRC. Zambia like all other nations that ratify this convention are bound to it by international law. The Convention encompasses the child's right to survive, to develop and to be protected. Articles 7(1) and 8 provide that a child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right to a name, the right to belong to a nation, and as far as possible, and the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents (UNICEF, 2005). Zambia is one of the parties to these international conventions and tries to ensure that the welfare of its children is safeguarded. To this effect, the Government of the Republic of Zambia has endeavoured to domesticate some provisions of these international conventions. For example, the Zambian Constitution as earlier highlighted recognises the rights of children to an identity and nationality. The Birth and Death Registration Act of 1973, Cap 51, Section 14 (1) of the Laws of Zambia specifically provides for "compulsory registration of births and

deaths in Zambia without distinction of origin or descent; and to provide for matters incidental thereto” (Republic of Zambia, 1973). The government has also engaged other stakeholders like cooperation partners, non-governmental organisations, civic institutions and churches to ensure that all children are registered.

Despite the positive strides under taken by the government to domesticate the international convention on the rights of a child and the enactment of the Birth and Death Registration Act of 1973, parents and guardians have not taken the matter of child birth registration seriously. This has resulted in the level of child birth registration being unacceptably low. To underscore the severity of low level of child birth registration in Zambia, The Situation Analysis of Children and Women (Republic of Zambia, 2008) showed that child birth registration rates in 2002 were at 2.3 percent, 1.7 percent in 2005 and 1.8 percent in 2006. Equally, The State of the World’s Children, a report by UNICEF (2005) states that the most up-to-date government statistics on child birth registration put the number of under-fives (5s) registered within Zambia at 10 percent. For its part, CSO (2015) showed that the level of child birth registration was 11.4 percent in Zambia. Even the recent birth registration coverage survey undertaken by Ministry of Home Affairs in 2017 also showed low levels of child birth registration across Zambia from the period 2013 to 2016. This can be noted from the Table 1 below which shows the percent distribution of registered children aged zero to five years by province (2013-2016). The table shows that even though there is an upward trend in terms of the numbers of children being registered over the period 2013 to 2016, birth registration coverage is still very low standing at 16.3 percent from the 1.4 percent recorded in 2013 (Republic of Zambia, 2017).

From the same Table 1.1, it can be observed that provinces that are predominantly urban had more children registered in comparison to children residing in predominantly rural provinces. For example, Table 1.1 shows that in 2016, Copperbelt and Lusaka provinces which are predominantly urban had higher percentages of registered children at 22.0 percent and 20.4 percent respectively, compared to North Western and Western provinces which are predominantly rural that had registration percentages standing at 3.6 percent and 4.3 percent respectively. When child birth registration statistics within provinces are further analysed, it has been established that predominantly urban districts record high numbers of registered children compared to rural districts. For example, The Birth Registration Coverage Survey of 2017 showed that within Copperbelt province, predominately urban districts like Mufulira and Luanshya districts recorded higher child birth registration rates of 34.1 percent and 23.4 percent respectively in 2016, compared to the predominantly rural districts of Lufwanyama

and Mpongwe districts that recorded registration rates of 0.5 percent respectively, in the same year (Republic of Zambia, 2017). This phenomenon of predominantly urban areas registering more births with the civil authorities in comparison with predominantly rural areas was also established in the survey by CSO (2007). The CSO (2007) survey showed that 27.7 percent of registered children resided in the urban area and a low percentage of 8.6 was recorded for children residing in the rural area. This indicates that the problem of child birth registration could be more pronounced among children that reside in rural set ups as compared to urban set ups. This is cause for worry because the Act establishing child birth registration makes it compulsory to register the birth of all children irrespective of where that child resides.

**Table 1.1: Percentage distribution of registered children under 5 years by Province (2013 – 2016)**

<b>Province</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Luapula	2.7	8.3	8.5	19.9
North Western	1.9	2.6	4.2	3.6
Eastern	1.6	6.7	4.6	7.2
Northern	0.7	2.1	2.3	4.9
Central	1.2	1.3	1.8	19.0
Copperbelt	2.4	8.0	7.8	22.0
Western	1.5	2.5	4.8	4.3
Muchinga	0.2	22.7	8.4	7.2
Southern	0.2	5.0	3.3	13.1
Lusaka	25.3	15.8	42.3	20.4
National	1.4	8.4	7.0	16.3

**Source: Republic of Zambia, 2017**

This research, therefore, presents the challenges of registering the birth of children in Zambia. To achieve this, the research is a case study of Lusaka and Chongwe districts in Lusaka province. Lusaka district was chosen to represent urban areas while Chongwe district was chosen to represent rural areas in the country.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Although the Birth and Death Registration Act, Cap 51 of 1973, has been in existence for more than forty six years, the practice of formally registering births in Zambia is not widely adhered to. UNICEF (2007) indicates that the number of under-fives registered within Zambia is at 10 percent. However, there has been a slight improvement in the registration levels over the few years because according to the Zambia Demographic and Health Survey (ZDHS) 2013-2014, the percentage of the under-fives whose births are registered with the civil authorities stands at 11 percent, and of these only 4 percent have a birth certificate in their possession (CSO, 2015). Furthermore, according to Republic of Zambia (2017), the increase in child birth registration has gone up to 16.3 percent.

Levels of child birth registration across Zambia are not uniform. Statistics show disparities in terms of region where people live and how wealthy they are. It has been observed that child birth registration is much higher in urban areas as compared to rural areas. For example, (Republic of Zambia, 2017) shows that the level of child birth registration is 20 percent in the urban areas and 7 percent in the rural areas. It is highest in Copperbelt Province (24 percent), followed by Lusaka province (21 percent), and lowest in Northern Province (2 percent). Furthermore, it has been observed that children from the wealth families are six times more likely to have their births registered (29 percent) than children from poor families (5 percent). However, in terms of gender, the disparity is insignificant as male registration for under five was 11.7 percent while that of females under the same age group was 10.9 percent. The above low levels of child birth registration and associated disparities clearly show that there could be challenges faced by the government, parents and guardians in child birth registration in Zambia.

### **1.3. Research Objectives**

#### **1.3.1. General Objective**

The general objective of this research is to investigate the challenges of child birth registration in Zambia.

#### **1.3.2. Specific Objectives**

The specific objectives of the research are:

- i. To analyse administrative challenges faced by the Department of National Registration, Passports and Citizenship in the process of child birth registration.
- ii. To examine the extent to which demographic factors affect the registration of children.
- iii. To analyse the extent to which geographical location affects the registration of children.

## **1.4. Research Questions**

### **1.4.1. General Question**

The general question of the research is: What are the challenges of child birth registration in Zambia?

### **1.4.2. Specific Questions**

The specific questions of the research are as follows:

- i. What are the administrative challenges faced by the Department of National Registration, Passports and Citizenship in the process of child birth registration?
- ii. To what extent do demographic factors affect the registration of children?
- iii. What is the extent to which geographical location affect the registration of children?

## **1.5. Significance of the Research**

The significance of this research is that it has provided information on the challenges of child birth registration in Zambia. Ljones (2014) argues that child birth registration is very important because it can assist one to prove the age, name, parents and country of birth. It also assists in dealing with children on issues such as child labour, juvenile justice, under-age marriage, and human trafficking and child prostitution. Harbitz and Tamargo (2009) claim that child birth registration gives every person legal identity in the country. In Zambia, a birth certificate is needed to enrol a child in school, enter college, and obtain a passport and a National Registration Card (Republic of Zambia, 2008). At times children are found in difficult circumstances as a result of their involvement in criminal activities, being victims of human trafficking, war, natural disaster, and social economic woes. For instance, UNICEF (2001) states that between 1990 and 2000, over a million children in Africa were orphaned or separated from their families due to armed conflicts. These unfortunate events have led to the violation of children's rights to belong to a family or nation as families are separated. Some children have even been rendered stateless because there is no legal proof to ascertain their true identity to facilitate their being re-united with family members. McMahon (2019) observes that stateless people face a number of problems like being shuffled from place to place as they are repeatedly refused entry by immigration authorities. They are also not entitled to the protections and benefits provided to recognised citizens. However, when armed with a birth certificate, such victims are better equipped to handle such difficult

circumstances and fight such human rights violations. Furthermore, knowledge of these benefits is critical for government to put measures in place that will help scale up child birth registration in the Zambia.

In view of the above benefits associated with registering the birth of children, the research is an attempt to understand the challenges of registering the birth of children in Zambia. Additionally, the research will also attempt to understand whether the citizenry in Zambia are satisfied with the quality of service the DNRPC is providing with regard to child birth registration and issuance of birth certificates. This is cardinal because it will assist in understanding how the DNRPC has been perceived by the citizenry who seek its services and how it has responded to such perceptions. The research will also attempt to understand and highlight what challenges parents and guardians face if any, as they interact with the DNRPC in the quest to register the birth of children. Additionally, the information that will be provided by this research will be useful to government officials and other stakeholders when making decisions, policies and developmental programmes that relate to the welfare of children. It will further benefit them by highlighting ways to improve the process of child birth registration in Zambia. Lastly, the research will endeavour to provide more information about child birth registration in Zambia with the view to close knowledge gaps on the subject of child birth registration and also to add to the body of knowledge currently available on this subject.

## **1.6. Definition of Key Concepts**

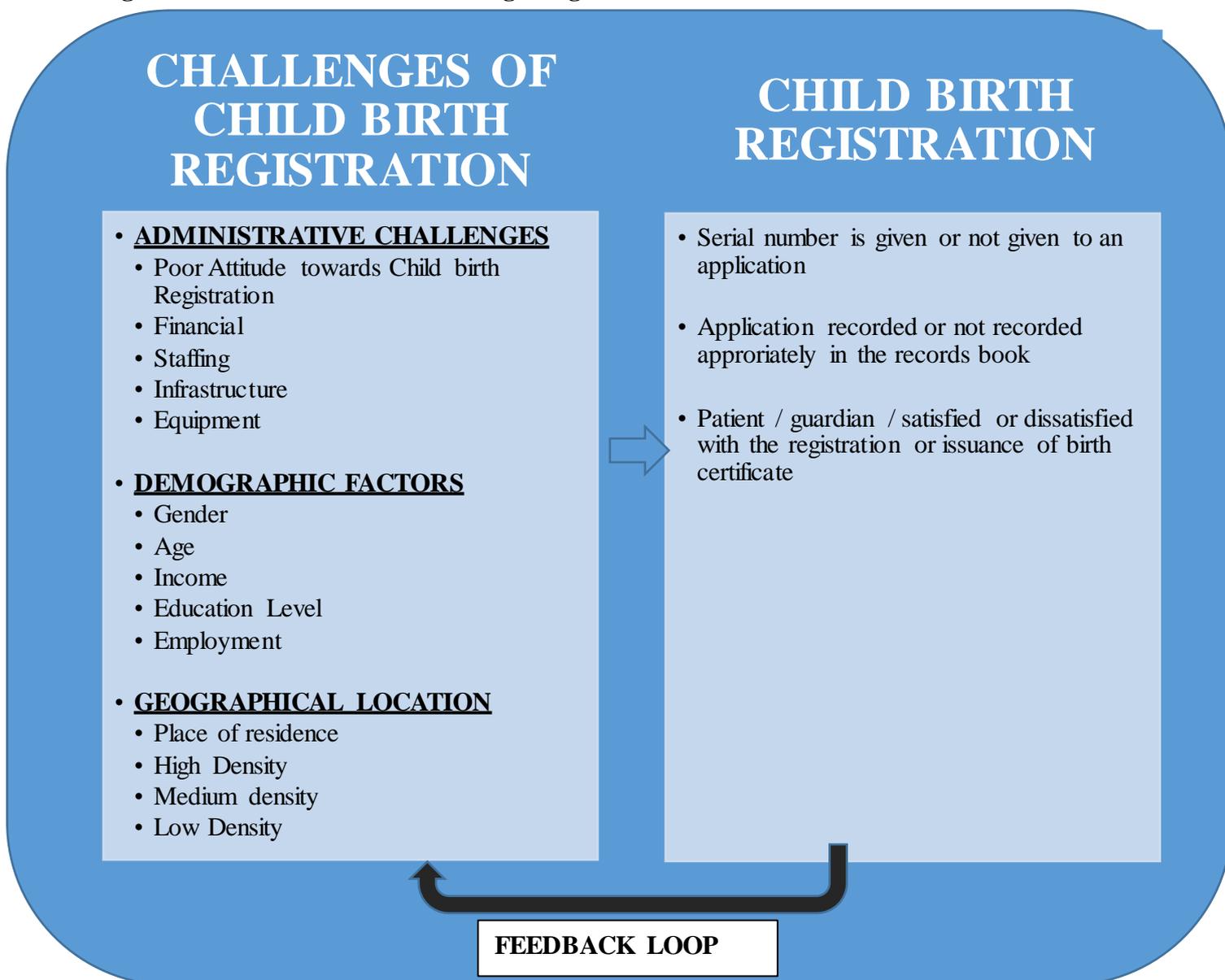
The key concepts in this research are:

- i. Challenge: - this refers to the difficulty that is encountered in the process of registering the birth of a child.
- ii. Child: - this refers to a person who is under five years of age.
- iii. Birth registration: - this refers to the official recording of the birth by the DNRPC in the official register to facilitate issuance of a birth certificate.
- iv. Department of National Registration, Passports and Citizenship(DNRPC):- this is a government department that is responsible for registering all births in Zambia.
- v. Demographic factor: - this refers to sex, age, income, education or employment status of a person.
- vi. Geographical location: - this refers to the place of residence of a person.

## 1.7.Theoretical Framework

The Theoretical framework guiding the research is presented in Figure 1.1.

Figure 2.1: Theoretical Framework guiding the research



Source: Author's own illustration

The theoretical framework guiding the research is based on the assumptions of the systems theory. According to Drack (2015), the systems theory advocates an organismic conception in biology that considers an organism as a whole or a system. The system is believed to exist within a social environment. Thus, certain factors in the social environment affect the system and its outcomes and outputs. The system is also believed to interface with other systems. There are expectations on the role and function of the system to conform to standards within the larger social environment. If the system does not subscribe to those norms, then the system is considered dysfunctional. From the above perspective, the general systems theory views an organisation as a system with interrelated elements. Flood and Jackson (1991) define a system as a complex and highly interlinked network of parts exhibiting synergistic properties. It is a collection of interrelated parts acting together to achieve some goal which exists in the environment. These parts are inputs, processors, outputs, environment and the feedback loop (Gibson *et al.*, 1997).

Based on this systems theory, it is assumed that DNRPC, parents and guardians operate in an environment. This environment is made up of elements such as political, legal and demographic factors as well as the geographical environment that might influence the registration of the birth of children. We assume that these environmental factors present challenges for child birth registration. In this research as shown in Figure 1.1, the key stakeholders operating in this system are parents and guardians that are influenced by demographic factors and the geographical location who make demands on the DNRPC to register the birth of their children. Demographic factors such as income, education and employment status can influence parents and guardians to either register the birth of children or not. In the same vein, geographical location can affect the likelihood of the children's birth to be registered or not. Therefore, these demographic factors and geographical location (which are of the environment) can affect the likelihood of parents and guardians to register the birth of their children. The other key stakeholder operating in this system is the DNRPC which is also influenced by environmental factors like political and legal factors in registering children's birth. Political factors focus on the system of the government in place. Legal factors focus on the laws, rules and regulations governing the operation of the system. These in turn, present administrative challenges to the DNRPC. Based on the assumptions of the systems theory, we assume that the DNRPC is part of the system for child birth registration. The inputs in this research are the demands that parents and guardians make for the birth of their children to be registered by the DNRPC. It is expected that parents and

guardians as informants of the occurrence of birth and use appropriate forms notify the local registration officer about the occurrence of the birth of a child. Once the notification of birth is done at the DNRPC registration office, it is expected that the birth is registered successfully and a birth certificate is issued. However, because of demographic factor or geographical location or administrative challenges, the informant may fail to notify the local registration officer the birth of a child. Consequently, such a birth will not be registered.

The processor in this case is the DNRPC which has the responsibility to process the application and register the birth of children. Here it is expected that the DNRPC has put in place procedures that should be followed for the birth of a child to be registered. It is further expected that the DNRPC as the processor will have provided appropriate forms that parents and guardians can use to register a birth of the child. When these procedures are followed by the DNRPC, the registration of the child should be successful. However, if there is an omission in the adherence to the regulations provided with regard to registering the birth of children, the registration would not be successful. The desired output of this system is the registration of a child's birth and issuance of a birth certificate. On the other hand, the undesired output of this system is the non-registration of a child's birth and non-issuance of a birth certificate. The feedback loop involves the parents and guardians providing feedback to the DNRPC whether or not they have been satisfied or dissatisfied with the registration of their children's birth. If the parents and guardians are dissatisfied, it is expected that they will make fresh demands to the DNRPC for the process to be improved. Equally, if the DNRPC perceives that its clients are not adhering to the established codified procedures in the process of child birth registration, through the feedback loop, such information would be passed on to the parents and guardians. This interaction is continuous as long as the key stakeholders in registering children's birth continue to interact. As such, healthy systems are believed to continuously exchange feedback with their environments, analyse the feedback, adjust internal systems as needed to achieve the system's goals, and then transmit necessary information back to the environment (Chikere and Nwoka, 2015). In the context of this research, it is expected that there is communication between parents and guardians on the one hand side and the DNRPC on the other as they undertake the registration of the birth of children.

## **1.8. Structure of the Dissertation**

This dissertation is divided into seven chapters. Chapter One is the introduction. This introductory chapter presents the background to the research, the statement of the problem,

the general and specific objectives, the research questions, the significance of the research, the definition of key concepts and the theoretical framework. Chapter One ends with a presentation of the structure of the dissertation. Chapter Two is the literature review. It presents the literature that has been reviewed in this research, starting with literature on child birth registration in Zambia and ending with literature on literature on developed countries. Chapter Three presents the methodology used in this research. Specifically, the chapter presents the type of research, the location of the research, the research approach, research design, sources of data, sample size, sampling methods, data collection methods, reliability of data, validity of data, data analysis techniques, ethics applied when conducting the research and the limitations of the research.

Chapter Four presents and discusses the findings relating to the first specific objective which is to analyse administrative challenges faced by the DNRPC in the process of child birth registration. In order to achieve its purpose, the chapter proceeds by first presenting the background characteristics of informants before discussing the process of child birth registration in Zambia. The chapter further considers the perception of parents and guardians about the process of child birth registration. Lastly, it looks at the administrative challenges faced by the DNRPC in the process of child birth registration before a conclusion is made. Chapter Five examines the extent to which demographic factors affect child birth registration. The chapter focuses on gender, age, levels of income, levels of education, and employment status of parents and guardians. Finally, a conclusion is given. Chapter Six analyses the extent to which geographical location of parents and guardians affects child birth registration. Thereafter, a conclusion of the chapter is given. Chapter Seven focuses on the conclusion and recommendations of the dissertation. It gives the overall conclusions and then makes recommendations in terms of policy recommendations and areas for future research

## CHAPTER 2

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1. Introduction

This Chapter reviews literature on child birth registration. The Chapter begins by reviewing literature on Zambia, then literature on other African countries. This is followed by literature on developing countries outside Africa. Literature on developed countries is also reviewed. Finally, a conclusion is presented.

#### 2.2. Literature on Child Birth Registration

##### 2.2.1. Literature on Zambia

An article by UK Zambians (2012) titled *From Birth Records to Birth certificates* observed that child birth registration in Zambia was low. The article is based on randomly interviewed 100 mothers at five separate health centres in Chongwe, Kitwe, Kafue, Mumbwa and Chavuma districts and found that none had a birth certificate for their last two children. Mothers on their part, thought an Under Five card was the equivalent of a birth certificate. From the research, it was found that most mothers did not understand the value of obtaining birth certificates. It was found that child birth registration is done manually as such the system exacerbates corruption. Lastly, it was found that the registration process was slow. It took on average two to three months for one to get a Government approved birth certificate. For babies born outside Lusaka, the process is twice as long. The weakness of this article is that it does not explain the challenges faced by the government in the process of child birth registration.

The government of Zambia through the Ministry of Home Affairs (2013) in collaboration with cooperating partners ( UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNDP, UNECA, CDC, USAID, WHO, PLAN International, World Vision and Global Fund) undertook an internal assessment of background information from birth registration studies conducted by DNRPC in 2008 and 2012 with the view to develop the *National Strategic Action Plan For Reforming And Improving Civil Registration And Vital Statistics with the Implementation Period of this plan being 2014 – 2019*. This internal assessment established that the level of birth registration in Zambia was 14 percent. In terms of rural/urban divide, nine percent of rural children had their births registered 28 percent of urban children had their births registered. It was also found that delays in issuing certificates within the stipulated timeframe

resulted in discouragement of the public. The lessons learnt from Ministry of Home Affairs (2013) is that it is important for institutions to carry out self-assessment or introspections regarding how they execute their mandates if they are to provide quality services to the citizens they are expected to serve. The weakness of the internal assessment of background information from birth registration studies conducted by Ministry of Home Affairs (2013) is that it does not provide reasons for the disparities in the registration levels between rural and urban areas.

Central Statistical Office (CSO) (2015) undertook a *Demographic Health Survey for 2013-2014*. The main objective of the survey was to provide information on levels and trends in fertility, childhood mortality, use of family planning methods, maternal and child health indicators including HIV/AIDS. The survey indicated that child birth registration in Zambia is very low, standing at 11 percent. It shows a decrease in terms of registration levels when compared with the findings of the the internal assessment of background information from birth registration studies conducted by DNRPC in 2008 and 2012 that is cited earlier. A nationally representative sample of 18,052 households was drawn for the survey. Although the survey established that only 11 percent of children under the age of five were registered with the civil authority, of these only four percent of children under age five had in their possession a birth certificate. This survey acknowledges that although Zambia has a legal and administrative structure stipulating official registration of births, few births are registered officially. The lesson learnt from this survey is that the levels of child birth registration are low. However, the weakness of the survey is that it failed to give reasons why only 11 percent of children under the age of five were registered with the civil authority. There is also no reason to explain why birth registration is much higher in urban than rural areas.

### **2.2.2. Literature on other African Countries**

Kadzikano (2007) conducted a research titled *Birth Registration of Children in Zimbabwe*. The research focused on two districts, namely, Hurungwe District in Mashonaland West and Bindura District in Mashonaland Central. The objective of the research was to understand birth registration in Zimbabwe, document lessons learned and make pointers for future impactful interventions. A participatory research approach was used in the research. The research showed that 30 percent of Zimbabwean children were unregistered. The researcher attributes this phenomenon to several factors. It was established that birth registration requirements were too strict and rigid. Other reasons cited for low birth registration were fear of possible cultural and traditional repercussions in future, such as ‘Ngozi’ (an avenging

spirit). It emerged also that women respondents were afraid of the “unknown”, if they registered children in their maiden names. The researcher also alleged that the bureaucracy at RG’s offices contributed to the lack of child birth registration. The researcher further showed that children delivered in hospitals have a greater chance of being registered compared to those delivered at home.

The attitude and behaviour of officials in the RGs was despicable factor. It was said that they were rude and did not listen to people, often saying very harsh and uncaring words and comments to people who may have queued for hours or even days to get served. On the positive note the research indicates that adult respondents revealed that the mobile registrations conducted were very beneficial to those people in faraway areas who could not travel to main registration centres. It came out that many people, especially in the farming areas and communal lands, obtained their registration documents during mobile registration exercises. Lessons learnt from this research is that the concept of birth registration is not popular in Zimbabwe. The weakness of the research is that it only covered two districts in a country that has several districts. This means that the findings of that research cannot easily be generalised.

Cardoso and Mampane (2008), who produced a working paper titled, *Strategic Analysis in Civil Registration in the Context of HIV/AIDS* that covered all 45 countries in Eastern, Southern Africa, Western and Central Africa claimed that child birth registration for the Sub Saharan Africa was below 10 percent. In their working paper, Cardoso and Mampane (2008) cited poverty, historical, and cultural as an impediment to child birth registration. They observed that already meagre finances earned by families would rather be spent on material needs such as food, shelter, clothing etc. to ensure children lived decent lives. Lack of political will and understanding of birth registration as a fundamental human right among the general population in these countries as well as by policy makers was also added to the fundamental barriers to the availability of effective and sustainable birth registration system. Coupled with that, was lack of understanding on the protection and benefits offered to children being registered and owning a birth certificate. The weakness of the study, however, is that it takes a very broad approach in its analysis of child birth registration. It does not adequately cover the experiences of individual countries.

After analysing the bottlenecks of birth registration Nigeria, Gough (2008) claims that only 30 percent of all children under age five years of age are registered. The bottleneck analysis

of birth registration in Nigeria is based on birth registration data from MICS 2007 and DHS 2008. The purpose of her analysis was to examine the situation of birth registration in Nigeria, including: Integrating existing data, including Rapid SMS data regarding the scale of non-registration, outlining the profiles of unregistered children and highlighting key inequities, identifying the barriers to registration, proposing new data collection methods designed to fill gaps in existing data and suggesting interventions to overcome barriers among other things. Desk review of existing legislation and policy documents to describe the structure of the current birth registration system and analysis of existing quantitative data regarding current registration levels was also done. Her analysis indicates that birth registration rates are approximately two times lower in northern zones than in southern zone of the country. She argues that there are two distinct systems for birth registration. The National Population Commission is responsible for establishing registration centres and appointing registrars in a manner that ensures successful service delivery. Yet the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999) says that birth registration is one of the main functions of all 774 Local Government Areas (LGAs). LGAs maintain an independent system of birth registration which is parallel to the National Population Commission system. Each LGA develops distinct work patterns, forms, and registries. In addition, LGA systems are able to charge a fee for conducting registration activities while the National Population Commission states that registration should be free.

According to Gough (2008), this reveals a weakness of the birth registration system in Nigeria because a specific legal framework does not exist to govern the relationship between National Population Commission National Population Commission and LGA registration systems. As a result of these parallel mandates and systems, Gough (2008) argues that the process of birth registration can be confusing for parents and guardians. She further claims that in discussions with local families, most parents were unable to distinguish whether they had National Population Commission or LGA certificates, or both. No parents were able to articulate any difference between the two because the certificates issued by National Population Commission or LGA are still acceptable by most institutions requiring evidence of age. Her analysis further shows that up to 70 percent of births in Nigeria occur at home. She concluded that birth registration for these children will be more difficult than for children born at health centres or hospitals. The reason is that in order to register, National Population Commission Registrars would be required to identify the birth and travel to the location, which may be technically difficult, costly, and time-consuming. The weakness of this

analysis, however, is that it does not explain why the various institution involved in child birth registration fail to effectively collaborate in the process of performing their duties.

*Technical Report on Status of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Region* presented by the United Nations(UN) (2010) highlights that the child birth registration coverage in this region is low, with most countries recording child birth registration levels of below 20 percent (UN, 2010). The technical report attributed the low completeness and also birth registration to several factors. Firstly, the civil registration system in majority SADC countries is manually operated. As a result, there are no sufficient birth registration statistics compiled from the (CRVS) system. Secondly it is difficult to register births, especially for people living in villages and rural areas where there is no formal system of registration. Lastly, it was established that registration personnel lacked training in CRVS. The weakness of this Technical Report is that it discusses the experiences in the SADC region as a whole. As such, it does not adequately discuss the experiences of individual countries.

United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (2013) report titled, *Every Child's Birth Right: Inequities and trends in birth registration*, found that most of the 10 countries with the lowest levels of birth registration are found in sub-Saharan Africa. The report highlighted a variety of factors that influenced the low child birth registration level. These included lacks of Government commitment and inadequate legislative framework to support child birth registration. Paradoxically, the report acknowledged that the majority of mothers appeared to be aware of the registration process, which points to other barriers to birth registration. The strength of the report is it highlighted factors that inhibit registering of most children. However, the weakness of the report is that it presents a general picture about Sub- Saharan African. It does not explain the experiences of individual countries.

In their study on *Trends in the Completeness of Birth registration in Nigeria: 2002-2010*, Makinde et al., . (2015) argue that it is important to clearly spell out the functions and roles of each institution especially when more than one institution seem to be providing similar services. The study was conducted in six Geopolitical zones namely North Central, North East, North West, South East, South, and South West. Datasets on children below five years of age as well as their mothers were retrieved. These datasets were linked in order to assess birth registration completeness by socio-demographic characteristics of the mothers and

households. This analysis focused on 41, 741 valid records of the status of child birth registration. Simple and multiple logistic regressions were used to assess factors that affect the completeness of birth registration. The study established that at the time of the survey birth registration was low, standing at 31.5 percent and 41.5 percent in 2007 and 2011, respectively. The study also revealed disparities in terms of level of registration across the geopolitical zones. For example, it was discovered that the South-West zone had the highest rates for all years, maintaining levels above 60 percent from 2007 to 2009. The South-East zone showed the most progress as it rose from 38 percent to 62 percent from 2002 to 2008. However, the North-West zone had the least rates overall, which only increased by approximately 10 percentage points (12 percent to 22 percent) from 2002 to 2010. Also noteworthy is the fact that completeness rates in the North-East zone had steadily declined since 2005 from 36 percent to 20 percent in 2010. They attributed this to lack of direct relationship and close collaboration between the National Population Commission which is responsible for the registration of births, deaths and marriages in Nigeria with the Ministry of Health which oversees all the hospitals where a significant proportion of the births take place. They argue that there is no policy document that details how these institutions should interact.

The study further showed other disparities apart from different registration level based of geopolitical zones. For example, registration was lower in Muslim households and those of other religions compared with Christian households. Birth registration was also noted to be higher in children of mothers who received ante-natal care previously at a health facility. Further, female children were less likely to be registered than their male counterparts and children over a year old were more likely to be registered than those under one year. From this study we learn that, collaboration is key among key stakeholders that are involved in providing similar services or performing similar duties to avoid duplicity of functions and confusing clients. The weakness of the study is that it does not explain the challenges faced to collaborate the efforts of various stakeholders in the process of child birth registration.

Piper (2015) presents comparative reports on the legal frameworks governing birth registration in Zambia, Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda and Zimbabwe. This research outlines clearly the timelines that each parent and guardian must follow to register a birth in these Sub –Saharan African countries. The weakness with the research, however, is that it is short of providing sufficient reasons for low

child birth registration even when it has acknowledged that all the countries mentioned above have a law that provides for free child birth registration within the prescribed period from the occurrence of the birth of a child.

### **2.2.3. Literature on Developing Countries outside Africa**

In its presentation of the general experiences of child birth registration in South Asian countries, UNICEF (2013) established that the lowest levels of child birth registration were found among children from the two largest population groups, Hindus and Muslims. Children from religious minorities, such as the Sikhs and Jains, are about twice as likely to be registered. This was established from analysing information from household surveys, the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) and the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), conducted in 2000, 2005-2006 and 2009-2011 in these South Asian countries. The main objective of the report was to assess and appreciate inequities and trends in child birth registration and also the situation of children and women in a wide range of areas, including nutrition, health, water and sanitation. Lessons learnt from the UNICEF (2013) report is that religion and ethnicity appear to have some influence over birth registration levels. The weakness of this report is that it places more emphasis on religious and ethnicity factors while neglecting other important demographic factors such as age, sex, education level, income level, and occupation of households.

World Bank/World Health Organisation (2014) report on *Global Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Scaling up Investment Plan 2015–2024* established that Brazil has made significant progress with birth registration, overcoming many of the discrepancies across its states. This report concludes that Brazil has made significant progress with birth registration by establishing civil registry units in maternity hospitals and providing hospitals with a small payment incentive to register births. This was later expanded to electronic registration. However, the report does not cover the experiences of other developing countries in Africa and Asia.

Lima et al. (2018) conducted a study on birth registration in Brazil and shows that birth registration has improved steadily from about 80 percent of registration in the 1990s to over 95 percent in 2010. The researchers reviewed previous Household surveys that contained social, economic, and demographic information on population. They also reviewed other reports produced by the national statistical office and other researchers. However, there are

variations that were noted. The lowest income group registers about 88 percent of their births, whereas the highest income group is at over 98 percent of child birth registration. This study highlights how income levels play a significant role in influencing parents and guardians to register their children. The omission by Lima, Lanza, Queiroz and Zeman (2018) however, is that they focus mainly on the income levels of households while neglecting other socio-economic factors such as environment, health and lifestyle and education.

In India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) (2018) conducted a *National Family Health Survey* with the primary objective of providing essential data on health and family welfare among other things, as well as data on emerging issues. It is reported that at the time of the survey, 80 percent of children under the age of five years had their births registered with the civil authority. This includes 62 percent of children in possession of birth certificates. The survey also established that there were variations in birth registration status among different regions. It pointed out that birth registration is lowest in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and highest in Delhi. It further observed that children in urban areas were more likely than children in rural areas to have their birth registered. Lessons learnt from this survey is that, although the average level of child birth registration in India is relatively high; it shows that other regions have challenges in ensuring that children are registered. The weakness of the survey, however, is that it has not adequately explained why there are such variations in birth registration status among different regions.

#### **2.2.4. Literature on Developed Countries**

Harbitz and Tamargo (2009) in their research on *The Significance of Legal Identity in Situations of Poverty and Social Exclusion-The Link between Gender, Ethnicity, and Legal Identity*, concluded that in developed countries, under-registration is practically nonexistent. They argue that where birth registration is above 90 percent, the reasons for this high performance included, cooperation of a wide range of stakeholders- registration office (i.e. a registry), Ministry of Interior, Justice etc. In addition, they explained that there is a National Statistical Office (NSO), which would receive vital statistics data from the registry and process and publish them. There is also political will to ensure all births are registered. To increase the coverage, CRVS have been digitised and all the registration systems are linked to each other. The weakness of Harbitz and Tamargo (2009) is that their research was confined to experiences of advanced economies. They do not cover the experiences of developing countries such as those in Africa, South America and Asia.

Muzzi (2010) in the case study of Brazil titled *Good Practices in Integrating Birth Registration into Health Systems (2000-2009)* notes that birth registration levels are not uniform. The case study aimed at identifying good practices led by UNICEF between 2000 and 2009 in integrating birth registration with the health system and promoting the use of information technology as tools for universalizing birth registration and strengthening health services for children. The case study also involved two other countries (Bangladesh and the Gambia) and one case study of the Municipality of Delhi, India. Muzzi (2010) argues that in regions where the levels are high, 87.7 percent, advocacy efforts and technical assistance to the government of Brazil by UNICEF in birth registration activities and the initiative by the Government of Brazil to amend existing laws, rendering the registration of births and the issuance of birth certificates free of charge has been the driving force in increasing levels of birth registration. She attributes this high registration level to the introduction of financial incentives to all maternity hospitals that kept an advanced birth registration post on their premises, allowing new parents to start the registration process before going home.

Muzzi (2010) further notes that there were areas where birth registration rates were below the national average (94 percent). She found that birth registration rates in the northern and northeastern states of Brazil remained extremely low compared to the national average. She also found that eight of the country's 27 states have birth registration rates below 80 percent, including three below 70 percent (Amapá, Alagoas and Piauí) and one below 60 percent (Roraima). The case study found that the presence of indigenous populations in these regions was responsible for low levels of child birth registration. The argument was that these indigenous populations do not see the benefits of birth registration. The lessons learnt from this case study is that financial incentives and cultural background affect child birth registration. The weakness with this case study is that it was confined to two developing continents namely, South America and Asia. It did not cover Africa.

UNICEF (2013) presented experiences of child birth registration in developed countries. It was established that the percentage of registered children is above 90 per cent in all industrialised countries. The report highlights how the focus of industrialised countries is to attain universal registration by reaching marginalised population groups and closing the gaps between geographic areas. Additionally, the report highlights how these regions do not have major variations in terms of birth registration between rural and urban areas. The weakness of UNICEF (2013) is that it has focused mainly on experiences of child birth registration in

Western Europe. It does not cover the experiences of other developed countries outside Western Europe such as those in North America.

In his paper titled *Status Analysis on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS)*, Ljones (2014) indicates that the level of birth registration in Norway is 100 percent. Achieving of 100 percent registration level in Norway is attributed to the genesis of civil registration of vital events in Norway. CRVS was started by the church in the 17th century. The church in each parish registered baptisms, marriages and funerals in a special book. To be a member of the church the children had to be baptised and later confirmed. Almost everybody baptised their children and were married and buried by the church. The coverage was close to 100 percent of the corresponding vital events, i.e. births, marriages and deaths. The first national law on population registration was introduced in Norway shortly after independence from Sweden in 1905 and local population registration offices were established in some municipalities, the first in Oslo in 1906. Slowly more and more municipalities were included and by 1940, 91 out of a total 750 municipalities, covering 38 percent of the population had established a local population register. The registers were used for administrative and statistical purposes. In 1964 a computerised Central Population Register (CPR) covering the total population was established on the basis of the population census in 1960. The register is continuously updated with data on births, deaths, marital changes and migrations among others. From 1985 the register was centralised in one database, but from 1994 all vital events were registered online from the local population registers. The CPR gets its data from a combination of self-reporting and data from other administrative registers. For example, birth notification forms are sent by the hospital or the maternity clinic or by the midwife if the birth is given at home, to the population registry in the mother's municipality of residence. The Norwegian Tax Administration (NTA) then assigns the PIN number to the child. When the child has been assigned a national ID number the NTA sends a request to the mother to choose a name for the child. The child's national ID number is stated on this request. After the child's name has been registered the NTA sends a birth certificate to the parents.

Ljones (2014) further argues that developed countries have different motives for engaging in CRVS, such as security concerns, increasing tax revenue, modernise banking, improving public services to the residents (health, education, pensions, etc.), and strengthening human rights by providing birth certificates to everybody with name, date of birth and citizenship among others, thus facilitating the building of a modern society. This study highlights how

technology by means of computerisation can be used to attain universal child registration. It also highlights how compulsory notification of births by maternity wards help to overcome under registration. Additionally, the study highlights how political will can play a significant part in ensuring all births are registered. Lastly, we also learn that birth registration can prove to be beneficial in building of a modern society. The weakness of Ljones (2014) is that he presents the experiences of one developed country. Other countries of the world are not covered.

### **2.3. Conclusion**

In conclusion, the reviewed literature shows that civil registration authorities in many countries face a number of challenges in managing CRVS including child birth registration. In some instances, parents and guardians fail to register their children on account of poverty, historical background and also cultural and traditional repercussions. Some fear that child registration will have negative repercussions on the wellbeing of the child. Accessing birth registration services is characterised by inefficiencies because the registration system is manually operated or is nonexistent in some instances especially in developing countries. It has also been established that some families place little value on registering the birth of a child. In an attempt to address these challenges, child birth registration has been made compulsory since 1973 in Zambia. Furthermore, child registration and other services are gradually being decentralised to provinces and districts. Attempts are also being made to computerise the child birth registration systems in both developed and developing countries. Sensitisation programs are also being under taken in many communities on birth registration. There are some benefits that are believed to result from such interventions. These include quicker issuance of birth certificates because of improved levels of service delivery and increased efficiency and effectiveness of the civil registration systems. Nevertheless, the literature shows that even with such interventions, developing countries have failed to attain universal child birth registration. Furthermore, the major weakness of the reviewed literature, especially in Africa is that it is not comprehensive in establishing the challenges of child birth registration. It does not adequately discuss the challenges faced by the major stakeholders in the process of child birth registration especially in Southern Africa. These stakeholders include the government, parents and guardians. This is the gap this research attempts to fill by focusing on challenges of child birth registration in Zambia, a case study of Lusaka and Chongwe districts.

## CHAPTER 3

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1. Introduction

This chapter presents the methodology that was adopted for this research. The chapter specifically looks at the type of research, the location of the research, the research approach, the research design, the sources of data, the sample size, the sampling methods, the data collection methods, the reliability of data, the validity of data, the data analysis techniques and the ethics that were applied when conducting the research. The chapter ends by presenting the limitations of the research.

#### 3.2. Type of Research

The type of research conducted was looked at from three angles. The first angle was based on the purpose of the research. In this regard, the research was descriptive in nature. Descriptive research involves describing systematically a situation, problem, phenomenon, service or programme, or provides information about , say, living condition of a community, or describes attitudes towards an issue (Gwalior, 2018). The purpose of this research, therefore, was to investigate and establish the challenges faced by government in the process of child birth registration in Zambia.

The second angle was based on the number of cases to be investigated. In this regard, the research was a case study of Lusaka and Chongwe districts. A case study is an empirical inquiry that investigates a contemporary phenomenon within its real-life context. The case study method was chosen because first, it allows the researcher to collect detailed information on the behavior of the social unit under investigation (Madimutsa, 2019). Note that a social unit can be a person, an institution, or a community (Kothari, 2012). This reason is important as it allowed this researcher to collect detailed information on how the DNRPC manages the process of child birth registration in Zambia. Second, the case study method helps the researcher to understand the history of the social unit and its interaction with the environment (Madimutsa, 2019). This is cardinal because it helped this researcher to understand how the DNRPC has been perceived by the citizenry who seek its services and how it has responded to such perceptions. Third, the case study method enables the researcher to identify challenges faced by the social unit as it interacts with the environment (Madimutsa, 2019). In line with this principle, this research was an attempt to identify challenges faced by the

DNRPC as it manages the child birth registration process. Fourth, the case study method enables the researcher to make recommendations on how to deal with the challenges faced by the social unit (Madimutsa, 2019). This reason was vital as it enabled this researcher to make recommendations that would help the DNRPC overcome some of the challenges it faces in its quest to strengthen the child birth registration process and ultimately increase levels of child birth registration in Zambia.

The third angle was based on the time-frame within which the research was to be conducted. In this regard, it was a one-time research. A one-time research involves the examination of a phenomenon at one point in time. This means that the observation is not made over an extended period (Barbie, 2007). A one-time research was ideal in this case because it was less costly and conformed to the time-frame within which this research was expected to be completed as a partial requirement for the award of the master of Public Administration degree at the University of Zambia. This research was conducted between January 2015 and December 2015. Field work was done in April and June in 2015. In order to refresh the initial data collected from key informants between April and June 2015, the researcher further undertook field work with key informants from the DNRPC and Lusaka city council between August and September 2019.

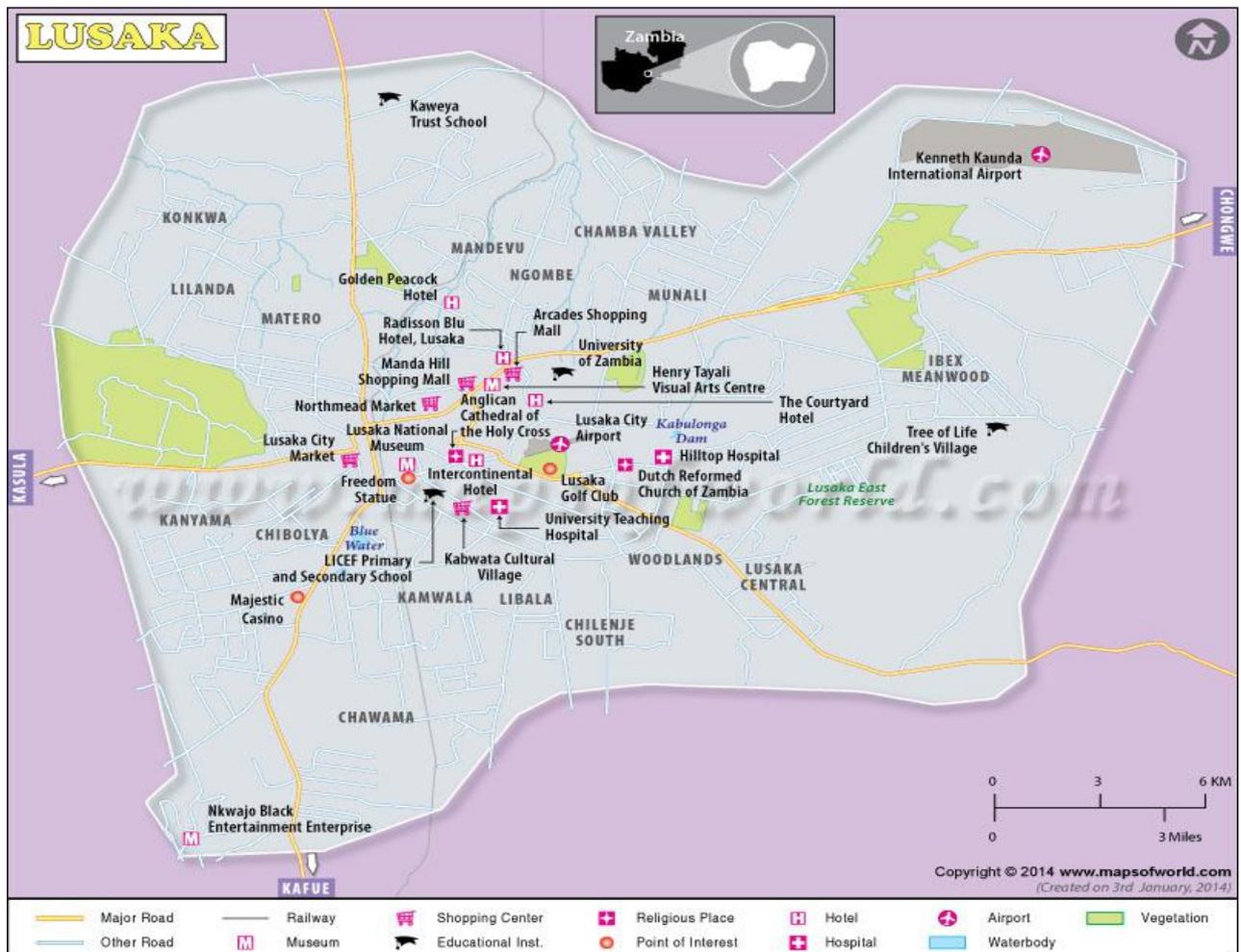
### **3.3. Location of the Research**

The research was conducted in Lusaka and Chongwe districts (both in Lusaka province). Lusaka district was chosen to represent the urban setting while Chongwe district represents the rural setting. Lusaka district was chosen because it is the capital city of Zambia and houses the headquarters of all government ministries and all diplomatic missions accredited to Zambia. Further, its central position has made Lusaka to be one of the most important economic hubs of Zambia. Economically, Lusaka has seen a lot of businesses established in the recent past including the many shopping malls that have sprung up in almost all corners of the city (Lusaka City Council, 2017). Lusaka is also the capital of Zambia which persuades people from the rural areas to migrate in search of jobs. This contributes to it being the highest populated district in Zambia. Its population was 1.7 million in 2010 (CSO, 2010). The World Fact book (2018) indicates that currently Lusaka district has 2.5 million residents. This entails that Lusaka city has the highest demand for public services including birth certificates. Politically, Lusaka is divided into seven (7) Constituencies which include Chawama, Kabwata, Kanyama, Lusaka Central, Mandevu and Munali, and these are further subdivided

into 33 wards (Lusaka City Council, 2017). Lusaka district was chosen so as to help understand the experiences in urban areas regarding child birth registration. Figure 3.1 shows the map of Lusaka city.

Like Lusaka district, Chongwe district is located in Lusaka Province of Zambia. According to CSO (2010), the district had a total population of 141,301 people, of which 26,341 reside in Chongwe urban, while the rest are in villages. The projected current population of Chongwe district is 188,091 (CSO, 2019). Chongwe district was chosen so as to help understand the experiences regarding child birth registration in rural areas. Figure 3.2 shows the map of Chongwe district. Administratively, Chongwe District is divided into two areas; Council area and Traditional area. Council area is made up of a township and surrounding farms, and falls under the jurisdiction of the local authority. The traditional area is made up of villages, and falls under the jurisdiction of the chiefs (customary law). Politically, Chongwe Constituency is sub-divided into nine wards (CSO, 2003).

**Figure 3. 1 : Map of Lusaka City**



Source: Maps of World (2014).

**Figure 3. 2: Map of Chongwe District**



**Source: (Google maps, 2020).**

### **3.4. Research Approach**

This research used the mixed methods approach. Mixed methods approach combines elements of qualitative and quantitative approaches in collecting and analysing data. Qualitative approach focuses on the collection of qualitative data. It is concerned with understanding a phenomenon from the informant's perspective and emphasises collection of in-depth information about the issue under investigation (Gwalior, 2018).

On the other hand, quantitative approach focuses on the collection of quantitative data. It assumes a fixed and measurable reality and is concerned with issues that can be quantified or turned into statistics or numbers (McLeod, 2008). Mixed methods approach was adopted in this research because it provides breadth and depth of information while offsetting the weaknesses attributed to using one approach by itself. The use of mixed methods approach in this research helped to generate unique insights into the phenomenon under investigation that are not available from either type of approach alone.

### **3.5. Research Design**

This research adopted a non - experimental design. This research design involves describing a situation or phenomenon simply as it stands or describing a relationship between two or more variables, all without any interference from the researcher. This means that you do not manipulate any variables (e.g., change the conditions that an experimental group undergoes (Gwalior, 2018). The reason for choosing the non-experimental design was that it is carried out in natural settings; it does not involve manipulation of the situation, event, circumstances or people. The researcher interacted with the research participants in their natural settings in order to acquire in depth knowledge of the study area.

### **3.6. Sources of Data**

This research used both Primary and Secondary sources of data. On the one hand, Primary data are data which are undocumented and are collected for the first time by the researcher (Surbhi, 2016). In this research, primary data included data obtained from officials from DNRPC at headquarters in Lusaka, District registration office in Chongwe, parents and guardians with children aged under five years located in Lusaka and Chongwe districts.

On the other hand, Secondary data are data that have already been collected and reported by others (Surbhi, 2016). These data were collected through desk research from documents that relate to the research topic. The secondary sources of data included published and unpublished documents such as books, research reports, journal articles, periodicals, newspapers, dissertations, thesis and national documents, among others. These documents were accessed from libraries, individuals, organisations and the internet.

### **3.7. Population and Sample Size**

The population from which the sample was selected comprised officials from the DNRPC, Lusaka City Council and all the 329 households in the three selected residential areas. The 329 households were the sampling frame for the parents and guardians. Sample size can be taken to mean “the number of items to be selected from the universe to constitute a sample” (Kothari, 2004: 10). The study targeted 117 respondents and key informants. The sample respondents were distributed as follows:

- i. Parents and Guardians (109)
  - 34 parents and guardians from Chongwe district (20 from council area and 14 from traditional area)

- 75 parents and guardians from Lusaka city. They were distributed as follows:
    - 20 parents and guardians from a low-density residential area (Court- yards Civic Centre. Number of houses 98, as the sampling frame);
    - 25 parents and guardians from a medium density residential area (Msovu Street in Kabwata area. Number of houses 108 as the sampling frame);
    - 30 parents and guardians from a high-density residential area (Muchinga Street in Matero area. Number of houses 123 as the sampling frame).
- ii. The sample of the key informants was distributed as follows;
- Central government department (06)
- 5 DNRPC headquarters (2 senior officers, Division 1 & above and 3 junior officers, Division II & below)
  - 1 Registration Officer, Chongwe district
- Local government department (02)
- 2 Officials - Lusaka City Council

### **3.8. Sampling Methods**

Purposive sampling was used to select key informants from DNRPC and Lusaka City Council. Purposive sampling is sampling that is based on the researcher's judgment about characteristics of a representative sample. This type of sampling is based on what the researcher thinks is typically the population under investigation. It will enable the selection of respondents who will be able to give in-depth information about the research topic (Bless and Achola, 1988).

Multi- Stage sampling method was used to reach the households. This type of sampling involves dividing large clusters of population into smaller clusters in several stages in order to make primary data collection more manageable. This means that the researcher takes several steps in gathering the sample. In multi-stage sampling, the researcher first selects groups or clusters such as geographical clusters then select a few of these using simple random or systematic sampling then from the selected clusters, selects smaller clusters and so on until it gets to the selection of the actual elements (Bhattacharjee, 2012). The focus of the research within the households was a child under the age of five years. Regarding the number of parents and guardians in Lusaka city, a difference was made to ensure that the smallest

number go to the low population density residential area, the moderate number go to the medium population density residential area, and the largest number go to the high population density residential area. The 20 parents and guardians for the low population density area in Lusaka were picked using an interval of five. The 25 parents and guardians for the medium population density residential area were also set at an interval of five. Equally, the 30 parents and guardians for the high population density residential area were set at an interval of five. A lottery method was then used to pick one child who was under the age of five who was the focus of the research (i.e. to establish if the birth of this child was registered or not? And why if not registered?) When using the lottery method, each member of the population was assigned a unique number which was later put in a container and shuffled. This researcher without being blindfolded then picked out the number till the required sample size was met.

Probability sampling was used to select parents and guardians to be given the questionnaire. Probability sampling is a sampling technique in which sample from a larger population are chosen using a method based on the theory of probability (Bless and Achola, 1988). In Lusaka district the 20, 25 and 30 parents and guardians from the low, medium, and high population density residential areas were picked using probability sampling at equal intervals of five, from the first house in the pre-chosen streets until the targeted number for the residential area was met. In Chongwe district the 34 households were picked using systematic sampling at equal interval of five, from the first house in the township area and pre-chosen village under Headwoman Mutonka until the targeted number for the area was met. Probability sampling allowed each element of the population to have an equal chance of being selected for the study. This sampling type was selected because it is simpler and quicker. Note that when the researcher through the above sampling methods selected an individual without experience of giving birth or those who have had no responsibility of ensuring that a child under their care is registered, the researcher proceeded to the next household until the appropriate subject of the study was found. The same interval of five from the last household who was the subject of the study was maintained.

### **3.9. Data Collection Methods**

On one hand, qualitative data was collected using semi-structured interviews that were conducted with key informants from DNRPC and Lusaka City Council. A semi-structured interview is a data collection tool in which the researcher asks informants a series of predetermined but open-ended questions (Given, 2008). Semi-structured interviews were

preferred as they enable one to get detailed information while having control over the topics of the interview than in unstructured interviews.

On the other hand, quantitative data was collected using questionnaires that were administered to the parents and guardians. Questionnaires are a method used to collect standardised data from large numbers of people. They are used to collect data in a statistical form. They were chosen for this research because they enable collection of quantifiable data from a large number of people within a short time (Surbhi, 2016).

### **3.10. Reliability of Data**

Reliability refers to the extent to which a particular measuring procedure gives equivalent results over a number of repeated trials (Bless and Achola, 1988). This research used internal consistency to measure the reliability of data. Internal consistency is a measure of reliability that is used to evaluate the degree to which different test items that probe the same construct produce similar results (Phelan and Wren, 2006). To ensure consistency, this research asked logically related questions and the answers were checked for any contradictions to the corresponding questions.

### **3.11. Validity of Data**

Validity refers to the extent to which empirical measures of a concept accurately represent the concept. Content validity was used to ensure validity of the data in this research. This involves the use of a research instruments which represents the full content of the subject under investigation (Bless and Achola, 1988). The research instruments were structured in a way that they covered the key aspects of the phenomena under investigation. That is taking into consideration the various processes and logistics involved to register the birth of a child. These processes include DNRPC operations, challenges and collaboration with other concerned stakeholders. The logistics that were considered in this research are financing, staffing, infrastructure and equipment. Socioeconomic factors that affect child birth registration was also considered such as sex, age, as well as living arrangements, income, education and employment status. The location of the child, parents and/or guardian were also considered such as place of residence, the terrain and distance from one point to another.

### **3.12. Data Analysis Techniques**

Data analysis is defined as a way of processing data so that what has been learnt can be disseminated to others. Generally, it involves the search for meaning (Hatch, 2002). This research adopted both qualitative and quantitative data analysis techniques. For quantitative data, a computer program called the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used. The use of this program helped to generate tables and graphs for the various variables that were under analysis. Qualitative data was analysed using the content analysis method. This method relies on the content of written or spoken words or visual representation of individuals (Bless and Achola, 1988). The application of this method in this research was such that the issues brought out by the key informants and respondents were examined in relation to the subject of investigation. The issues that were brought out were presented in themes. The themes in this research included process of child birth and institutional challenges faced in registration and how they can be managed to facilitate speedy issuance of birth certificates. Other themes include, demographic factors and geographical location and how they affect child birth registration.

### **3.13. Research Ethics**

Field and Morse (1992) define research ethics as moral principles that are adhered to in conducting a research. Ethical issues were considered when carrying out this research. Firstly, permission to collect data was sought from DNRPC and Lusaka City Council. Secondly, informed consent was employed where participants were agreeable to participate in the study. This means that participation was voluntary. Besides, the participants were told about the research and allowed to ask questions about the research where they needed clarity. Furthermore, participants were assured of their rights to decline to answer questions which they felt uncomfortable with in the process of data collection. Confidentiality was also employed and participant's identities were kept anonymous. Where necessary, job titles were used to identify the informants.

### **3.14. Limitations of the Research**

In the process of conducting this research, there was one serious limitation that was encountered. The researcher was unable to collect some of the necessary information from the Lusaka City Council on child birth registration because the council is no longer undertaking child birth registration as agents of the DNRPC. Note that Government Gazette Notice No. 183 of 2012 transferred the function of registering births from the local authority

to the Department of National Registration, Passport and Citizenship, which is within the Ministry of Home Affairs (Piper, 2015). Nonetheless, the researcher attempted to deal with this limitation and ensure reliability of the collected data by relying on information provided by the five officials from the DNRPC both in Lusaka and Chongwe districts. Based on this information, the researcher was able to collect the appropriate information for the research.

## CHAPTER 4

### ADMINISTRATIVE CHALLENGES FACED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL REGISTRATION, PASSPORTS AND CITIZENSHIP IN THE PROCESS OF CHILD BIRTH REGISTRATION

#### 4.1. Introduction

The purpose of this chapter is to present and discuss findings relating to the first specific objective which reads: To analyse administrative challenges faced by the Department of National Registration, Passports and Citizenship in the process of child birth registration. In order to achieve its purpose, the chapter proceeds by first presenting the background characteristics of informants. It then gives insights into the process of child birth registration in Zambia followed by discussing perceptions of parents and guardians about the process of child birth registration. Lastly, it will then look at the administrative challenges faced by the Department of National Registration, Passports and Citizenship in the registration of children including what measures are in place to resolve these administrative challenges. Finally, a conclusion will be given.

#### 4.2. Background Characteristics of Informants

The informants were in two categories. These are key informants and households. Their background characteristics are presented below.

##### 4.2.1. Key Informants

The researcher interviewed a total of eight key informants. These are two senior officers (Division 1 and above) and three junior officers (Division 2 and below) from the DPNRPC, Two officials from Lusaka city council and one official from Chongwe district registration office. The initial interview with key informants from the DNRPC was done in June 2015. The interview was done on 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 with the Principal Registrar (senior officer) and Senior Executive Officer (junior officer). Additionally, the initial interview with the Lusaka city council was also done on 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2015. The interview was done with the Public Health Officer. In order to refresh the data collected in June 2015, the researcher visited the DNRPC headquarters on Thursday 08<sup>th</sup> August, 2019 and interviewed one senior officer, a Senior Registrar who was assigned to be interviewed by the DNRPC management. The reason for assigning one senior officer for the interview was that the he was competent enough and was representing the views of all other senior officers at the DNRPC. With respect to the junior

officers two Assistant Registration Officers were assigned for the interview. This was because the DNRPC office was busy and there was inadequate staff to serve the waiting clients. When the researcher visited Lusaka City Council on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 with a view to refresh data that was collected on 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2015, it was learnt from the Public Relations Manager that the Council no longer handles birth registration. He explained that the council stopped handling child birth registration cases almost seven to eight years ago. Therefore, no interview was granted to this researcher. The researcher interviewed the Registration Officer for Chongwe district on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2019. Of these key informants, five were males while three were females. This means that the sample of key informants was dominated by males.

#### **4.2.2. Parents and Guardians**

The total sample of parents and guardians was 109, and composed of 75 from Lusaka district and 34 from Chongwe district. Note that in terms of the whole country Zambia, the proportion of the population living in urban centres is lower than that of rural centres (Robertson et al., ., 2017). However, in this study the population of Lusaka district is higher than Chongwe district hence, a bigger number of respondents from Lusaka district than Chongwe district was selected. The background characteristics of the parents and guardians are presented in terms of sex, age, levels of income, levels of education, employment status. The details of these characteristics are presented in Tables 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, and 4.4. In Lusaka district 75 household heads were selected from three residential areas namely Matero township (Muchinga Street), Kabwata Township (Mzovu Street) and Civic centre (Courtyards). Matero Township represented high density areas from which 30 respondents were drawn, Kabwata Township represented medium density areas from which 25 respondents were drawn while Civic centre represented low density areas from which 20 respondents were drawn. This means that of the 109 parents and guardians 41 (37.6 percent) were males and 68 (62.4 percent) were females. This shows that the sample was dominated by female parents and guardians.

**Table 4. 1: Sex Distribution of Parents and Guardians**

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	41	37.6
Female	68	62.4
Total	109	100

**Source: Field Data**

The ages of parents and guardians ranged from 13 years to above 50 years. The majority of the parents and guardians 44 were between 30 to 39 years representing 40.4 percent with the least two age groups eight being between 13 to 19 years and 50 years old and above representing 7.4 and 7.3 percent respectively, of the parents and guardians. These age groups indicate that the majority of the parents and guardians were of the age 20 years and above hence, the sample being dominated by mature and responsible parents and guardians who must be able to understand very well matters about the welfare of children. This is shown in Table 4.2 below.

**Table 4. 2: Age Distribution of Parents and Guardians**

Age Group	Frequency	Percentage
13-19	8	7.4
20-29	32	29.3
30-39	44	40.4
40-49	17	15.6
50 and above	8	7.3
Total	109	100.0

**Source: Field Data**

The study found that few parents and guardians earn K 3,801 (\$229.08) and above. From the sample of 109 parents and guardians, only 17 (15.6 percent) earn above K 3,801(\$290.15) and 11 (10.1 percent) earn K5, 901(\$450.45) and above. The majority of parents and guardians 41 (37.6 percent) earn between K3, 001(\$229.08) and K3, 800 (\$290.15). This means that the majority of the parents and guardians earn a modest income and probably may not afford to pay the costs, both direct and indirect, that are associated with child birth registration. Table 4.3 summarises these data.

**Table 4. 3: Levels of Income of the Parents and Guardians**

Income (K) <sup>1</sup>	Frequency	Percentage
0-3,000	40	36.7
3,001-3,800	41	37.6
3,801-5,900	17	15.6
5,901 and above	11	10.1
Total	109	100.0

**Source: Field Data**

<sup>1</sup> \$1 = K13.60

Education is claimed to affect people’s awareness and understanding of certain matters. In this research the majority of the total respondents have been to school and acquired some form of formal education. For instance, 88.1 percent of parents and guardians had attained at least primary level of education with only 13 (11.9 percent) without formal education. The study further showed that 33 parents and guardians (30.3 percent) had primary education, 44 (40.4 percent) had attained secondary education and 19 (17.4 percent) attained tertiary education. This shows that the majority of respondents were literate and able to comprehend matters relating to child birth registration. Table 4.4 shows the educational background of the parents and guardians.

**Table 4. 4: Levels of Education of Parents and Guardians**

Level of education	Frequency	Percentage
No formal education	13	11.9
Primary education	33	30.3
Secondary education	44	40.4
Tertiary education	19	17.4
Total	109	100.0

**Source: Field Data**

### **4.3.Process of Child Birth Registration in Zambia**

When asked what the process of child birth registration in Zambia is, the Senior Registrar at the DNRPC explained that in Zambia the procedure that is followed for child birth registration is as provided for by the Birth and Death Registration Act Cap 51 of 1973 of the Laws of Zambia. He also confirmed that the only institution mandated to register births in Zambia is the Department of National Registration, Passports and Citizenship (DNRPC). This is a shift from the earlier registration system set-up where local authorities as agents of the DNRPC undertook birth registration. In the previous arrangement, applications could be made in person or by email to the local council. The applicant could go to the office for Births, Marriages and Societies at the Civic Centre or could download the application form and complete and submit either personally or email to info@lcc.gov.zm in the case of Lusaka city council. With the above clarification, the Senior Registrar at DNRPC outlined the procedure as follows:

Firstly, parents or guardians need to complete the Notice of Birth [Appendix D] at their respective district registration office. If the child was born at the hospital or a clinic, a Record of Birth [Appendix E] should be attached to the Notice of Birth form together with NRCs [National Registration Cards] for parents, the mother and the father. When the documents are completed, they should be submitted to the District Registrar. Like I said earlier, this should be in the district where the child was born. The District Registrar will enter the details of the birth in the register and assigns a serial number as a means of reference. The form is endorsed with the District Registrar's signature and official stamp. Lastly, the District Registrar forwards the registration documents to the Provincial Registrar or here at the Registrar General's office for issuance of a birth certificate. So child birth registration as a process or procedure is not complicated at all (Senior Registrar, DNRPC).

With regard to children born in the village, the Senior Registrar said that the Chief or Headman in that particular village writes a letter to confirm the occurrence of such a birth in the chieftdom. The letter is then attached to the Notice of Birth form then submitted to the District Registrar, who enters the details in the register, assigns the serial number and forwards the documents to the Provincial Registrar or Registrar General's office for issuance of a birth certificate. The above process is premised on the general systems theory because it shows that DNRPC operates in a social environment that involves other actors like chiefs, headmen etc. It must be noted that each actor in any system is seen to play a particular role and that there is interdependency among the various actors. Flood and Jackson (1991) define a system as a complex and highly interlinked network of parts exhibiting synergistic properties. Therefore, the process of registering the birth of a child solidifies the need for parents and guardians, traditional leaders, health staff and registration official to work hand in hand in order to ensure that children are registered and issued birth certificates.

The research also found that there is a degree of decentralisation in the process of child birth registration in Zambia. This is a departure from the long standing practice of a centralised child birth registration system in Zambia where all birth registration forms filled by a parents and guardians are forwarded to the central registration office in Lusaka (Republic of Zambia, 2008). That is where the birth certificate would be produced and issued. The Senior Registrar at DNRPC mentioned that:

Since Statutory Instrument No. 24 of 2016 came into effect, issuance of birth certificates has been decentralised to six Provincial centres [Chipata, Choma, Kabwe, Kasama, Mansa and Ndola] and the Provincial Registrar has been given the powers to issue and sign birth certificates (Senior Registrar, DNRPC).

He further mentioned that if the birth occurred at home, an Under-Five Child Clinic Card (Appendix F) can be obtained from the nearest health centre within one month of the child's birth. In the absence of the Record of Birth or the Under-Five Clinic card, an Affidavit Form M should be completed for the purpose of birth registration (Senior Registrar, DNRPC). This finding implies there is a standard procedure for the registration of a birth of a child. The informant is expected to make a report about the fact of its occurrence (birth) along with certain characteristics to the registration officer (Makannah, 1981). With respect to Zambia, the Senior Registrar said the informants or persons that are legally supposed to register a birth of a child are primarily the parents, the guardian, the occupier of the house in which the child was born, a social welfare officer, police officer or person in-charge of a health facility. Any of the individuals mentioned above has to produce and complete the prescribed documents in order to facilitate the birth registration successfully. This finding suggest that the informant of a birth is not only restricted to the parent and guardian of the child. Regardless of the situation, the informant appears in person for registration, and upon registration, it is the duty of the civil registration officer to confirm with the informant the information that has been given and ensure it appears as such in the register (Makannah, 1981).

Another issue of civil registration law relates to the designation of the period within which births must be registered. In Zambia birth registration is free if undertaken within the period of 30 days. If a birth occurred more than 12 months previously, the Registrar must make a report to the Registrar General in order to obtain his written authority to register the birth (Piper, 2015:149). In this research, it has been established that the 30 days legal duration to register a birth is seldom adhered to. One Assistant Registration Officer at DNRPC explained that in practice there are no fees charged for child birth registration in Zambia. He said:

Legally, in addition to the potential penalties for failing to notify the birth of a child, there are fees for registering a birth after a certain period of time. Rule 23 of the Registration Rules states that [“Subject to the provisions of section 9 of the Act, a Registrar may in appropriate cases

register the birth of a child which has occurred more than one month previously upon payment by the informant of a late registration fee of one kwacha, provided that twelve months have not expired since the birth of the child occurred. Registration after one month but within twelve months. The Second Schedule to the Registration Rules states that an affidavit in support of an application to register a birth more than 12 months after the birth occurred will incur a fee of 14 fee units”]. So, the law says parents must pay for late or delayed registration, but we do not charge, here it is free, even after one year. You must understand that some parents or guardians register children late due to circumstances such as distance from the registration office or general inertia on their part. So, when they come to register their children, we cannot chase them. Since there is a provision for late and delayed registration, we shall register the birth so long there should be proof to justify the delay (An Assistant Registration Officer, DNRPC).

The finding on free child birth registration in Zambia was established by earlier researchers such as (Kambole and Silanda, 1994). This finding is also similar to findings in another African country, Nigeria (Adi *et al.*, 2015). Even outside Africa the practice is similar, in Estonia, the birth of a child should be registered in the population register within one month from the date of birth of the child, with a provision for an extension period of up to two months (World Bank, 2017). Although there is this similarity, there is a difference on the maximum period for child birth registration. For example, seven days for Libya and 12 months for Swaziland (Makannah, 1981).

The research found that various documents and information are required in the process of child birth registration. The application form to a larger extent requires information such as child’s full name, sex, date of birth, place of birth, type of birth (whether single or more), aid rendered during birth, child’s parents’ full names, dates and places of birth, principal residence, marital status, citizenship, religion, ethnic origin, and signatures if declarant is other than child’s parent, declarant’s full name, relationship to child, sex, date and place of birth, principal residence, signature, name and signature of Registration official, seal of administrative office, date of registration and other necessary information as the registration official determines This is synonymous with bureaucratic institutions. One characteristic among many others of bureaucratic organisations is their extensive use of, and reliance on,

written records. They place much emphasis on written records and consider them essential for the preservation and dissemination of rules, regulations, and operating procedures, along with essential documents such as contracts, tax records, and voter registrations (Mafuleka, 2003). In this research, it was found that there are different circumstances under which a parent or guardian can register a birth of a child and also different accompanying forms /documents used for each kind of registration. The Assistant Registration Officer was asked if they are various categories or not under which the birth of a child could be registered with the DNRPC. She acknowledged that the DNRPC has several categories under which the birth of the child could be registered. She indicated that the first category of child birth registration involves children born from parents that are civilly married to each other. She said:

These are the requirements for registering a birth between legally married couples.

1. Copies of National Registration Card (NRC) for both parents;
2. Original Record of Birth for child from the health facility where the child was born. In the absence of the Record of Birth, an Under Five Clinic Card together with the General affidavit [Appendix G] stating facts for not having the same;
3. If the child was born at home, as may be the case in remote rural areas where health facilities may be far, or not available, two independent witnesses must fill an Affidavit Independent Witness form. These two must also attach copies of their NRCs (An Assistant Registration Officer, DNRPC).

The Assistant Registration Officer further explained that this process applies to all births in Zambia, whether in respect of Zambian citizens or foreign parents and guardians. This finding is similar to what was discovered in other parts of Africa and other regions such as Botswana and South Korea and underscores the point that even though each national jurisdiction may have a different civil registration procedure, there is one common thing across these jurisdiction where it is a legal requirement to register any birth that occurs among citizens whether local or foreigners (World Bank, 2017). The research established that the liability for registration of the child as outlined above is primarily with the parents of the child. In the case of Mauritius, there is one slight difference with the findings of this study in terms of requirements to register a birth. In Mauritius, among other documents required to

register a birth include marriage certificate of parents; birth certificates of both parents; proof of birth issued by the hospital or clinic authorities; and national identity cards of parents or informants (Makannah, 1981). Unlike Zambia, in Estonia among the various documents required to register a child is the personal identification code, place of birth and citizenship of the child, personal identification code of the mother, personal identification code of the father, and right of custody (World Bank, 2017).

As earlier mentioned, there is a provision for late or delayed registration in Zambia. As such, the second category for child birth registration involves those children who apply for registration after the expiry of the prescribed period of time. An Assistant Registration Officer at DNRPC said the following are the forms required to register a birth after the prescribed period of 12 months:

1. Copies of National Registration Card (NRC) for the mother and father of the child;
2. Original Record of Birth for child from the health facility where the child was born, or an under five clinic cards together with the General Affidavit stating facts for not having the original birth record;
3. Affidavit Registration Form No.12 with the provision for the applicant to state why the birth was not registered within the stipulated time (An Assistant Registration Officer, DNRPC).

An Assistant Registration Officer at DNRPC went on to highlight the third circumstance for registering a child and the appropriate documents required. She mentioned that the third circumstance relates to registering a child out of a matrimonial home or child out of wedlock and the required documentation. She mentioned them as:

1. Copies of National Registration Card (NRC) for the mother and father of the child;
2. Original Record of Birth for child from the health facility where the child was born, or an Under Five Clinic Card together with the General Affidavit stating facts for not having the original birth record;
3. Affidavit Form 11;
4. Acknowledgement in writing to be the father in the presence of the Registrar (An Assistant Registration Officer, DNRPC).

The Assistant Registration Officer at DNRPC stated that if the child is born outside a legal marriage because parents are not formally married, the father is not bound to give notice of the birth of the child, except upon a joint request of the mother and father himself and upon his acknowledgement in writing to be the father. Children born within a customary law union or born of single mothers can adopt the surname of the mother, unless the father consents to his name being given to the child. The perception deduced from such a requirement is to ensure that the mother is compelled to identify the biological father of that child with his consent. If unrestricted by that requirement, there could be a lot of social disharmony in families as some women might be tempted to accuse innocent men as biological fathers of children born outside the marriage cycle. Family should be well knit as it forms the fabrics of a well-functioning society (Kirby *et al.*, 1997). It is from that perspective that this researcher concludes that a man as an individual is required to consent in writing to be the biological father of the child before that child is registered since it will bear the names of that individual.

An Assistant Registration Officer at DNRPC gave the other circumstance under which a birth can be registered and necessary documents. This situation relates to foreign parents and guardians of the child. She explained that the process for child birth registration was the same but documentation differed: She listed the requirements:

1. Copies of appropriate resident permits;
2. National Registration Card (NRC) for both parents of the child;
3. Original Record of Birth for child from the health facility where the child was born, or an under five clinic cards together with the General Affidavit stating facts for not having the original birth record (An Assistant Registration Officer, DNRPC).

Regardless of the citizenship of the parents, whether both are Zambians or one parent is a foreign national or both parents are multi-nationality, every birth occurring in Zambia must be registered. This is as the standard practice that is applied in most nations of the world (World Bank, 2017).

At times children are born in villages where health facilities may not be easily accessible, indicated an Assistant Registration Officer at DNRPC. This is the other circumstance under

which a child is registered, and she listed the prescribed forms required to register a birth at home or in the village where a health facility is not available:

1. Copies of National Registration Card (NRC) for both parents;
2. Two independent witnesses must fill an Affidavit Independent Witness form;
3. Copies of NRCs for the two independent witnesses (An Assistant Registration Officer, DNRPC).

Registration of birth in Zambia is not restricted to children. The research found that even a person that is over 16 years of age can apply to have their birth registered. This implies that the right to a name and nationality is guaranteed even for individuals who missed to be registered during the legally prescribed period. According to the other Assistant Registration Officer the documents that are required to register a birth of a person over 16 years old are:

1. Copies of National Registration Card (NRC) for both parents;
2. Original Record of Birth for child from the health facility where the child was born, or an under five clinic cards together with the General Affidavit stating facts for not having the original birth record;
3. A copy of the NRC for that person over sixteen years must be attached (An Assistant Registration Officer, DNRPC).

The other Assistant Registration Officer said the last circumstance under which a child can be registered involves registering the birth of abandoned children. This is done on the premise that every child has a right to an identity by name and by nationality. This is in tandem with an argument that abandoned children have the right to be registered too (World Bank, 2017). The Assistant Registration officer then highlighted that any individual registering the birth of an abandoned child should notify the birth to the Registrar and inform the police and social welfare officer about the child.

The Senior Registrar indicated the other important things that parents and guardians are supposed to remember after the birth has been registered. He mentioned that:

Parents and guardians should always use the names that appear on the birth certificate when taking the child to the clinic, for school registration, for examinations and for a national registration card. It is extremely important that all official documents like passport, school certificates and

marriage certificates show the same names and always spelt the same way. Instead of hiding the birth certificates, parents and guardians must show these children their birth certificates so that they know and make sure they write the same names that are on the birth certificate, and spell them correctly. They should also be told about the importance of writing names correctly on all documents especially when registering for examinations or job applications. Lastly, the birth certificate must be kept safely and never should the original copy be sent away for any reasons. In case one wants to use it, it is safer to use a photocopy. It should always be remembered that it is illegal to change any information on the birth certificate without informing us [DNRPC] (Senior Registrar, DNRPC).

The Senior Registrar at DNRPC further highlighted the main reason for ensuring that correct names are used on all documents. He emphasised that “this is to deter forgery and ensure that the individual is correctly identified”.

In view of the fact that it is not easy to change details that appear on the birth certificate, the Senior Registrar, outlined the most important things to think about when registering the birth of a child. These are:

- i. Parents and guardians must think carefully about the names they want to give a child, as these will be the child`s names for the rest of his or her life. It is expensive to get a name changed once it is registered on the certificate;
- ii. If the child`s birth has already been registered, it is an offence for a parent/guardian to register him or her again. You register a birth only once;
- iii. Parents and guardians should check for mistakes immediately they get the birth certificate and have such mistakes (especially spelling errors) corrected right away;
- iv. Parents should never give false details when registering a birth. It is against the law and it may cause problems in future (Senior Registrar, DNRPC).

From the above findings, it can be noted that there is too much paper work and documentation that is needed to facilitate a successful child birth registration. In the process

of child birth registration, all administrative acts, decisions, and rules are recorded formally. Furthermore, only prescribed official documents and forms are to be used when processing child birth registration. This confirms Johari (1982) and Mafuleka (2003)'s observations who argue that in a bureaucracy there is lots of red tape due to codified rules. It is also safe to conclude that whilst the registration process in Zambia looks easy on paper, the problem lays with the bureaucratic lethargy of processing birth registration. The bureaucracy that is associated with child birth registration may discourage parents and guardians because they might think they will not be able to register the birth of their children.

#### **4.4. Perception of parents and guardians about the process of child birth registration**

The researcher discovered that the perception of parents and guardians about the process of child birth registration was mixed, ranging from very good child birth registration process to a poor child birth registration system. Parents and guardians were asked what their general perception of the child registration process in Zambia was. The findings of this research are that most parents and guardians were unhappy with the quality of services offered by DNRPC. In the research, it was found that out of the 109 parents and guardians who participated in the research, the majority of parents and guardians, 54 (49.54percent) perceived the process of registering a child to be poor. It was also found that 30 parents and guardians, representing 27.52 percent claimed that the process of child birth registration in Zambia was very poor. 19 (17.43 percent) claimed that the process was good and only 6 (5.50 percent) claimed that the process was very good hence, casting a slight positive perception of the process of registering a child. From the analysis of these data, the process of child birth registration in Zambia is perceived badly. The negative perception can be attributed to the entrenched poor attitude exhibited by the majority of parents and guardians towards child birth registration. When one parent was asked why she perceived the process of child registration to be poor, she said the number of registration centres were few resulting in parents moving long distances to reach the registration centres and also that parents got tired of waiting for the birth certificates to be issued because of delays in processing them. She added that in some cases registration officers were rude and not helpful. Another parent had this to say, "My child does not have the birth certificate due to the cumbersome process involved. All I have is an under five clinic card." The summarised information is presented in Table 4.5.

**Table 4. 5: Perception of parents and guardians about process of child birth registration**

What is your general perception of the process of child birth registration in Zambia?	Frequency	Percentage
Very Good	6	5.50
Good	19	17.43
Poor	54	49.54
Very Poor	30	27.52
Total	109	100.00

**Source: Field Data**

This finding indicates that it is difficult for parents and guardians to register their children, especially for people living in villages and rural areas because there was no formal system of registration hence, perceiving the child birth registration process negatively. Additionally, parents and guardians perceived the child birth registration process in Zambia poorly because awareness level of benefits drawn from registration of a child were nonexistent. The study noted that people do not understand the value of obtaining a birth certificate due to lack of sensitisation. From the above findings, it can be concluded that Republic of Zambia, (2008) and Kambole and Silanda, (1994) are on firm ground by attesting that some government institution that are tasked with provision of various good and services to the citizens are bureaucratic and their performance at most is not satisfactory. Under this basis, parents and guardians might be persuaded to shun the child birth registration services offered by DNRPC. This finding has also been highlighted in studies undertaken in other African countries. The perception that the process of registration of children's' birth is poor in Zimbabwe was attested to by one study conducted in that country. Similar to Zambia, in Zimbabwe some respondents in one study claimed that the Registration officers were rude and unhelpful. It was alleged that most officials in the decentralised offices did not show a humane face when dealing with the clients or the public, with some going so far as to shout demeaning words to clients. Respondents described what they went through at the RGs offices as nerve-racking, with unsociable and surly personnel, often coupled with contradictory and ambiguous registration procedures (Kadzikano, 2007).

Coupled with the question on how the parents and guardians perceived the process of child birth registration and the above finding of poor perception of the child birth registration process, the parents and guardians were asked what serious obstacles or challenges they encountered when registering the children. The research found that ignorance was another reason that parents and guardians cited as contributing to the poor perception of the process of child birth registration in Zambia. For example, it was found that there is high ignorance and lack of adequate information on child birth registration among the parents and guardians that participated in the research. The research found that some Zambians are not aware about the legal requirement that demands that all children must be registered at birth within 30 days of the birth of the child. In the research, the most prominent reason for poor perception of the child registration process was lack of awareness of child birth registration among parents and guardians, 66 translating to 60.55 percent. These statistics are shown in Table 4.6

**Table 4. 6: Reasons cited by parents and guardians as affecting the child registration process**

What is the most serious obstacle affecting child birth registration in Zambia?	Frequency	Percentage
Lack of awareness	57	52.29
Costs	13	11.93
Distance	30	27.52
long period of waiting for birth certificate	9	8.26
Totals	109	100

**Source: Field Data**

As seen from the above findings, the majority of parents and guardians cited lack of awareness about child birth registration and its importance as the main reason for failure to registrar their children. Since they do not understand the process of child birth registration and the benefits derived out of it, they perceive the entire process of child birth registration as not important and a waste of their time. From the above findings, we can deduce that the main reason for poor perception towards the process of child birth registration is lack of awareness among parents and guardians of the need to, and importance of child birth registration.

From the same Table 4.6 the research found that some parents and guardians claimed that it was costly to undertake child birth registration. Some explained that at times they are requested to take their own application forms to Lusaka at the DNRPC head office at their own cost for processing of birth certificates. Others are requested to pay money towards the purchase of postage stamps to facilitate the posting of registration forms to the Registrar General's office in Lusaka. This was captured under costs and it accounted for 13 (11.93 percent). Since they perceive the process as poor, most parents and guardians do not consider birth registration to address their immediate needs. They would rather spend money saved from direct and indirect costs of registering children on material resources, such as food and school fees, in order to ensure their children, live a decent life, as one guardian who was asked why he thought the process of child birth registration was poor answered.

#### **4.5. Administrative Challenges Faced by the Department of National Registration, Passports and Citizenship in the Registration of Children**

There are many institutional challenges faced by DNRPC in the process of child birth registration. Some of the challenges that are discussed range from poor attitude towards child birth registration to administrative or institutional challenges among other things.

##### **4.5.1. Poor Attitude of Parents and Guardians towards Child Birth Registration**

During the interview with officials from the DNRPC, it was found that the attitude towards child birth registration by many Zambian parents and guardians is poor. For instance, when asked about the most serious obstacle or challenge the DNRPC faced with respect to child birth registration in Zambia, the Senior Registrar lamented that due to failure to appreciate the importance of a birth certificate, there is rampant use of alternative documents and this is a very serious challenge. He explained that the use of alternative documents in Zambia has now become normalised. He said:

Although by law for one to access certain services such as obtaining a National Registration Card, acquire a passport, enrol in primary school, enter into college or university one needs to have is a birth certificate,

alternative documents are easily accepted in lieu of birth certificate e.g. affidavits or Under Five Clinic Cards. So child birth registration that is supposed to be compulsory has now turned out to be voluntary, policy makers have allowed the status quo. Since most parents and guardians have no use for the birth certificate, they do not register their children (Senior Registrar, DNRPC).

Two other officers at DNRPC confirmed that the availability of alternative birth registration documents such as affidavits, immunisation cards and Under Five Cards which are largely accepted in the absence of birth certificates weakens the need for birth certificates hence, a serious challenge faced by the DNRPC. This research has attested to the fact the reason why birth registration is low in Zambia is widespread use of alternative documents such as Under Five Clinic Cards which are accepted when enrolling children for school and when accessing other services. As such, people do not really see the need to have one and, therefore, do not bother about birth registration. This finding is different from the practice in other African countries. It was noted in the research conducted in Zimbabwe that many children cannot sit for public examinations because generally, schools do not enrol children who do not have birth certificates. Unlike, the findings of the research, in Zimbabwe there was a consensual view that unregistered children had limited access to many social services such as further education, obtaining other documents such as driver's licenses, passports, a national identity documents or getting employed (Kadzikano, 2007).

The research found that the issue of historical background has to some extent contributed to low levels of child birth registration in Zambia. Child birth registration in Zambia is a new concept just like in most African countries like Zimbabwe, Kenya, Uganda and Lesotho (Bequele, 2005). The Senior Registrar at DNRPC indicated that child birth registration in Zambia was only introduced in 1973. Due to ignorance, most citizens are not familiar with this practice. Therefore, parents and guardians are not enthusiastic to register the birth of their children. This is also a big challenge to child birth registration. It is important to note that a lack of parental enthusiasm for birth registration basically undermines efforts to improve child birth registration systems. The Senior Registrar at DNRPC had this to say:

If there is no enthusiasm, the DNRPC cannot coerce or force parents to come to registration centres and register births of their children. There should also be willingness on their part [parents and guardians] to take the

initiative and visit our offices for purposes of child birth registration. For the well educated people and the rich people we don't have problems, they usually come without difficulties because they know that if for example they want to travel abroad for maybe medical care or send their child to school abroad, the birth certificate will be needed. So they come voluntarily (Senior Registrar, DNRPC).

The finding that the concept of child birth registration is new in Zambia and most citizens are not aware of its importance and the benefits derived from it has had negative consequences. This finding of historical background has contributed to poor attitude by parents and guardians to child birth registration because they do not attach any importance to it. It is of no consequence whether the child is registered with DNRPC or not. Such a history where citizens are only told to embrace a new concept such as child birth registration, without them internalising the concept is likely to be received with hostility hence, the poor attitude exhibited by many parents and guardians towards child birth registration not only in Zambia but other African countries too. The research through the Senior Registrar found that child birth registration in Zambia is passive in nature. He elaborated that a passive system exists where the registration personnel wait until parents and guardians come to the offices to register the birth of their children. Such a registration system relies heavily on the goodwill and cooperation of the public and institutions such as hospitals that provide the information (Makannah, 1981). Since no one compels or enforces the law that all children must be registered without, and since there are no sanctions imposed for disregarding this law, parents and guardians are not motivated to undertake registration of the birth of their children.

#### **4.5.2. Financial Challenges**

This research found that lack of adequate funding to facilitate birth registration from the national budget was also a big challenge. The main source of operational funds and personal emoluments for the DNRPC is the government, supplemented by funds and other support from cooperating partners like UNICEF and Plan International (UNICEF, 2005: 9). The Senior Registrar was asked to confirm whether there was sufficient financial support or not from Government to the process of child birth registration. The Senior Registrar said that:

The state normally releases monthly operational funds as grants to the Department at The Office of the Registrar General. The funds are then channelled to all Provincial Registration Offices which in turn send part

of the received funds to the District Registration offices. Due to financial difficulties the government faces at times, and especially now with the austerity measures put in place by government, funding has become so inconsistent. As of April, 2019, we only received just about 15 percent of the budget amount, though I cannot tell you the budget amount. Ultimately, this affects the implementation of birth registration programmes. What I can also add is that poor funding has a ripple effect on the morale of our staff. When some of our staff are faced with social problem like illness, bereavement, financial assistance or maybe assisting with transport is difficult and more so in rural offices. This demotivates officers (Senior Registrar, DNRPC).

This explanation highlighting inadequate funding as a serious obstacle faced by the DNRPC collaborates with the two Assistant Registration officers' observation. They observed that:

Funding is very erratic. The last funding was received months ago. When we were funded, the money went to for operational activities [procurement of birth certificates and cards for NRCs]. No money was allocated for conducting mobile registration in the outlying communities. You see, we need to cover people that do not come to our offices to access birth registration and other services. That is dependent on money because officers need to be paid allowances and also procurement of fuel. So from the time one of our major funders pulled out [CDC] around 2017, we really have struggled, we have not undertaken any mobile child birth registration exercise since that time(Both Assistant Registration officers, DNRPC).

From the above responses, lack of information on the importance of child birth registration because of lack of sensitisation due to inadequate financial resources is a challenge associated with child birth registration in Zambia. An Assistant Registration Officer at DNRPC indicated that there was very little public access to information on birth registration. She further said national public campaigns on birth registration were not done regularly because of inadequate funds. She narrated that to a larger extent the DNRPC ride on the support from cooperating partners to assist with sensitisation programmes. The Senior Registrar also weighed in on the matter by explaining that "because of inadequate financial resources to

undertake sensitisation programs among citizens, there is a lack of understanding by parents and guardians of what child birth registration is and also the protective measures it offers.” This agrees with the argument that inadequate financial support is given by the state to programmes that deal with birth registration in most African countries (Bequele, 2005). Additionally, this finding of inadequate finances towards child birth registration activities is similar to what was found in other African countries like Nigeria and Zimbabwe where child birth registration is under funded by their governments (Adi et al., ., 2015; UNSD, 2010). This research has, therefore, established that budgetary constraints and gross under funding towards child birth registration were the major challenges that negatively affected the efficiency and operations of the DNRPC. Whereas the research was not able to establish the main reasons of the underfunding to the DNRPC by the government, assumptions could be made to ascertain the reasons from experiences from other countries. Giuffrida and Harbitz (2009) attributed such tendencies to bad and undemocratic governance. They argued that Latin American Countries have been found to be corrupt and lack both transparency and sufficient resources, financial and human at the federal, state, and municipal levels. They observed that civil registration offices/agencies by far and large generate little revenue and most of their funding is allocated from the national budget. With rising demands for universal, safe, and efficient civil registration, that in turn is the basis for issuing a national identity card to ensure a unique legal identity, a close look at the economic and financial sustainability of civil registries must be addressed.

There is a general perception that free universal birth registration presumes that public supply or budget of birth registration is readily available, but from the findings of the research the opposite is the reality. Unfortunately, registration offices in Zambia and most other regions are often insufficiently funded, equipped, staffed, and trained. Since public budgets are tight, the perception is that civil registration institutions could likely provide better services if they would diversify the source of their funding to cope with financially precarious situations. Furthermore, the perception by authorities that parents/guardians will use alternative documents whenever they want to undertake an activity that requires a birth certificate may be the reason for underfunding of child birth registration activities. One Assistant Registration Officer at the DNRPC felt that though the government may find it challenging to meet all its budgetary obligations, serious consideration should be made to increase its budgetary allocation to the DNRPC to scale up on the number of birth registration programmes to be undertaken.

The above general observation about lack of adequate finances for child birth registration in Zambia has therefore, significantly contributed to low level of registration. Makannah (1981) argues that allocation of insufficient funds by national governments to this activity (birth registration) is at the heart of the problems of the civil registration systems in Africa. Like in Zambia, one of the main obstacles affecting the effective implementation of the registration of births nationwide was attributable to lack of funds for the establishment of a field machinery that would carry the registration facilities to the doorsteps of the citizens. It must be appreciated that efforts and schemes to improve or expand the coverage of child birth registration involve several integrated strategies, such as the campaign to motivate the public to register the births of their children, the opening of new registration centres, and the recruitment and training of registration staff which cannot be implemented without the initial outlay of substantial funds (Makannah, 1981). The perception that can be made over this problem of funding is that government may be lacking the will in promoting child birth registration and more so Members of Parliament (MP) since they are highly involved in debating and approving budget al., locations.

With regard to the comment made by an Assistant Registration Officer with regard to soliciting support from cooperating partners UNICEF and Plan International, in line with the systems theory of management there should be synergy of efforts by various actors in the child birth registration process in order to achieve the desired objective of an organisation (Flood and Jackson, 1991). Therefore, DNRPC together with other interested stakeholders like UNICEF and Plan International as they interact in the social environment act together to achieve some common goal, and in the context of this study, registration of the child and the issuance of a birth certificate.

#### **4.5.3. Inadequate staffing**

During the interview with the Senior Registrar, he was asked to comment on how he viewed government's support to DNRPC with regard to staffing. The Senior Registrar confirmed that the DNRPC had an inadequate staff establishment. He narrated that:

Registration offices are deprived of qualified professionals because the staff structure has not grown in tandem with the population growth in Zambia and the increased demand for the services offered by the department [DNRPC]. From my estimation, the structure [staff] is about three quarters of the required number of employees. Let me hasten to mention that the DNRPC's new structure was approved by government in

2017, late 2017, but it has not been fully implemented due to financial limitations. Treasury authority has not yet been granted to fund the expanded staff establishment (Senior Registrar, DNRPC).

To underscore the fact that inadequate staff was also a serious obstacle or challenge faced by the DNRPC, when asked a follow up question on how the staff situation was in the DNRPC offices in the rural districts noting that the DNRPC had direct superintendence of all registration offices across the country, he answered that the rural registration offices were in a worse off situation than that of the head office and most urban offices. UNICEF (2007) argues that in most countries there is qualitative and quantitative shortages in human resources. This applies both to civil registration staff (including their access to and ability to use modern technology) and (training of) personnel in other government agencies e.g. health workers. It must be noted that a dire shortage of qualified civil registration staff has mostly led to service delivery being severely compromised despite trying as much as possible to be very efficient (Kadzikano, 2007). From the perspective of the two Assistant Registration Officers from DNRPC, this was their view:

Here, [National Registration Headquarters in Lusaka] staffing is not a very serious obstacle to the operations of the department such that the registration of births can be hindered. The department does not need very highly qualified staff to do the registration of births. The birth registration procedure is more clerical in nature and is mostly learned on the job. But in some Registration offices found in some rural areas including few urban areas, registration offices are not sufficiently staffed to facilitate smooth flow of work. Government has approved an expanded structure for DNRPC both at head office and district offices but no treasury authority has been granted as yet to operationalise the new structure (Assistant Registration Officers, DNRPC).

The perception that registration of births is too clerical could be cited as the reason why the DNRPC has not invested so much in the capacity building for its officers. Lack of adequately qualified and motivated personnel and high staff turnover was cited as a challenge faced by the DNRPC. These challenges affect child birth registration negatively, especially in rural areas. Ideally, for the registration personnel to efficiently perform their various functions the size of the registration unit in terms of both area and population density should be such that

the registration officer can give to that registration unit the attention required to produce good child registration services. To underscore the need for of adequate staffing, an Assistant Registration Officer, gave this scenario:

When we go for mobile registration, for arguments sake, let us say in the team we have four officers to print the birth certificates like in our last mobile exercise. We had over 500 people coming to register the births of their children. Now, can you imagine how much difficult it becomes for the four officers to print those certificates [birth]? It becomes overwhelming, they are over worked, extremely over worked (An Assistant Registration Officer, DNRPC).

Similar to the above finding, Muzzi (2010) indicted that in some regions of Brazil and India, registration authorities could not undertake successful mobile registration due to lack of qualified child birth registration officers. These officers lacked capacity in technicalities of registration processes and procedures. From the above findings, inadequate registration officers affects the capacity of DNRPC to register all the births in Zambia.

#### **4.5.4. Inadequate Infrastructure**

From the interview the researcher had with the Senior Registrar, it was established the DNRPC had offices in all the Districts except in newly created ones. When asked whether the DNRPC had adequate and suitable infrastructure to facilitate child birth registration in Zambia, it was established from the Senior Registrar that the main challenge about these Registration offices or centres was that they are only found at the district office. He said:

There is serious lack of registration facilities at local level, we need more registration sub centres in some communities to cater for those parents and guardians that might not afford to come to the registration centre at the BOMA or here at headquarters. We only hope our partnership with the Ministry of Health where we are conducting birth registration at 600 selected health facilities can be extended to more facilities (Senior Registrar, DNRPC).

The research also found that the building housing the DNRPC headquarters in Lusaka was fairly in good condition. Good conditions of service at a work place can be a source of motivation to spur employees to work hard. One writer said, “The greatest efficiency and

productivity in an organisation will flow from the efforts of those individuals who find satisfaction in their work and conditions under which that work is done. The staff in such an organisation feels encouraged to move ahead and to meet new challenges. It will perceive its working environment as one in which high standards of performance are maintained and rewarded. Such conditions of service can either be intrinsic or extrinsic. Among the several extrinsic conditions of service that motivates staff is good office infrastructure. The Senior Registry at DNRPC, however, explained that the office space is now inadequate because the department has grown due to increased work load as a result of the growth of the population in Zambia and also because of the increased number of services being offered by DNRPC. So as a challenge, at times some officers are forced to share office accommodation which at times is not hygienic, he quipped. He further said, in relation to infrastructure outside head office in Lusaka, “DNRPC rent offices for its operations. However, but generally majority of DNRPC offices are in government owned buildings. This is the case in Ndola, Kabwe and Isoka district.” An Assistant Registration Officer at DNRPC had this to say with respect to office infrastructure housing the head office of DNRPC:

Physical buildings and offices where we work from must be in a good and habitable condition. This building is now small, we are overcrowded so the government must either construct new offices or rehabilitate it. Currently, we are sharing office accommodation and we are crowded. Like we have seen in other ministries, we also want more spacious and well-ventilated offices for us to be motivated and work hard. Otherwise as a department [DNRPC], we doubt if new offices will be built or refurbished due to financial constraints. (An Assistant Registration officer, DNRPC).

The same Assistant Registration Officer added that with regard to offices in districts outside the department’s head office, most registration offices have no good offices and facilities to store birth registration forms or safe guarding of the already submitted records. She narrated in response to the cited serious obstacle of inadequate office infrastructure as follows:

There are no proper offices especially in rural areas and new districts. Some offices are dilapidated and dirty. With respect to new districts, some officers are operating in make shift offices such as tents. The situation is not very conducive. Government must hurry to build offices in the new districts so that registration officers can work in conducive environment. (An Assistant Registration officer, DNRPC).

This observation was corroborated by the District Registration officer at Chongwe district registration office who indicated that storage of official records was at times a challenge because the office was small. “Since child birth registration is still manually done, there is no adequate office space for proper storage of stationery and also application forms that are submitted including other office items and equipment”, the Registration Officer at Chongwe district registration office explained. He further explained that some birth registration offices are small and in poor state to the extent that safe keeping of civil registration records is very bad. Some records were not filed because of lack of space for filling cabinets and shelves resulting in folders and some registers mixed up. Muzzi (2010) support the view that improved infrastructure coupled with frequent maintenance of offices can lead to improved child birth registration. Therefore, inadequate Infrastructure was found to be a challenge faced by the DNRPC and a barrier to child registration.

From the above, we note that issues relating to inadequate infrastructure does not only affect Zambia alone but also other countries that have reported similar findings. This does not build much confidence in the registration process. The same issue of poor infrastructure can be attributed to the perception probably that birth registration does not rank as a priority area for government to invest in new office buildings and maintenance of old ones.

#### **4.5.5. Equipment**

In the age of advanced technology globally, the Senior Registrar at DNRPC was asked to assess government’s commitment and support towards provision of modern equipment to the department. He acknowledged that DNRPC had equipment that could facilitate normal operations though not optimally. With respect to furniture, the Senior Registrar, at DNRPC explained that “though the furniture could be old, it is adequate to ensure normal operations to be undertaken in most registration offices both at headquarters and in districts.” When asked a question about office equipment, he indicated that the DNRPC had old but sufficient equipment to sustain its operations, at least up to the minimum level. He also added that the department was undergoing a transition from manual based child birth registration system to a digital system. He said:

In the six decentralised provincial registration offices, we have digitalised the registration system. Though the application for child birth registration is still be done physically using forms, officers no longer type birth

certificates by Typewriters instead a software has been installed on the computers in such a manner that details are then processed by computer up to the issuance of the birth certificate. The challenge that we want to resolve again relates to supporting the IT [information Technology] structure like acquiring more computers and sustaining the internet services (Senior Registrar, DNRPC).

With regard to issues relating to equipment at DNRPC, the District Registration Officer for Chongwe said:

Things like mobile communication equipment like Public Address [PA] system used when sensitising members of the public on child birth registration, generator to power the PA system, filling cabinets and shelves where to put registration forms and other records are in poor state or not available at all. As a result, records are being lost gradually because they are all kept in loose storage facility. Under these circumstances, computerising the whole birth registration system would go a long way to safe guard and protect all birth registration records for parents and other clients that seek our services (District Registration Officer for Chongwe).

The two findings about availability of only basic furniture and IT equipment or infrastructure to support child birth registration therefore, poses a serious challenge to efforts by the DNRPC to undertake child birth registration effectively and efficiently. It was found that some materials were dysfunctional, including computers, printers, motorbikes, and certain handheld devices. This finding however, is different from Botswana. UNSD (2010) found that in Botswana the registration of births is computerised and the registration records are transferred from the district offices to the central office electronically. Therefore, prioritisation of the digitisation of the complete civil registration processes, and purchasing of associated IT equipment will make child birth registration widely accessible and safe (Haider, 2019). This observation is based on the assumption that civil registration and vital statistics systems are designed to be permanent, continuous, universal and multi sectoral undertakings. Therefore, the use of IT benefits the systems by improving efficiency and reliability in recording, storing, retrieving of vital records, and for transferring and compiling vital statistics data (UNSD, 2010).

‘Information is power’ so goes the saying. This implies that when people are sensitised about a particular subject, they become knowledgeable. The sensitised will live better lives as most of their decisions and choices in life will be based on fact and rationality. The decisions and choices they shall make in life shall help them avoid social calamities like preventable illnesses, ignorance and poverty. Over time, people including the most powerful in the political, economic, scientific and social circles make use of information (ADB, 2009). As such, the role of information and how it is passed on (i.e. communication) cannot be underestimated or be over-emphasised in the quest for a well-informed citizenry and national development at large. One Assistant Registration Officer at DNRPC acknowledged that in terms of information flow and communication the DNRPC was performing relatively satisfactorily. This is what he said:

The DNRPC does not have adequate communication facilities across the country although some registration offices are now connected to the Government Wide Area Network [GWAN]. This hampers easy communication between different registration offices. The print and electronic media are the common methods of communication and information dissemination in use these days. However, the reality is that in some of our registration offices, especially in rural areas and also some urban ones, telephones and internet services are not available. Where available, they have been disconnected on account of failure to pay accumulated bills with the service providers. Fax machines are equally unavailable. This seriously hampers the flow of information between Head office and field offices especially when our officers need to verify certain records provided by parents and guardians (An Assistant Registration Officer, DNRPC).

The above findings that the DNRPC lacks adequate communication facilities especially those offices that are not yet connected to the Government Wide Area Network provided by Smart Zambia impedes successful child birth registration. There cannot be efficiency if some birth registration offices did not have telephones for communication purposes with the DNRPC head office or other child birth registration centres. The other Assistant Registration Officer re-emphasised the fact that communication was cardinal because all birth registration documents are verified from local registration offices where a child was born before they are processed either at the provincial registration office or DNRPC Headquarters in Lusaka.

“Therefore, registration offices across the country need to have an efficient communication network,” the other Assistant Registration Officer concluded.

Another challenge that was brought to the fore relates to availability of adequate transport for the DNRPC. During the interview with an Assistant Registration officer at DNRPC, it was established that most registration offices do not operate smoothly due to lack of adequate and reliable transport. The officer said, “This becomes more serious when the DNRPC attempts to undertake mobile sensitisation programmes on child birth registration.” The other Assistant Registration Officer highlighted that some district registration offices have duty vehicles and some motorbikes. However, this Assistant Registration Officer added that finding resources to buy fuel or service these vehicles and motorbikes was a big challenge. This is what he said:

Due to lack of fuel, sensitisation programmes or mobile registration programmes are rarely undertaken. The last time such programmes were undertaken is almost three years ago. Even when the two programmes were undertaken, they were never done thoroughly as some of the areas in the district were not covered. Additionally, due to transport challenges, child birth registration forms are not distributed to all provincial and district registration offices in time and safely. Most of these forms are distributed to provincial and district offices using other government departments or ordinary individuals. Even when the forms are ready to be forwarded to the provincial registration office or Headquarters in Lusaka, unreliable couriers are used to take the completed birth registration forms (An Assistant Registration Officer, DNRPC).

This finding mirrors what was also established in some study in Nigeria and Zaire, now Democratic Republic of Congo (Makannah, 1981). The Assistant Registration Officer acknowledged that the DNRPC had been courting the support of other stakeholders to take birth registration to the community. The Assistant Registration Officer said:

In conjunction with some cooperating partners like United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Plan International and UNICEF, transport logistics have been occasionally provided to allow showcasing of the birth registration activities, for instance, at various shopping malls where information is disseminated and registration sessions done by DNRPC. Annually, this is done during registration week which falls in March (Assistant Registration Officer, DNRPC).

The assistance provided by cooperating partners with regard to transport and other logistics underscores the importance of collaboration in order to reach the desired goal. This is what the systems theory is based on. As actors in the environment, cooperating partners collaborate with DNRPC by providing transport logistics that ensures that registration officers undertake child birth registration sensitisation programmes, including mobile child birth registration. Reaching out to relevant public forums and development partners to seek support to implement the CRVS can be a remedy to improve child birth registration (Haider, 2019). The issues of inadequate transport logistics has other implications in as far as operations of DNRPC are concerned. The research found that District registration offices will collect the completed forms from parents and guardians over a period of one month or two months before they are transmitted to the Provincial registration office or Lusaka head office. The District Registration Officer for Chongwe said:

For a period of one month the district office collects and keep the completed child birth registration forms. Once we collect a reasonable number of forms, we then take them to the Lusaka office. As you know, transport at times can be a challenge, especially when there is no fuel. So as the District Registration office, we cannot take just a few forms to the Lusaka office as it is costly. So maybe in a month we can take these forms once or twice. All these arrangements are as a result of distances that are involved from where citizens reside and distance to child birth registration centres and also where birth certificates are issued from (District Registration Officer, Chongwe).

An Assistant Registration Officer at DNRPC concurred with the observation made by the District Registration Officer for Chongwe. He explained that even when these forms are delivered to provincial registration offices that are yet to start printing and issuing birth certificates, they are not sent to Lusaka immediately. He said “Even at the Provincial Registration office, forms are kept there until the Provincial Registrar undertakes the monthly visit to DNRPC headquarters to deliver the forms.”

The above explanation by the official from DNRPC resonates with UNSD (2010) observation that the transmission of completed registration forms from some remote districts and villages to provincial or head office is very slow and some forms only reach the District Registrar’s Office when the Chief of the village happens to visit the office.

The above have been some institutional challenges that have proved a hindrance to an effective birth registration system in Zambia. If political will is manifested by all stakeholders to address some of these obstacles, the process of birth registration in Zambia could be significantly improved. UNICEF (2013) argues that some governments do not regard birth registration as important when faced with a lack of resources and other pressing and competing priorities.

The findings of this study is that child birth registration in Zambia is low and the challenges for this phenomenon have been established. But it is also important to appreciate what the DNRPC is doing to improve the situation and scale up the level of child birth registration in Zambia. A question was asked on what specific measure have been put in place by the DNRPC to sensitise parents and guardians about their obligation to register the birth of their children. The Senior Registrar said:

To change the situation, as a department [DNRPC] we are engaged in birth registration advocacy and using communication strategy. We normally undertake outdoor sensitisation activities at shopping malls on a routine basis depending on availability of funds. We also take advantage of events like Trade fare; Agriculture show where we interact with members of the public as means of sensitising them on child birth registration. Secondly, through health facilities during Under Five Clinics. You know Mr. Siame, since 2017 we have [DNRPC] partnered with Ministry of Health whereby a selected number of clinics, about 600 of them are participating in birth registration. The DNRPC has also started decentralising the issuance of birth certificates starting with six provincial registration centres. We hope to extent this service to the remaining provincial towns in a near future. We believe this partnership has the biggest impact in terms of scaling up the number of children registered (Senior Registrar, DNRPC).

This finding is in line with what other countries have done to improve child birth registration. Haider (2019) found that integrating birth registration into regular healthcare service (interoperability) and public education campaigns has had a positive impact on improving child birth registration in Nigeria. This researcher then probed the Senior Registrar to explain what impact the digitilisation of the birth registration system has been in the six provinces since its implementation in 2017. He indicated that the DNRPC has not

done an analysis of the situation in terms of whether there has been an increase in registration level or not since the computerisation of the registration system in the six provinces. Never the less, he believed that the switch has a significant impact on the DNRPC. He happily explained:

Firstly, there is a significant reduction of the work load at headquarters and secondly, a reduction in accumulation of backlog cases. In the past all the forms were being proceeds from headquarters in Lusaka, at least now the six-centre processing the registration forms they receive within the province and also from nearby provinces. What that means is, our attention now is to clear all the backlog so that we are current. Therefore, we hope to increase the levels of child birth registration in this current in the long run. So, you can see that even with inadequate funds, there is commitment from government to increase birth registration. Am sure you are aware that this whole computerisation of these services is being under taken by government through Smart Zambia (Senior Registrar, DNRPC).

The Officials from the DNRPC were also asked how they perceived the process of child birth registration and if at all there is political will from government to support the operations of the DNRPC. The officers responded in the affirmative that the process was relatively good and the Department was discharging its mandate adequately and in line with the law. It was also explained that through the monthly grants, though inadequate and also recruitment and retention of staff and other interventions, there was political will from the government to sustain the operations of the DNRPC.

#### **4.5. Conclusion**

In conclusion, the findings show that the birth registration in Zambia has to a greater extent failed to take root. Universal registration is elusive in Zambia. Reasons for the low child birth registration range from disinterested parents and guardians to administrative challenges and difficulties faced by the DNRPC. Never the less, it can also be argued that this finding can imply that there is lack of political will by politician to champion the cause of child birth registration. UN (2010) noted that even in other African countries civil registration is not a priority for some governments and therefore, there is always a lack of adequate financial and human resources for the Registrar General to operate effectively; and the staff working at the Registrar General do not take the registration function seriously and therefore, leads to

inefficiency and mistakes. Note that the key informants accepted however, that there is commitment by government to child birth registration because it is the major source of funding to the DNRPC though not done consistently and according to budget al., locations. Even in that case, one can argue that government and politicians are mandated to approve the budget estimates that are presented to parliament by the Minister of Finance. That provides a window for them to lobby government to apportion more resources to child birth registration activities. However, over the years that lobbying for more resources does not go far enough probably due to lack of political will.

Basically, the systems theory has not taken deep root in so far as interaction is concerned between politicians and the DNRPC. Whereas citizens expect serious lobbying and demands to be exerted on government by politicians and other stakeholders in the environment to provide adequate financial and other resources to facilitate wider birth registration coverage, the politicians tend to be passive in pushing for increased budget al., location for birth registration activities. Instead, they are seen to push some agenda that seem to benefit their own interests than that of the unregistered children. Bequele (2005) observes that the biggest obstacle seems to be the lack of political will to child birth registration. At the end of the day, this means that pressure must be placed on government to provide more resources to child birth registration programmes so that the public should be educated through mass mobilisation at all levels on the importance of child birth registration. This will also address most institutional challenges that have been highlighted in this chapter. The next chapter discuss the demographic factors that affect child birth registration.

## CHAPTER 5

### DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS AFFECTING CHILD BIRTH REGISTRATION

#### 5.1. Introduction

The purpose of this chapter is to present and discuss findings relating to the second specific objective which reads: To examine the extent to which demographic factors affect child birth registration. In order to achieve its purpose, the chapter proceeds by first discussing the level of child birth registration, then it discusses the extent to which various demographic factors affect child birth registration in terms of sex, age, level of income, level of education and employment status of parents and guardians. Finally, a conclusion will be given.

#### 5.2. Level of child birth registration

The study found that the level of child birth registration among the households who participated in the research was low. From the research it was found that out of the 109 parents and guardians who participated in the research, only 27 had their children registered with DNRPC translating in 24.7 percent. Of the 109 children that were selected, 82 of them had not been registered with DNRPC representing 74.3 percent. Further it was discovered that of the 27 children who had been registered with the DNRPC 13 had in their possession a birth certificate representing 44.4 percent. These data are shown in Table 5.1. An analysis of these data show a higher percentage of child birth registration than the national level of registration which is 11.3 percent (CSO, 2015). This is so because the study was only limited to two districts of Lusaka and Chongwe both within Lusaka province and therefore, could not reflect the results for the entire country. What is significant about this research however, is that it has shown that less than 50 percent of children in Zambia are registered. This implies that the majority of children in Zambia are not registered with DNRPC. This research also found that the majority of children who are registered did not have in possession a birth certificate.

These two findings are similar to what was found in four earlier studies conducted in Zambia. Republic of Zambia (2017) presented a low child birth registration rate in a survey conducted in 2017. The CSO (2015) found similar results of low child birth registration in Zambia. UNICEF (2013) and UN (2010) found that the levels of child birth registration in Zambia was less than 50 percent, respectively. The phenomenon of low child birth registration is not

only unique to Zambia. A UNICEF (2013) found that in Chad, for instance the level of child birth registration was low. In a study conducted in some SADC countries like Tanzania and Zimbabwe it was found that child birth registration level was equally low (UN, 2010). Adi *et al*, (2015) found similar results of low child birth registration in Nigeria.

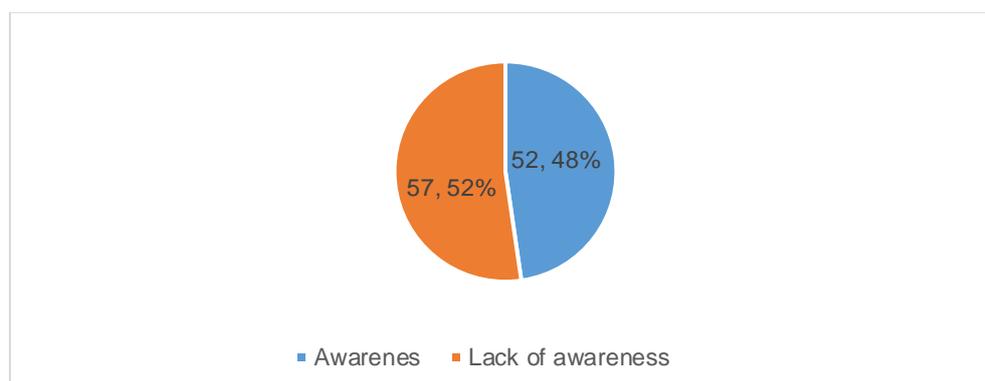
**Table 5. 1: Level of child birth registration by district**

District	Have you registered this child with the DNRPC? If so, are you in possession of the child's birth certificate?			Total
	Registered	Registered and in possession of birth certificate	Unregistered	
Lusaka	20	17	55	75
Chongwe	7	3	27	34
Total	27	20	82	109

**Source: Field Data**

The low level of child birth registration could be attributed to ignorance on what child birth registration is and where to register the birth of children among the parents and guardians who participated in the study. During the research it was found that most parents and guardians are not aware of the Birth and Death Registration Act, Chapter 51, of 1973 that requires compulsory registration of all children born in Zambia. When asked whether parents and guardians were aware of the above law, the research found that of the 109 parents and guardians that participated in the research, only 52(48.85 percent) claimed that they are aware about the law that requires that the birth of children must be registered with DNRPC. This percentage is low compared to 57(52.29 percent) percent of parents and guardians who stated that they are not aware of the law that requires that child s birth must be registered. This information is presented in the Figure 5.1.

**Figure 5. 1: Extent to which parents and guardians are aware of their legal obligation to register their children with DNRPC**



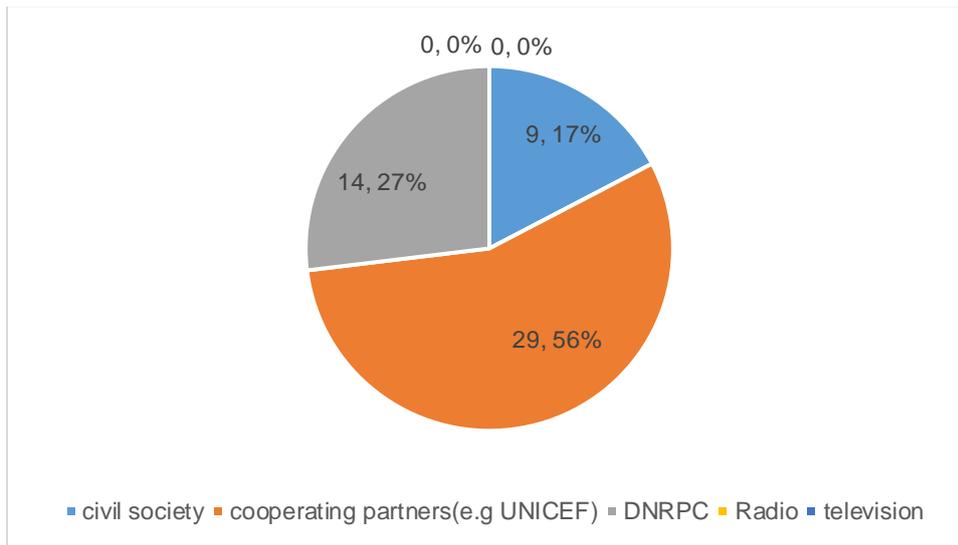
**Source: Field Data**

This finding underscores the fact that the major barrier to low child birth registration is lack of awareness or ignorance on the part of parents and guardians about the importance and their obligation to register their children. Studies from other African countries have shown similar findings. In the study conducted in Zimbabwe, lack of awareness or ignorance on the importance of child birth registration was also cited as the reason for low child birth registration (Kadzikano, 2007). Bequele (2005) found that in Ethiopia and Tanzania, most parents were not aware of their country’s law on child birth registration.

With respect to the parents and guardians that are aware about the Births and Deaths Registration Act, Chapter 51, of 1973 that requires compulsory registration of all children born in Zambia, the research found that they acquired this knowledge through various means. Radio, Television, DNRPC exhibitions, Civil Society and cooperating partners (UNICEF, Plan International, etc.). When asked a direct question through which of the above medium they learnt about child birth registration, the research found that of the 52 parents and guardians who are aware about this law, the majority, 56 percent, got this information or knowledge about child birth registration from cooperating partners. This was followed by DNRPC exhibitions, 27 percent, where brochures or pamphlets are distributed to the general public. The research found that radio and television was never cited as the source of information on child birth registration in Zambia. Parents and guardians who participated in this research had never seen or heard of an advert on birth registration on radio or television. This suggests that advertising of child birth registration services in Zambia on radio and television is rarely done. Figure 5.2 shows the various sources of information that parents and guardians use to get knowledge on the law that talks about child birth registration in Zambia. The finding that cooperating partners like UNICEF and Plan International, etc. have been

promoting awareness campaigns of the laws about child birth regulation was also found to be the case in other SADC countries (UNSD, 2010). Further, the study conducted in Bangladesh also revealed that cooperating partners are in the fore front of creating awareness about the law on child birth registration in that country (Piper, 2015).

**Figure 5. 2 : Source of Information on the law about child birth registration**



**Source: Field Data**

### 5.3.Demographic factors affecting child birth registration

The research found that they are various demographic factors that affect child birth Registration in Zambia.

#### 5.3.1. Gender of the selected child and birth registration

The research also found that there was a minimal difference between male and female children with regard to child birth registration. Out of the 109 children who participated in the study, Table 5.2 shows that of the 27 children that are registered 15(55.56 percent) are females whilst 12(44.44 percent) are males. Of the 82 children that are not registered 50(60.98 percent) were females and 32 (39.02 percent) are males. From these data one can infer that sex of a child does not affect the ability of the parent and guardian to have that child’s birth to be registered or not to be registered with the DNRPC. Bhatia *et al.*, (2017) found that even in other countries in eastern (Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya) and Southern Africa (Lesotho, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe) levels of child birth was similar for boys and girls. Similarly, some other countries outside Africa did not show significant differences in coverage by sex of the child. These include Cuba, Ukraine and Albania among others. The

situation was different from the results of the study in yet other countries. Bhatia et al., . (2017) found that child birth registration rate was significantly lower among girls compared to boys in eight countries namely Sudan, Niger, Namibia, Guinea Bissau, Tajikistan, Costa Rica, Armenia and Thailand. In the same study, Bhatia et al., ., (2017) found that there was a significantly higher rate of child birth registration among girls in three countries Kyrgyzstan, Sierra Leone and Vanuatu.

**Table 5. 2: Gender of the selected child and birth registration status**

Gender of selected child	Kindly tell me the gender/sex of the child being considered for the study. Is this child registered with the DNRPC and are you in possession of a birth certificate?		
	Registered	Registered (in possession of birth certificate)	Unregistered
Male	12(44.44%)	9(45%)	32(39.02%)
Female	15(55.56%)	11(55%)	50(60.98%)

**Source: Field Data**

**Source: Field Data**

### 5.3.2. Gender of parent and guardian and child birth registration

Of the 109 parents and guardians who participated in the study 68 were females and 41 were males. The research found that there is a difference in terms of which gender of parent and guardian was more kin to register the birth of the child. The Table 5.3 shows that though female parents and guardians are the majority participating in the study, they only had 12 children registered compared to male parents and guardians who had 15 children registered. Like the findings of the research, Kadzikano, (2007) made a similar conclusion in the study conducted in Zimbabwe where it was noted that male parents were more involved with child birth registration as compared to female parents.

**Table 5. 3: Gender of parent and guardian and child birth registration**

Gender of parent and guardian	Have you registered this child with the DNRPC? If so, is the child in possession of a birth certificate?			
	Number of parents/ guardians	Registered	Registered (in possession of birth certificate)	Unregistered
Female parent	68	12	9	32
Male parent	41	15	11	50
Total	109	27	20	82

**Source: Field Data**

### **5.3.3. Age of Parent and Guardian and Child Birth Registration**

Table 5.4 shows that age of a parent and guardian is a factor in child birth registration. The study found that out of the 40 parents and guardian in the age group of the age group of 30-39 ,11(27.5%) had their children registered with the DNRPC. This was the highest number of registered children. This was followed by the age group 40-49 were it was found that 7(26.9%) out the 26 parents and guardians had their children registered. The least number of registered children was found among the elderly parent and guardians above 50 years of age. The study found that out of the 9 parents and guardians registered in this age group, only 3(33.3%) had their children registered. The teenage parents and guardians had no child registered at all. From this data it can be concluded that parents and guardians in mid age category are more knowledgeable and conscious about registering their children as compared to teenage parents and guardians and also those who are past child bearing age.

In the study conducted in Nigeria, Makinde *et al.*, (2008) more children were registered among parents who were of mid age group as compared to the parents and guardians who old and passed child were bearing age. They found that child birth registration odds were highest for children of parents and guardians who were in mid age group category. From the above, we note that age of the parent and guardian is also a significant demographic factor in the registration of a child' birth. The older the parent and guardian, the more likely that the child will be registered. Duryea *et al.*, (2006) argue that child birth registration also varies by age of mother at the time of the child's birth. In their study conducted in Latin American Countries, they concluded that although the frequency of births to very young and old mothers is lower, they are much less likely to register their children's birth.

**Table 5. 4: Age of Parent and Guardian and Child Birth Registration**

Age of parent/ guardian	Have you registered this child with the DNRPC?		Total
	Registered	Unregistered	
13-19	0	6 (100%)	6(100%)
20-29	6 (21.4%)	22 (78.6%)	28(100%)
30-39	11 (27.5%)	29 (72.5%)	40(100%)
40-49	7 (26.9%)	19 (73.1%)	26(100%)
50 and above	3 (33.3%)	6 (66.7%)	9(100%)
<b>Totals</b>	27	82	109

**Source: Field Data****5.3.4. Levels of Income for Parents and Guardians and Child Birth Registration**

When some parents and guardians were asked why the child was not registered, they cited lack of income or money to enable them bear the costs associated with child birth registration. In support of the above statement, the findings of this study as seen from Table 5.5, shows that there is a relationship between income of the parent and guardian and having the birth of their child registered. From the table, it can be noted that parents and guardians with higher income are likely to register the birth of their children than those with low income. For instance, 9 (90 percent) out of 10 parents and guardians with income of K5, 901 and above had the birth of their children registered. This is the opposite of those with income of K0-K3, 000 were 4(9.8%) out 41 parents and guardians had the births of their children registered.

**Table 5. 5: Levels Child Birth Registration by Income of Parents and Guardians**

Monthly income of parent and guardian	How much income [money] do you earn per month?		Total
	registered	unregistered	
0-3000	4(9.8%)	37(90.2%)	41(100%)
3001-3800	6(14.6%)	35(85.4%)	41(100%)
3801-5900	8(47.1%)	9(52.9%)	17(100%)
5901 and above	9(90%)	1(10%)	10(100%)
<b>Total</b>	27	82	109

**Source: Field Data**

This finding shows that parents and guardians in high income brackets have greater chances of registering their children than those in lower income brackets. To underscore this point, one parent who was asked why the child was not registered responded that it was very expensive to register the child especially that the child was born in Kabwe district and not in Lusaka district (Note that registration of a child is done from the district where the child was born and not the district where the child is living). Another guardian had this to say, “I cannot afford travelling to the BOMA (registration centre in Lusaka) especially with two witnesses, no it is expensive for me.” Additionally, the research found that sometimes parents were requested to make photocopies of other documents like NRC, birth record or Child Under five card to attach to the registration forms and these parents said it was expensive for them (Note that photo copied documents have to be certified as true copy of the original by the Commissioner of Oaths before they are attached to the child birth registration application forms). Another parent had this to say, “It takes time to get the birth certificate, so it is expensive to keep going back to the BOMA making follow ups whether the certificate is out or not.” Most of the above factors are associated with parents and guardians in lower income brackets. Analysis of these data leads to a conclusion that parents and guardians who have majority of children registered are perceived to find it affordable to bear the costs, both direct and indirect, that are associated with child birth registration because they are the highest income earners in the country.

From the above, the research notes that there is a positive relationship between income of parents and guardians and registration of the birth of their children. Parents in very low-income brackets had the least number of registered children followed by those children whose parents were in the medium income group. The highest number of registered children was found to be among the rich who happened to be in the higher income brackets. Like in Zambia’s case as found in this study, Adi et al., ., (2015) found that income influences child birth registration. In the study of Cross River and Bauchi States, they found that a higher percent of children from households who earned a high income had been registered with the civil authorities. Among the low-income groups, he found that a common complaint was that parents and guardians had to pay to get birth certificates. Bhatia *et al.*, (2017) found a lower child birth registration for children in households in the lowest wealth quintile compared to the highest in a study conducted in Pakistan. It is on that basis that UNICEF (2013) argues that child birth registration is a privilege afforded to a subset of children based on income.

The above findings, both in Zambia and other countries show that income level of parents and guardians is a significant factor in child birth registration. There is a strong relationship between level of income earned by parents and guardians and child birth registration. The parents and guardians who are in higher income brackets are more likely to afford access to services and products that might be considered luxury by those parents and guardians earning little income. Those earning high income can afford to buy newspapers, have access to internet facilities, travel around to attend shows and exhibitions and also buy radio or television. All these facilities and services place them in a better position to be knowledgeable about services such as child birth registration that are offered by DNRPC. The perception over this relationship is that the underpaid or low-income earners in society are averse to spend money on registering their children but would rather spend it on putting a meal on the table. The other perception could be that child birth registration is not important and therefore, worth spending meagre hard-earned income on. The above perceptions are premised on the fact that the major sources of income for the poor are informal enterprise activities, not wages from formal employment. This suggests that poor households are mainly working in the informal sector and the ratio of enterprise income earned compared to the needs of such households is very low. As such they would seldom spend that hard-earned income on child birth registration (ADB, 2009). From that perspective, the low-income earning parents and guardians are particularly disadvantaged to access child birth registration services.

### **5.3.5. Levels of Education of Parents and Guardians and Child Birth Registration**

The higher the education status, the more likely the respondents are able to register the births of the children under their custody and vice versa. The study found that the majority of parents and guardians had attained some form of formal education. The highest number of registered children was recorded from parents and guardians who had attained tertiary education. Out of 19 parents and guardians in this level of education 11(57.9%) parents and guardians had the birth of their children registered. This was followed by parents and guardians who had attained secondary level of education. Out of 44 parents and guardians in this level of education 7(15.9%) had the birth of their children registered. This is the opposite of those with no formal education where 4(30.8%) out of 13 parents and guardians have registered the birth of their children. The summary of this information is shown in Table 5.6.

**Table 5. 6: Levels of Education of Parents and Guardians and Child Birth Registration**

Levels of education of parent and guardian	What is the highest level of education you have attained? Have you registered your child with the DNRPC?		Total
	Registered	Unregistered	
No formal education	4(30.8%)	9(69.2%)	13(100%)
Primary education	5(15.2%)	28(84.8%)	33(100%)
Secondary education	7(15.9%)	37(84.1%)	44(100%)
Tertiary education	11(57.9%)	8(42.1%)	19(100%)
Totals	27	82	109

**Source: Field Data**

Other researchers made similar findings where it was established that the odds of child birth registration are high among the educated compared to the uneducated. Makinde *et al.*, (2015) in the study conducted in Nigeria found that child birth registration levels for children whose parents and guardians had not attained any kind of formal education was low. When a study was undertaken in Ghana, Musah *et al.*, (2015) concluded that the education level of a parents and guardians has influence on the well-being of the family. This applies to health matters, education matters and also child birth registration. Parents and guardians with some schooling are more likely to know how to register a child than their uneducated peers, and the proportion of registered children is highest among those whose parents and guardians have a secondary education. ADB (2009) supposes that household heads who have not attained any formal schooling are poor and live in poverty and therefore they may not understand the value of child birth registration. Musah *et al.*, (2015) study further found that in Nigeria only a low percent of children whose parents and guardians have no education were registered. This is in stark contrast with the relatively high registration level for children whose parents and guardians had a primary education and children whose parents and guardians had a secondary education. Focusing on Ethiopia where national child birth registration is only very low, Musah *et al.*, (2015) concluded that child birth registration levels increase substantially as a parent and guardian's education level rises from no schooling to primary education and to secondary education or higher. Therefore, the level of education among parents and guardians is a key factor in birth registration.

When the parent and guardian has not attained formal education, they find it more difficult to conduct the necessary bureaucratic transactions to register their children's births in a timely

fashion. In many cases they do not understand well enough, or at all, the English language, or they have difficulties understanding the instructions to carry out the transaction (Harbitz and Tamargo, 2009). This phenomenon does not affect Zambia and other African countries only but cuts across other regions too. UNICEF (2013) noted that in Latin America and the Caribbean countries, education level of parents and guardians influenced child birth registration. For example, it was discovered that in Guyana and Suriname a high percent of parents and guardians lack knowledge of how to register a child's birth due to illiteracy. Harbitz and Tamargo (2009) weighs in on this matter by noting that there is a greater number of unregistered children in rural areas due to illiteracy in Guatemala. The above two researchers concluded that the level of child birth registration is high among the educated and low among the uneducated who are predominantly indigenous. These indigenous parents and guardians cannot read or write. The findings of this study are further in line with similar findings by Muzzi (2010) in a study conducted in Bangladesh, Brazil and India where it was also concluded that the unregistered children are almost always from poor, socially excluded or displaced families, and often have illiterate parents.

From the above, it is worth noting that there is a positive relationship between level of education of the parents and guardians and having the birth of their child registered. From the finding of the research it can be noted that parents and guardians who have attained some level of formal education are likely to register the births of their children because they are perceived to be knowledgeable and able to appreciate the benefits that are associated with child birth registration and the benefits accrued by these children when they grow into adulthood. Roberts et al., ., (2017) argue that in the most obvious way, educational levels influence social status. Education determines social status and allows people to have access to numerous better products and services because they are likely to find better jobs and earn high income in comparison to the uneducated. Educated people are able to buy radio, television and have access to internet services among many other things. Because of such easy access to such services, educated people are more likely to be knowledgeable about the importance and benefits associated with child birth registration. It is in this light that (ADB, 2009) concluded that poverty levels are strongly linked to educational attainment. Majority of poor households are headed by people with only an elementary school education or below and therefore, cannot afford to register the births of their children.

### 5.3.6. Employment Status of Parents and Guardians and Child Birth Registration

The study shows that parents and guardians who are in formal employment registered more children as compared to their peers who are in informal employment and those that are not in any type of employment at all. When we look at the findings of this research, out of the 27 children who are registered, the majority came from parents who are engaged in formal employment. Out of 54 parents and guardians who are in formal employment 14(25.9%) had the birth of their children registered.

This is followed by parents and guardians who are in informal employment where 10(25%) out of the 40 parents and guardians had the birth of their children registered. The least number of register children came from parents and guardians who had no employment. Out of 15 parents and guardians in this category of employment only 3(20%) parents and guardians had the birth of their children registered. This information is summarised in Table 5.7.

**Table 5. 7: Employment Status of Parents and Guardians and Child Birth Registration**

Employment status of parent and guardian	Are you employed formally, informally [e.g. Self-employed] or you are not employed? Have you registered your child with the DNRPC?		Total
	Registered	Unregistered	
Formal employment	14(25.9%)	40(74.1%)	54(100%)
Informal employment	10(25%)	30(75%)	40(100%)
Unemployed	3(20%)	12(80%)	15(100%)
Total	27	82	109

**Source: Field Data**

This finding is also similar to experiences in other African countries like Kenya where it was found that the level of child birth registration was highest for those in formal employment compared to the level of registered children among the self-employed and labourers (Pelowski *et al.*, 2014). It is also similar to what has been reported in Nigeria (Makinde *et al.*, 2008). Although child birth registration is free of charge in Zambia, parents and guardians may have to incur indirect costs such as transportation expenses, travel time, documentation and legal challenges especially when there is a need to seek services of a lawyer to help with registration procedures for late registration that often require the services of a lawyer in some

countries. All these direct and indirect costs can only be borne by an individual who is in stable employment and earning some income. From this study, we can conclude that the employment status of parents and guardians have a bearing on the likelihood of their children to be registered or not with the DNRPC. Children whose parents work and earn some income, whether formal or informally, have more odds of registering the birth of their children than those that are unemployed. In view of the foregoing, there is a relationship between status of employment of parents and guardians and having the child registered with DNRPC.

#### **5.4. Conclusion**

From the discussion of the findings, it is apparent that demographic factors have a strong bearing on the likelihood of children to be registered at birth with the DNRPC or to be unregistered. From the study, we observe that parents and guardians do not select which child to register or not to register with DNRPC on the basis of the gender of that child. The research found that there was a minimal difference in terms of levels of child birth registration between female children and male children. This could imply that in Zambia, parents and guardians look at the welfare of their children without discrimination based on their gender. This research has also found that the gender of a parent and guardian had some impact on whether the birth of their child is registered. It has been established that male parents and guardians had more children under their custody registered compared to those children who were with female parents. One assumption for this finding could be that male parents and guardians could have had greater access to opportunities such as income, better education and employment to enable them register the children than their female peers. In this regard, parents and guardians who may not have access to such greater opportunities will not be ready to incur any costs on birth registration but would rather spend that meagre money earned on feeding their families. What can be deduced from this conclusion is that the value that individuals and families place on registering a child is very important, along with the barriers they may face in doing so. These can include costs related to registration fees, travel to registration centres and time. Additionally, in certain cultures and population groups, more emphasis and value may be placed on traditional customs or practices (such as naming ceremonies) than the formal process of child birth registration. For instance, in Zambia, the newly born child might not be registered immediately it is born because culturally, the child is given a name several days if not weeks after birth. From this discussion, it is apparent that birth registration does not surface amongst the parents' and guardians' priority needs for children. Additionally, for most parents and guardians, priority needs are health, education,

and putting food on the table. Yet for others, birth registration emerges as a secondary priority, important only as a mean to secure other priority services such as school enrolment i.e. education. This chapter has highlighted the various findings that show how demographic factors affect child birth registration. It has been found that child birth registration rates vary within countries because of the uneven development among different groups. The findings about income earned by parents and guardians, education level of parents and guardians and employment status of parents and guardians show that there is a positive relationship between these three variables and the likely hood of the child to be registered. All in all, there is there is a statistically significant correlation between the level of birth registration and demographic variables such as sex, age, income, education and employment status of parents and guardians as relates to child birth registration. The next chapter analyses the extent to which geographical location affects child birth registration in Zambia.

## CHAPTER 6

### GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION AND CHILD BIRTH REGISTRATION IN ZAMBIA

#### 6.1. Introduction

This chapter discusses the findings that relate to the third specific objective of the research. Its focus is to analyse the extent to which geographical location of child birth registration centre affects child birth registration. To achieve this purpose, the chapter will start by looking at the rural – urban divide and child birth registration. It will then proceed to look at population density area and child birth registration. Finally, a conclusion of the chapter will be given. .

#### 6.2. Rural – urban divide and child birth registration

The Table 6.1 reveal that there is a link between the place or district where a parent and guardian reside and child birth registration. From the analysis of statistics of the research, it has been found that the level of child birth registration among children whose parents and guardians reside in Lusaka, an urban area is higher compared to the level of registration of children among parents and guardians that reside in Chongwe district. The findings of the research show that Lusaka district has a greater number of children who are registered 20 (26.7 percent) as compared to the number of registered children in Chongwe district where only 7 (20.6 percent) are registered. This means 55 (73.3 percent) of children are unregistered in Lusaka district and 27 (79.4 percent) of children are unregistered in Chongwe district. This finding asserts that more children in Lusaka district are registered as compared to their peers in Chongwe district. An earlier research conducted in Zambia found similar results whereby more children that reside in urban areas were registered compared to their peers in the rural areas (Republic of Zambia, 2017). Similarly, results of studies undertaken in other countries revealed large and consistent disadvantages to rural compared to urban children. For example, Bhatia *et al.*, (2017) found that in Cote d'Ivoire more urban children had their births registered compared to rural children.

**Table 6.1. Level of child birth registration by district**

District in which parent and guardian resides	Have you registered the child with the DNRPC?		Total
	Registered	Unregistered	
Chongwe	7 (20.6%)	27 (79.4%)	34 (100%)
Lusaka	20 (26.7%)	55 (73.3%)	75 (100%)
Total	27	82	109

**Source: Field Data**

From the research it was also found that more children in Lusaka district had physical birth certificates in their possession compared to their peers in Chongwe district. Table 6.2 shows that of the 27 children that are registered, majority who are in possession of physical birth certificate are in Lusaka district 17 (85.0 percent) compared to 3 (42.9 percent) in Chongwe district.

**Table 6.2: Registered children and in possession of physical birth certificate by district**

District in which parent and guardian resides	Do you have in your possession the child's birth certificate or not?		Total
	In possession of birth certificate	Not in possession of birth certificate	
Chongwe	3 (42.9%)	4 (.57.1%)	7
Lusaka	17 (85.0 %)	3 (15.0%)	20
Total	20	7	27

**Source: Field Data**

With regard to why more children had in their possession a physical birth certificate in Lusaka district as compared to Chongwe district, one parent had this to say, "I went to collect the birth certificate from the offices [DNRPC head office] on my own instead of waiting for the registration office to send the certificate to my house." From this response it was established that the close proximity that some parents and guardians living in Lusaka district have to DNRPC head office where birth certificates are printed and issued as compared to parents and guardians that live in Chongwe district has made it easy for them to collect birth certificates. Parents and guardians in Lusaka district are more likely to make a follow up in person with DNRPC on the application for a birth certificate than the parent and guardian that reside in Chongwe district. Some parents and guardians of the children that did not have a physical birth certificate in their possession claimed that they were waiting for the DNRPC to send the birth certificates to their residences. One guardian said that, "It takes on average two to three months for one to get a birth certificate. For babies born outside Lusaka, the process is twice as long. I cannot afford to be going to the registration centre to see if the birth

certificate is out. Instead I will wait at home.” It is evident that those parents and guardians that reside in Lusaka, the urban area, are more likely to get the birth certificate for their children than those parents and guardians who live in Chongwe, a rural district. This phenomenon is not unique to Zambia alone. A study conducted in other African countries by UNICEF (2013) showed a similar pattern of more children in urban areas having a physical birth certificate in their possession compared to children in rural areas. Bhatia *et al.*, (2017) also found that in some countries more children were registered without receiving a physical birth certificate than were registered with a certificate. For example, although child birth registration coverage in Malawi is relatively high, only a small fraction of children was in possession of a physical birth certificate. This implies that many children were registered but without being issued a birth certificate. In Jordan, almost all children’s birth is registered, yet less than half of those children whose births are registered are in possession of a physical birth certificate.

To understand the unequal distribution of birth certificates and the unequal access to the right to identity connected to them, one can borrow the thinking of Cesar Victora’s and co-authors who proposed the “inverse-equity” hypothesis. The hypothesis suggests that those of higher socioeconomic positions benefit first from new health interventions (Hargreaves, *et al.*, 2012). Although the hypothesis relates to health, the gist of the matter is that similarly, other public-service interventions and programs reach those of higher socioeconomic status first, and later affect the poor. Hargreaves *et al.*, (2012) contend that inequities only improve once the rich have achieved access, after which the poor gain greater access. The perception from the above phenomenon is that there should be a bias to serve the better-off first and the poor and marginalised last. ADB (2009) note that the implication of a large percentage of children not being registered and ultimately not having birth certificates is that rural and poor children potentially face a systematic disadvantage in accessing various services and also denied their basic right to identity and are missing in national data.

The research found that distance from one’s residence to the child registration centre was an obstacle to child birth registration in Zambia. With some parents and guardians facing challenges to earn a living or having money, travelling to a child birth registration centre that is located far away from the community becomes a hindrance to child birth registration. Travelling a long distance from a parent or guardians’ residence to the registration centre was cited as one of the reasons that discourages parents and guardians from having their children registered with DNRPC. Table 6.3 shows that apart from lack of awareness on the need to

register a child which was cited as the first major obstacle to child birth registration, distance from one's residence to the child registration centre was the second major obstacle both in Lusaka and Chongwe districts. For instance, 8(23.5%) of 34 parents and guardians in Chongwe district said that distance to the child birth registration centre was a big challenge. Similarly, in Lusaka 22(29.3%) out of 75 parents and guardians said that distance is also a major challenge. One parent explained that long distance to registration centres made it difficult for families living in remote and poor areas to access the child birth registration services, coupled with the cost of transportation. Multiple trips are undertaken to complete the process adding to the costs.

**Table 6.3: Reasons for non-registration of a child's birth by district**

District in which parent and guardian resides	In your view what is the most serious obstacle [challenge] that affects your ability to register the birth of children?			
	Lack of awareness	Costs	Distance	Total
Chongwe	21 (61.8%)	5 (14.7%)	8 (23.5%)	34(100%)
Lusaka	44 (58.7%)	9 (12.0%)	22 (29.3%)	75(100%)
Total	65	14	30	109

**Source: Field Data**

The research concludes that long distance covered to reach a registration centre was hindering more parents and guardians to register the birth of their children. This finding correlates with findings in other African countries. Kadzikano (2007) found that in Zimbabwe majority of those on the farms in the rural parts of Hurungwe and Bindura districts had not been registered on account of long distance covered to reach the child birth registration centre. A UNICEF (2013) study also agrees to the finding of this study. It found that in Chad, for instance, very few children are registered because they are few registration centres. On the basis of such findings both in Zambia and other countries, Duryea *et al.*, (2006) makes a conclusion that the pervasive problem of under-registration is common among the most poverty prone rural population who may not afford the cost of travel to far away registration offices. ADB (2009) underscores this thought by arguing that effects of poverty on society as a whole is in the long run, social tensions and threatens to divide a nation because of the issue of inequalities. (UNICEF, 2013) made one finding different from the finding of this study were it was found that most developed countries in Europe and America have similar birth registration rates in rural and urban areas, making it the only regions in which no disparities in registration levels based on place of residence are found.

The research also found that there are more registration centres in Lusaka district compared to Chongwe district. Lusaka district had more than one child birth registration centre (four) while Chongwe district had only one child birth registration centre at the District headquarters. With more child birth registration centres in Lusaka district than in Chongwe district, it can be deduced that children born in Lusaka, an urban district are more likely to be registered compared to children born or residing in Chongwe, a rural district. UNICEF (2007) found that there is low coverage for child birth registration especially for people living in villages and rural areas because formal systems of birth registration are inadequate. Through this study, it was further found that the number of child registration centres were few because of failure by the DNRPC to fully decentralise the child birth registration services resulting into long distances for those who may wish to register their children. This is similar to the finding made by Kadzikano (2007) who undertook a research in Zimbabwe and found that some sub-offices under the Registrar General's Department were not operational and people living in surrounding areas had to travel long distances to register or wait for the national mobile registration trucks to reach the area. Kadzikano (2007) also discovered that the long investment in time through travelling long distances and queues emerged as a major discouraging element to birth registration for many rural folks. According to Kadzikano (2007), urban centres are more predisposed to greater rates of registration than the countryside due to the fact that registration offices are located in such centres and parents find it easy to access them than their peers in rural areas who are expected to travel long distances.

In line with the findings of this research, Makinde *et al.*, (2015) found that in Nigeria rural registration of children was low including in some urban areas because the registration centres were few in comparison with the local population that needed to be served. In line with findings of this research, Musah *et al.*, (2015) also discovered that urban dwellers were more likely to register births of their children than rural dwellers. Adi *et al.*, (2015) also made a similar conclusion that there are low levels of birth registration in Bauchi and Cross River states, particularly among the disadvantaged rural households who live in poverty. Another study conducted in Kenya found results similar to findings of this study. It was found that the percentage of child birth registration was high in the urban area compared to the level of child birth registration in rural area (UNICEF, 2013). In the case of Benin, Atlantique and Oueme regions, the sites of the economic and administrative capitals respectively, have also the

largest shares of registration centres (Makannah, 1981) Similar to the findings of the research, Makannah (1981) further finds that in Nigeria which is the most populous nation in Africa, child birth registration centres hardly exist in villages; in other words, the system has never been brought within the easy reach of the ordinary parents and guardians. Few child birth registration centres in a given district implies that parents and guardians will have to travel long distances at an extra cost to access child birth registration services result It is due to this factor that this research found that in Chongwe district 5 (14.7 percent) of the thirty four households cited the difficulty of traveling long distances from their villages to the registration office to register births. Note that with respect to Lusaka, the research found that only 15 (20 percent of the seventy-five respondents complained of the challenge of long distance involved in accessing registration offices. This is seen from Table 6.3 above.

From the above discussion, one can therefore deduce that in terms of rural – urban divide, there are large and consistent disadvantages to rural children compared to urban children. The research has found that children from rural areas are less likely to have their births registered than their peers in urban areas and also agrees with findings from other studies conducted both in Zambia and elsewhere and probably reflects less access to registration facilities in rural areas. Although across most regions, country level registration show significant inequalities in child birth registration for rural children as compared to urban children, Bhatia et al., . (2017) also found something different from what was found in the study. They found that not all developing countries experience such disparities in registration level between urban and rural areas. Unlike in Zambia, as revealed in the study, Jordan and Thailand are the countries where child birth registration was statistically significantly higher among children in rural areas than in urban areas, and this difference was largest in Jordan. Muzzi (2010) also found that unlike most countries where urban areas present much higher birth registration rates than rural areas, in the Gambia the gap between urban and rural areas is not as dramatic. Child birth registration rates for children in rural areas is marginally different from the child birth registration rate in urban areas.

### **6.3. Population density of residential area and child birth registration**

The research further shows that registration of births varied with population density of residential area. The data collected was analysed to establish the registration levels within Lusaka district across the three population density areas and two population density areas within Chongwe district. From Table 6.4 those parents and guardians that live in Lusaka's

low-density area had a higher percentage of registered births of children, followed by medium density area and lastly high-density area which also had the highest percentage of none registration of births of children. In Lusaka district, from Table 6.4 for instance, 10(50.0%) out of 20 children that are registered reside in the low population density area. With respect to medium population density area, 6(30.0.8%) children are registered out of the 20 children who registered. The lowest level of child birth registration was found among children whose parents and guardians reside in high population density area where is was established that only 4 (20 percent) children had their birth's registered.

**Table 6. 4: Population density of residential area and child birth registration**

**(Lusaka district)**

Is this child registered with the DNRPC or not?	High density	Medium density	Low density	Total
Registered	4 (20.0%)	6(30.0%)	10(50.0%)	20(100%)
Unregistered	26.0 (47.3%)	19(34.5%)	10(18.2%)	55(100%)
Total	30.0	25	25	75

**Source: Field Data**

On the other hand, Table 6.5. Shows that 2 (28.6 percent) children residing in Chongwe rural are registered compared to 5 (71.4 percent) residing in Chongwe township.

**Table 6. 5: Population density of residential area and child birth registration**

**(Chongwe district)**

Is this child registered with the DNRPC or not?	Chongwe rural	Chongwe township	Total
Registered	2.0 (28.6%)	5.0 (71.4%)	7 (100)
Unregistered	16 (59.3)	11.0 (40.7%)	27 (100)

**Source: Field Data**

This research has established that children from low density areas had higher odds of being in possession of a physical birth certificate. Bhatia et al., . (2017) in one study conducted in Zambia and in Nigeria found that the majority of children who were registered came from better off households and from urban communities. Yet in the poor and high-density locations, few children had been registered. Additionally, the findings that the level of child

birth registration is lowest among the poorest people living in high density areas is in line with findings by Muzzi (2010) who conducted some research in Bangladesh, Brazil and India and concluded that these unregistered children are almost always from poor and socially excluded families. This echoes the observation that poverty (that is the major reason for under registration) remains a mainly rural phenomenon though urban poverty is on the rise. It is argued that there is an increasing number of poor households in urban areas, typically found in the informal sector (ADB, 2009). From the research and consideration of what other researchers have discovered, we can conclude that within urban areas, under registration is prevalent among those to be living in high population density areas that are mostly socially and economically marginalised. In line with the findings of the research, Roberts *et al.*, (2017) observes that life within urban centres is not homogeneous and is demarcated along class lines. Many of those who live in the shanties that encircle the cities have crafted a living out of very little. The wealthier members of society, often the inhabitants of lower density residential areas enjoy the benefits of access to increased globalisation, advances in technology and communications and ultimately more services. Additionally, in line with the study, Bhatia *et al.*, (2017) argue that population density of residential area determines both which children benefit from a birth certificate. Roberts *et al.*, (2017) give contrasting outlooks of population density of the residences within the urban locality. There is a stark contrast between high density squatter settlements, known as compounds or shanties characterised by the cement-block and tin-roofed houses of the dusty and crowded townships, with the low cost and less-crowded residential areas with more spacious and luxurious residences, known as mayadi characterised by the spacious bungalows in the leafy suburbs many built for Europeans before independence but now occupied by wealthy Zambians.

From the findings of the research highlighted earlier under section, 6.2, one can argue that only in rural areas is there low levels of child birth registration. At face value one would think that in urban areas the level of child birth registration is high, however, the analysis of the findings indicates that even within the urban areas there is no uniformity in child registration levels as noted from Table 6.4. This is in line with the finding by Kadzikano (2007) when he established that in Zimbabwe, even among urban dwellers, access to registration centres is not easy because these centres are situated at the Provincial or District centres, which are, by and large, still very far away from the majority grassroots population that reside in shanty areas. We can therefore, deduce that there are poor parents and guardians within Lusaka district even though it is an urban area. This finding seems to support a general belief in

Zambia that the poorest people in the cities and towns reside in high density areas, medium income earners reside in medium density areas while rich people reside in low density areas. Based on this belief, residents of high-density areas, since they are perceived to be poor and experiencing high poverty levels avoid by all means to spend their hard-earned income on matters that do not seem to add value to their livelihood like child birth registration. Inequality within urban areas is greater than in rural areas, and that the poorest in a country are usually found in urban slums (UNICEF, 2017). By virtue of their status of being poor, these parents and guardians may not have access to various services that might be available in urban area such as child registration services, and other amenities. The marginalised are normally found in rural areas, high density areas or shanty compounds. And this reflects the findings of the research whereby the lowest levels of birth registration and also children who do not have in their possession a physical birth certificate resides in the high population density township followed by medium population density township and the highest being in low population density areas.

The results of this study and results from other countries, validate the assertion that some segments of the population living in urban areas, rural areas or indeed those that live in remote areas or isolated islands will have problems in accessing child registration centres and offices, hence failing to register the birth of their children. These are physical barriers which discourage registration, especially for a population without incentives to register births (Makannah, 1981).

#### **6.4. Conclusion**

From this Chapter we note that rural – urban divide has a bearing on whether the parent and guardian will have the birth of the child registered. From the research, we have found that in Zambia, just like in other countries, there are more children that are registered with DNRPC in Lusaka an urban district than Chongwe a relatively rural district. Since more registration centres are located in Lusaka District with good transport and communication network, the likelihood of urban populations to have their children registered is very high than the population residing in Chongwe district which has only one child birth registration centre. It has also been found that even among the registered children, the number children in possession of a physical birth certificate is not uniform. More children residing in Lusaka district were found to have in their possession a physical birth certificate than the children residing in Chongwe, a rural district. The research further established that number of

registration centres for child birth registration is inadequate, notably in the rural areas where parents and guardians have to travel long distances to complete the registration procedure. The greater the distance to the registration centre, the higher the financial and opportunity costs for the family. In the discussion of the findings, we can deduce that long distance from the parents and guardian's residence to birth registration centres has a huge influence on child birth registration. The longer the distance to the registration centre, the lower the motivation for parents and guardians to get the births of their children registered. Further, we can deduce that population density area has an impact on child birth registration. This is based on the finding that more children in low population density area are registered compared to the number of registered children in high population density area.

All in all, rural-urban divide and the population density of parents' and guardians' geographical location of the child birth registration centre affect child birth registration. The next chapter presents the conclusions and recommendations of this dissertation.

## CHAPTER 7

### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 7.1. Introduction

The purpose of this chapter is to present the conclusions and recommendations of the dissertation. In order to achieve its purpose, the chapter begins with a presentation of the conclusions. Thereafter, recommendations are given.

#### 7.2. Conclusions

The conclusions are presented in line with the objectives of the research. The general objective of the research was to investigate the challenges of child birth registration in Zambia. The general conclusion of this research, therefore, is that there are many challenges that are faced by government with respect to the process of child birth registration in Zambia. Firstly, it has been noted that the process of child birth registration is not very effective. The process is tedious and laborious because of its bureaucratic nature. Secondly, the research found that there are many factors working against the process of child birth registration like the general poor attitude of most parents and guardians towards child birth registration, financial challenges, inadequate manpower and poor infrastructure. Thirdly, demographic factors and fourthly geographical location of the parents and guardian in relation to the geographical location of the child registration centre has a significant bearing on the likelihood of the child to be registered. The major area of ineffectiveness relates to the poor attitude towards child birth registration because of lack of awareness or ignorance of the process of child registration and the benefits associated with it among most parents and guardians. DNRPC together with parents and guardians should interact in order to encourage reluctant parents and guardians to seek for birth registration services especially that it is a voluntary or passive undertaking. In line with the argument of the systems theory, child birth registration is a process with many elements. These are the government, DNRPC including parents and guardians, among others.

The above general conclusion has been drawn from the conclusions made from the three specific objectives that the research focused on. The first specific objective of the research was to analyse administrative challenges faced by the DNRPC in the process of child birth registration. The conclusions regarding this specific objective are that universal child birth

registration is elusive in Zambia as the concept has to a greater extent failed to take root among most parents and guardians. There are various reasons that have contributed to this phenomenon, ranging from a bureaucratic child birth registration process, to institutional or administrative challenges faced by the DNRPC in the process of child birth registration. The research found and concluded that the process of child birth registration in Zambia was tedious and laborious. The process of child birth registration is not completed within a short of period of time. The parents and guardians have to wait for a considerable period of time before their children are registered and issued with the birth certificate. The bureaucracy and red tape that is associated with child birth registration thus discourage parents and guardians to register the birth of their children. It was found that such bureaucratic procedures, lead to parents and guardians to become disillusioned and indifferent to child birth registration and thus simply ignoring it. Arising out of the above, the research further found that most parents and guardians perceived the process of child birth registration in Zambia to be poor. The majority parents and guardians do not consider birth registration to address immediate needs, and they will spend money or time on material resources, such as food and school fees, in order to ensure children live a decent life than on child birth registration. The research further found that child birth registration process is not fully decentralised in Zambia and this demand that parents and guardians travel to the district in which the child was born in order to initiate the child birth registration process. This process turns out to be costly in the long run as parents and guardians are expected to bear costs like transport cost, accommodation and also food.

The research also concluded that the DNRPC faces various institutional challenges that affect the process of child birth registration in Zambia. For example, the challenge of poor attitude towards child birth registration by most parents and guardians is the biggest problem. The poor attitude shown by parents and guardians towards child birth registration is anchored on four factors. The first one is ignorance among parents and guardians about the procedure on child birth registration and the advantages associated with it. Lack of sufficient awareness on the part of parents and guardians especially in villages and rural areas where there is no formal system of registration is a major barrier to child birth registration. Some parents and guardians claim not to be aware that there is a compulsory law in Zambia that demands that they must register the birth of their children without fail. This has been compounded by many people failing to understand the value of obtaining a birth certificate. This is understandably so because birth registration in Zambia and Africa in general is an alien concept inherited

from mostly colonial rulers. Therefore, the lack of adequate knowledge by parents and guardians of how to register a child and which has been found to be major obstacle to the fulfilment of a child's right to identity should be addressed by the DNRPC.

The second factor that is associated with poor attitude exhibited by parents and guardians towards child birth registration is poverty. In view of such glaring poverty levels among the majority of the citizenry, child birth registration does not appear to be much important to some parents and guardians especially in the face of many other competing priorities, for example, to obtain basic necessities. Some parents and guardians are reluctant to put their efforts in applying for child birth registration because they are busy pursuing activities that will generate income for them for their sustenance. As such, following up on matters like child birth registration that does not provide immediate accompanying benefits is considered a sheer waste of productive time. This lack of enthusiasm on the part of parents and guardians seriously undermines efforts to register the birth of children. The last two factors that contribute to poor attitude towards child birth registration and ultimately influencing birth registration negatively are myths and cultural considerations. At times parents and guardians for their own personal reasons are suspicious about the whole process of child birth registration and the motive behind it, as was explained by one of the key informants from the DNRPC who said registration officials are at times labelled Satanists. Such sentiments are based on personal beliefs. For example, some parents and guardians feel it is a bad omen for them to give details about the births of their children to registration officials whom they consider to be total strangers. The patriarchal attitudes based on cultural norms make it difficult, even impossible, for women to register their child without the consent of their husbands or other senior members of the family. All these are issues that were found to be contributing to most parents and guardians developing a poor attitude to child birth registration and ultimately failure to register their children.

The research further concluded that other challenges faced by the DNRPC in the process of child birth registration in Zambia include inadequate funding from central government, low staffing levels, poor infrastructure and lack of adequate equipment. The study concluded that whereas registration officers might be dedicated to their job of registering children, the nature of the job is too large for only few members of staff. In some areas the population is too large to be covered by very few offices. It was established that although Lusaka district has a huge population, there are only four child birth registration centres with Chongwe district having just one child birth registration centre. Note that it was established that whereas the

population of Lusaka and Chongwe districts has grown over time, and demand for child birth registration services has increased, there is no corresponding increase in terms of the organisation structure of the DNRPC. The proposed new organisation structure for the DNRPC that will cater for adequate staff levels has not yet been approved by government. This finding of inadequate staff at registration centres both in urban and rural areas in comparison with the population serviced hinders more coverage of child birth registration, concludes this research. To improve the situation, the government and the DNRPC must have the new organisation structure approved, adequate and qualified staff recruited and open up more registration centres in communities. It is envisaged that the recruitment of more qualified registration officers and opening of more registration centres that are easily accessible will be an incentive to parents to register births. This is the basis of the systems theory where all stakeholders in an activity put efforts together to ensure the desired results that benefit the citizenry are fully achieved and, in this case, the DNRPC to achieve universal child birth registration. This research also noted that weak national policies, commitment of government and to a larger extent political will is lacking. Even when child birth registration is compulsory, there seem to be no commitment on the part of government to impose penalties on all parents and guardians that do not register the birth of their children. If political will is manifested by all stakeholders to address some of these challenges, the process of birth registration in Zambia could be significantly improved. The levels of child birth registration have thus continued to be low in Zambia because of the above challenges faced by government in child birth registration. The next section examines the second specific objective of this research.

The second specific objective of the research was to examine the extent to which demographic factors affect child birth registration. Regarding this specific objective, the study concludes that demographic factors have to a greater extent affected child birth registration in Zambia negatively. These factors are gender of the selected child, gender of parent and guardian, age of parent and guardian, levels of income for parent and guardian, levels of education of parents and guardians and employment status of parents and guardians. The study concludes that there was no significant difference in terms of the number of male children and female children who had been registered by DNRPC. This shows that parents in Zambia took the responsibility of registering the birth of their children without discrimination on the basis of gender of the child. With regard to whether gender of parent and guardian was a factor in ensuring that the birth of a child is registered, the research concluded that male parents and guardians are more likely to register the birth of

their children compared to female parents and guardians. The research also established that the age of parent and guardian had some bearing on the ability to register the birth of a child. It was concluded that parents and guardians in mid age category are more knowledgeable and conscious about registering their children as opposed to teenage parents and guardians and also those who are past child bearing age. The older the parent and guardian, the more likely that the child will be registered. From the above discussion, we further note and conclude that there is a positive relationship between the income earned by the parents and guardians, their educational level and their employment status and the likelihood of their child to be registered with the DNRPC. The general conclusion that can be inferred from these findings are that various background characteristics of a child and his or her family, including income earned, level of education attained and employment status among other demographic factors, can affect the likelihood of child's birth being registered. The last section focuses on the last specific objective.

The third specific objective of the research was to analyse the extent to which geographical location of the parents and guardians affect child birth registration. It was found from the research that in terms of rural – urban divide, there are large and consistent disadvantages to rural children compared to urban children. The research has found that few children from rural areas have their births registered compared to their peers in urban areas. To support this fact, some parents and guardians complained against the long distance they covered to reach the few district registration centres available. The research found that to a greater extent, DNRPC has not opened adequate child birth registration centres to accommodate the registration needs of some parents and guards who might be staying in distant areas. It was found that the four child birth registration centres operating in Lusaka district and one centre in Chongwe districts cannot provide adequate child birth registration service to satisfy the demand. This has led to discouragement on the part of parents and guardians who are forced to wait longer periods to receive birth certificates for their children from DNRPC. It was also established that the long distance to the nearest registration centre covered by parents and guardians to access the child birth registration services to any one of the five registration centres was a deterrent to register a child. It was concluded in the research that the greater the distance of the parent and guardian to the child registration centre, the lower the likelihood of the parent and guardian to have the birth of the child registered. This lead to low levels of birth registration. From this discussion, the general conclusion is that mapping birth registration levels by location and residence can illustrate where birth registration disparities

exist within a country. It has been established that children from peripheral or rural areas are less likely to be registered than those in urban areas. Additionally, it has been established that higher levels of birth registration have been observed in low population density areas as compared to the high population density areas. Having discussed the conclusion, the next section now makes recommendations that can assist in making the process of child birth effective and ultimately increase the level of child birth registration in Zambia.

### **7.3. Recommendations**

The recommendations are in two categories. These are policy recommendations and areas for future research.

#### **7.3.1. Policy Recommendations**

To ensure an effective process of child birth registration in Zambia, the following recommendations should be considered by either policy makers at the national level, by DNRPC and all other parties involved in child birth registration.

Firstly, DNRPC should intensify or enhance public awareness activities to ensure that more members of the general public are aware about its operations and also the need to register their children. This will enable more citizens to also appreciate the numerous benefits that are associated with child birth registration to the extent that they could probably be persuaded to register the births of their children. This will help the DNRPC to register more births.

Secondly, decentralisation of birth registration should be extended to the remaining four provinces as a matter of urgency. Additionally, more registration centres must be opened closer to communities to reduce on the distances covered by parents and guardians to register their children. Additionally, this will also address challenges associated with geographical location of registration centres because they will be easily accessed. This will significantly help in scaling birth registration upwards in the country. It will further reduce both direct and indirect costs incurred by parents and guardians in accessing child birth registration services in addition to reducing the turnaround time for issuance of the birth certificates. This will allow the DNRPC to concentrate on working on the backlog of applications for registration.

It is also recommended that DNRPC quickly considers revising the child birth registration law so as to allow full integration of child birth registration into health services. Integrating child birth registration into health clinics will increase the coverage of child birth registration

across the whole country. Empowering public health officers to act as registration officials will therefore, call for change in the current policy, because currently only the DNRPC is mandated to undertake child birth registration in Zambia. With this strategy, much impact will be felt in terms of increasing the levels of child birth registration because it will cease to be a stand-alone service because it will become integrated into highly decentralised child health programmes like, child immunisation services and under five services. Since most areas in Zambia have health facilities, this strategy is likely to bear fruit as thousands of children that would have gone unregistered will become registered and issued birth certificates.

Thirdly and finally, on policy recommendations, institutional challenges facing the DNRPC should be addressed. There should be more political will exhibited by the government to ensure that DNRPC at both Headquarters, Provincial and District registration offices function properly and effectively. This requires that adequate and well trained registration officials are available to meet the aspirations of the clients, timely release of approved budget al., location or funding for registration activities, adequate and well maintained infrastructure such as conducive office environment that will support birth registration among others institutional needs.

### **7.3.2. Areas for Future Research**

Although this research provides insights into the challenges faced by the government and parents and guardians in the process of child birth registration; its research site was very narrow. The research was confined to the most urbanised province in Zambia, Lusaka province, where Lusaka and Chongwe district are found. It did not cover the remotest areas of the country. This is the area that future research can focus on.

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- 3. 30 years old to 39 years old
- 4. 40 years old to 49 years old
- 5. 50 years and above

6.0 Level of Income (K)

- 1. 0 – 3,000
- 2. 3,001 – 3,800
- 3. 3,801 – 5,900
- 4. 5,901 – Above

7.0 Levels of education attained

- 1. No formal education
- 2. Primary education
- 3. Secondary education
- 4. Tertiary

8.0 Status of employment

- 1. Formal employment
- 2. Informal employment
- 3. Not employed

9.0 Religion

- 1. Christian
- 2. Non- Christian

**Part 2. Information on child birth registration/ selected child under-five of age**

10.0 What is the gender of selected child under five years of age being considered for the study?

- 1. Male
- 2. Female

10.0 Have you registered this child with the DNRPC? 1. Yes 2.No

11.0 If not why?.....

12.0 Do you have the birth certificate in your possession? 1. Yes 2. No

13.0 If not why?.....



20.0 In your view, what is the most serious challenge/obstacle affecting the child birth registration process in Zambia?

1. Lack of awareness of the importance and process of birth registration
2. Costs in terms of both, time and money of registering children
3. Long distance to the local birth registration office
4. Parents/guardians requested to use their money to photocopy birth registration forms
5. Any other challenge

(Specify).....

21.0 What recommendation(s) would you give if any, to improve the process of child birth registration in Zambia?.....

End time of interview.....

Duration of interview.....

**End of interview**

**Thank you for your time**

## **APPENDIX B: Interview Guide for DNRPC, Lusaka City and Chongwe Town Council Officials**

Dear respondent,

My name is Stephen Monsi Siame and I am a student at the University of Zambia. I am conducting a research on the Challenges for Child Birth Registration in Zambia: A Case Study of Lusaka and Chongwe Districts. This is to enable me to partially fulfil the requirements of the degree of Master of Public Administration (MPA).

You have been selected as a respondent and I will be very thankful if you can spare a few minutes of your time to answer a few questions. The information you are going to give will be confidential and is entirely for the purpose of the dissertation. Please be as open and as honest as possible in answering the questions.

**Instructions:** Tick in the spaces provided or fill in the blank spaces.

### **Part 1. Background Information**

Date of interview: .....

Start time of interview: .....

1.0 Gender:

1. Male

2. Female

2.0 Name of institution

i. Department of National Registration, Passports and Citizenship

ii. Chongwe District Registration Office

iii. Lusaka City Council

iv. Chongwe Town Council

3.0 Category of respondent

i. Senior Officer (Division 1 and above)

Position .....

.....

ii. Junior Officer (Division II and below)

Position.....

- 4.0 What procedure does your institution follow for child birth registration in Zambia?  
 .....
- 5.0 What specific role does your institution play in the process of child birth registration in Zambia? .....
- 6.0 What is the expected target of child birth registration per month /quarter, if any for your institution? .....
- 7.0 How many under five children have been registered during the last month/quarter under consideration? (Name of months) .....
- 8.0 How does the figure given in 7.0 compare to the expected target of child birth registration in the months under consideration?
- i. Above target
  - ii. Below target
- 9.0 If your answer above is below target of birth registration, what could be the possible reasons?.....
- 10.0 Currently, what specific measures have you put in place to sensitise parents/guardians about their obligation to register the birth of their children?.....
- 11.0 If the measures are there, how often do you carry out sensitisation programs on child birth registration? .....
- 12.0 Of the methods you have used to sensitise people on child birth registration, which one has the biggest impact?.....
- 13.0 How much commitment and support does Central Government render, in terms of financial and other resources towards the process of child birth registration in Zambia?.....

14.0 In your view what are the most serious challenges/obstacles to child birth registration process in Zambia? (Give at least five starting with the most serious)

- i.....
- ii.....
- iii.....
- iv.....
- v.....

15.0 What is your general perception of the child birth registration process in Zambia? .....

16.0 What recommendation(s) would you give to improve the process of child birth registration in Zambia? .....

End time of interview.....

Duration of interview.....

**End of interview**

**Thank you for your time**

**APPENDIX C: Specimen of birth certificate**

**What a Birth Certificate looks like**

2006 LRF 1/02 4/3

Reg-Gen. Form No. B (2004)  
Issued by the Registrar General, Lusaka

**REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

**Nº 0017752**

**BIRTH CERTIFICATE**

Certificate No.: \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Surname and other names of child \_\_\_\_\_

Surname and other names of father \_\_\_\_\_

Nationality \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation of father \_\_\_\_\_

Father's NAPSA Social Security Number, if any \_\_\_\_\_ or NRC \_\_\_\_\_

Surname and other names of mother \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's maiden surname \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's NAPSA Social Security Number, if any \_\_\_\_\_ or NRC \_\_\_\_\_

Nationality \_\_\_\_\_

Name of informant \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to child \_\_\_\_\_

Informant's residential address \_\_\_\_\_

Postal address \_\_\_\_\_

Date of registration \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Registrar \_\_\_\_\_

I do hereby certify that the above certificate is a true copy of the particulars recorded in relation to the birth of the said child in the Register of Births kept at Lusaka.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

**SPECIMEN**

**3**

**APPENDIX D: Notice of Birth Form**

Reg.-Gen. Form No. 14 (Rev.)  
Stocked by Govt Printer

REPUBLIC  OF ZAMBIA

## NOTICE OF BIRTH

No..... District.....

**WARNING**—In terms of section 9 of the Births and Deaths Registration Act, Cap. 210, any person who is obliged to make a registration and refuses or neglects to state any particular required on this form or gives any false information for the purpose of registration shall be guilty of an offence and may, on conviction, be imprisoned for one month and/or fined .....

.....Kwacha

**CHILD:**

Date of Birth.....

Place of Birth.....  
(to be printed)

Names and Surname of Child.....

Sex.....

**PARENTS OF CHILD:**

Names and Surname of Father.....

Occupation of Father.....

ZNPF Social Security Number, if any.....

Names and Surname of Mother.....

Maiden Surname of Mother.....

Mother's ZNPF Social Security Number, if any.....

Nationality of Parents: (FATHER).....(MOTHER).....

Date of Parents' Marriage.....

**INFORMANT:**

Signature or Mark.....  
(name to be printed in addition to his/her signature)

Relationship to child.....  
(see Note 1 below)

Residential Address of Informant.....  
.....

Postal Address of Informant.....  
.....

Date of Giving Notice.....

*Signature of Assistant Registrar*.....  
(Where Applicable)  
(Name stamp to be  
impressed under signature)

*Signature of Registrar*.....  
(Name stamp to be  
impressed under signature)

---

**NOTE 1**—The informant should be the father or mother of the child and only if neither is able to give the necessary information is one of the following persons entitled to give notice:

- (a) the occupier of the house or the person in charge of the hospital or institution where the child was born;
- (b) a person present at the birth; or
- (c) the person now having charge of the child.

**NOTE 2**—In terms of section 15 of the Act, a Registrar shall not enter in the Births Register the name of any person as father of an illegitimate child except at the joint request of the mother and the person acknowledging himself in writing in the presence of the Registrar to be the father of the child.

**NOTE 3**—If you are a member of the Zambia National Provident Fund please quote your Social Security Number as this will assist the Fund in the payment of benefits.

**APPENDIX: E**  
**Record of Birth**

M.F. 2.  
Stocked by D.M.S.

**REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**  
**RECORD OF BIRTH**

Place of Birth... Kamuchanga Hospital

Surname of Child... Siame Stephen Sex... Male

Other Names... Bw. 2.620kg

Date of Birth... 22.6.70 Time of Birth... 06:40h

Father's Name... Mr. YARED Siame

Father's Occupation... Medical Assistant

Father's Present Address... Box 55  
Mufulira. U1

Name of Mother... Mrs. Menala Siame

.....

**OFFICIAL STAMP**

REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA MINISTRY OF HEALTH
23 JUN 1970
NEW KAMUCHANGA HOSPITAL P.O. BOX 55, MUFULIRA

M Banda / E.M  
For Officer-in-Charge

Date... 23.6.70

3mbks A312 9/74 T/R



**APPENDIX: G**  
**Affidavit/ Affirmation form**

Form M  
 Stocked by Nat. Reg



**MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL REGISTRATION,**  
**PASSPORT AND CITIZENSHIP**

**PART I**  
**AFFIDAVIT /AFFIRMATION**

*(To be completed by applicant's parent or other relatives where applicant does not possess a (Birth Certificate)*

I, ( Deponent's full name).....  
 of (address).....  
 Aged....., and holder of National Registration Card No.:.....  
 hereby make Oath/ Affirmation and say that I personally know (applicant's full name)  
 Mr/Mrs/Miss/Dr/Prof.....  
 He/She is my (Relationship).....  
 He/She was born on .....at Village/Township.....  
 Chief/Town.....District.....  
 Country.....

**SCHOOLS ATTENDED**

	SCHOOL	DATES	
		From	To
Primary:			
Secondary:			
Post Secondary:			

I further declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, his/her father being named:

.....  
 holder of N.R.C No.....Date of Issue.....  
 Place of Issue ..... \*Born in/at Village/Town:.....  
 Tribe.....Chief.....  
 District.....Country.....  
 His/her mother being named: (full name).....  
 holder of N.R.C No. ....Date of Issue.....  
 Place of Issue..... \*Born in/at Village/Town:.....  
 Tribe .....Chief.....  
 District.....Country.....

*\*Delete whichever is not applicable*

Signed:.....