

**THE ROLE OF THE ARMY IN ADVANCING NATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT: AN IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF THE ZAMBIA ARMY'S
CONTRIBUTIONS TO INFRASTRUCTURE, HEALTHCARE,
EDUCATION, AND CIVILIAN PROJECTS**

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**A Dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the
award of a degree of Masters of Defence and Security Studies at
the University of Zambia**

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This dissertation by **Happy Akashimiketwa Nyambe** has been approved as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Award of the Master of Art in Defence and Security Studies by the University of Zambia.

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ABSTRACT

The study explores the multifaceted role of the Zambia Army in national development, with a focus on its contributions to infrastructure development, healthcare services, education, and other civilian-related projects. Traditionally seen as a security institution, the Zambia Army has expanded its scope to include socio-economic development activities, addressing critical gaps in underserved communities. This study utilized a qualitative research approach underpinned by the interpretivism paradigm. Data was collected through semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders, including Zambia Army personnel, government officials, and project beneficiaries, and analyzed using thematic analysis. The findings reveal that the Zambia Army significantly contributes to infrastructure development, particularly in rural and remote areas, by constructing roads, bridges, and housing units that enhance connectivity and economic integration. In healthcare, the Army plays a critical role in providing medical services through military hospitals, mobile clinics, and emergency epidemic responses, such as during the cholera and COVID-19 outbreaks. Furthermore, the Army's involvement in education includes managing schools and vocational training programs that improve literacy and address skills gaps in Zambia's workforce. These initiatives align with Zambia's Eighth National Development Plan (2022–2026), which emphasizes inclusive and sustainable development. The study states examples such as, the Zambia Army having established military-led vocational training programs and secondary schools in underserved areas, thus, improving education. Further, Military-run technical institutions teach engineering, mechanics, and agriculture to civilians. Additionally, it was revealed that, Defence education strategies prepare military personnel for civilian careers and improve the national workforce. The study further shows through secondary sources that military-run schools enhance academic performance and character development by offering disciplined and structured learning settings. The findings show evidence that in marginalised populations, military schools have increased literacy and access to quality education.

However, challenges such as resource constraints, limited inter-agency coordination, and the absence of comprehensive monitoring frameworks impede the Army's ability to maximize its developmental impact. The study highlights the need for stronger collaboration between the Army and civilian institutions, enhanced policy integration, and increased resource allocation to sustain and scale its contributions. Drawing insights from international best practices, the study concludes that the Zambia Army possesses significant untapped potential to drive sustainable development, particularly in addressing infrastructure deficits, healthcare disparities, and educational challenges. This research contributes to the growing discourse on military involvement in national development, offering practical recommendations for optimizing the Zambia Army's developmental role. Future research could further explore the long-term socio-economic impacts of military-led development initiatives.

Keywords: Zambia Army, National Development, Infrastructure, Healthcare, Education, Thematic Analysis

DEDICATION

I dedicate this study to my wife TRACY MUKAMPANDE NYAMBE, daughter MARTHA TABO NYAMBE and sons RAYMOND THUMELO NYAMBE and LLOYD THUMELO NYAMBE, a word of thanks for your understanding that time ventured is indeed time gained. The time used in this study could have been spent with you, but you had to sacrifice for me to achieve this milestone. Your encouragement and prayers made the difference, am indeed blessed to have you.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AU	Africa Union
Bde	Brigade
Bn	Battalion
DMMU	Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit
FNDP	Fifth National Development Plan
GRZ	Government of the Republic of Zambia
MoD	Ministry of Defence
MoFNP	Ministry of Finance and National Planning
UN	United Nations
ZA	Zambia Army
ZAF	Zambia Airforce
ZDF	Zambia Defence Force
ZNS	Zambia National Service

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction and Background to the Study

The Defence Force safeguards human resources, physical assets, infrastructure, and industrial equipment from domestic and international threats, boosting national progress. During civic unrest and violence, military protection protects these assets' economic value. Beyond security, Defence Forces worldwide have implemented infrastructure, healthcare, education, and civilian programs to enhance their nations. These measures promote security and economic progress, sustaining national stability and resilience (Filipe et al., 2021).

To meet changing social needs, global military organisations have moved beyond security. Defence Forces have promoted stability, economic growth, and social development in industrialised and emerging nations. Military engineers from China, India, and the US have built roads, bridges, and houses for poor areas (Okitasari & Katramiz, 2022). African military have also offered disaster relief and crucial services to rural and undeveloped areas, showing their capacity to help developing states with limited resources and institutional capacities (Emina, 2020). These examples highlight how militaries contribute to addressing social and economic needs beyond their traditional mandates.

The Zambia Army, as the ground branch of the Defence Force of Zambia, is integral to national security and development. Its components, including the Regular Force, Home Guard, and Territorial Reserve, are tasked with protecting Zambia from internal and external threats (Ministry of Defence GRZ, 2022). Established in 1963 to defend the interests of white settlers following the dissolution of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, the Zambia Army transitioned post-independence in 1964 to safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of an independent Zambia. Over the decades, the Zambia Army has evolved from focusing solely on national security to becoming a key player in the country's developmental agenda.

The Zambia Army aids civil authorities in law enforcement, disaster management, and UN/AU peacekeeping. Building infrastructure, healthcare, and education helps Zambia progress. Flood relief, rural infrastructure, and community healthcare are funded. These efforts stress the Army's national security and socioeconomic development roles (Chileshe, 2020).

Study examines Zambia Army contributions to infrastructure, healthcare, education, and civilian activities. With its disciplined personnel, technical expertise, and access to resources that serve society, the Army can drive national development. Its ability to move persons and assets during disasters and development helps it address infrastructure, healthcare, and educational gaps in disadvantaged communities. Financial constraints, logistical constraints, and the need to balance military and civilian interests limit scale and efficacy.

This study compares the Zambia Army's actions to global and regional developments to demonstrate how military engagement influences socioeconomic development. The study also investigates how the Army's actions may affect African and global military development discourse, exposing its pros and cons.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Despite increased involvement in essential development endeavours, the Zambia Army's role in national development is underexplored. The Army has helped build infrastructure, healthcare, and education, but its impact and consistency with Zambia's development goals are unclear. The Zambian government's new emphasis on security wings' role in development raises concerns about this lack of documentation. Zambia Army Engineer Brigades, Project Branch, and Construction Units built infrastructure. These Formations and Units of the Zambia Army built roads, bridges, schools, clinics, and banquet halls. These projects' integration within Zambia's long-term socio-economic development frameworks is unclear. Insufficient evidence inhibits understanding the Army's development potential and national progress (Ministry of Defence GRZ, 2022).

Although its operational effectiveness and optimal usage remain untapped, the Zambia Army has participated in civilian development programs. The Army's Education Branch administers personnel and administration at military cantonment schools such as Arakan Boys and Arakan Girls High schools respectively in conjunction with the Ministry of Education. The Army Medical Branch runs health facilities that offer health services to military and civilian patients in Camps and Garrisons, examples include the Maina Soko Medical Centre and the Northern Command Hospital both being led by Zambia Army General Grade Senior Officers with staff from all the three Defence Services that is Zambia Army, Zambia Air Force and Zambia National Service. Further, the Army runs Camp and Garrison clinics in all its cantonments such as Arakan Garrison

Hospital, formally Arakan Camp Clinic (Zambia Ministry of Health, 2012), in Arakan Barracks, Lusaka.

Despite these efforts, the Army's contributions to national progress are minor. Many questions remain about how the Army can use its resources, experience, and organisation to achieve Zambia's development goals without a policy framework (Chileshe, 2020). This policy vacuum must be filled to strategically link the Army's contributions to Zambia's development goals. China, India, and the US have meticulously documented military development missions. Military engineers in these nations have built infrastructure, provided disaster relief, and provided vital services in impoverished areas (Filipe et al., 2021). These efforts supported economic growth, stability, and social advancement. The necessity to balance military and civilian duties, logistical constraints, and resource constraints make these efforts difficult. Although the Zambian Army runs similar projects, little is known about its development capabilities and limits. The Army struggles to optimise national growth and resource deployment due to data limitations (Emina, 2020).

To fill these deficiencies, this study investigates the Zambia Army's national development contributions, role optimisation possibilities, and developmental mission issues. It will examine the Army's infrastructure, healthcare, education, and other civilian program development contributions. In this study, the Zambia Army's actions are examined in global and regional contexts to determine its role in national development. This study proposes ways to strengthen the Army's effectiveness and role as a key stakeholder in Zambia's development. To maximise Zambia Army expansion, the findings will inform academic debate and policy development.

1.3 Research Objectives

The objective of this study is to analyse the role of the Zambia Army in national development of Zambia.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives.

- To analyse the specific contributions made by the Zambia Army to the national development of Zambia, focusing on key sectors such as infrastructure, healthcare, and education.

- To examine the opportunities and potential that the Zambia Army holds for further advancing national development in Zambia, with emphasis on its untapped resources and capabilities.
- To identify and evaluate the challenges faced by the Zambia Army in its efforts to contribute to national development, including policy gaps and operational constraints.

1.4 Research Questions.

To achieve the Research Objective, answers will be sought for the following questions.

- What are the specific contributions made by the Zambia Army to the national development of Zambia, particularly in the sectors of infrastructure, healthcare, and education?
- What opportunities and potential exist within the Zambia Army for further advancing national development in Zambia, and how can these be effectively utilized?
- What challenges does the Zambia Army face in its efforts to contribute to national development, and how can these challenges be addressed to optimize its impact?

1.5 Theoretical Framework

A theoretical framework is a collection of inter related ideas based on theories with a set of pre suppositions which are derived from and supported by data or evidence. It explains a phenomenon through a clear explanation as to why things happen the way they do in various social interactions in the social sciences world (Kombo and Tromp, 2006). This study was grounded the theoretical framework namely Human Security Theory.

1.5.1 Human Security Theory

Human Security Theory explains the Zambia Army's development efforts. Human security addresses economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community, and political security, focussing on individual empowerment rather than state sovereignty and military defence (UNDP, 1994). This paradigm is relevant in Zambia, where socio-economic weaknesses often threaten stability more than military issues. The Zambia Army's healthcare, education, and infrastructure development show a shift from reactive defence methods to proactive socio-economic initiatives, supporting human security (Fukuda-Parr & Messineo, 2012). The Zambia Army promotes national stability and resilience beyond defence by integrating human security concerns into its operations.

Human security emphasises proactive solutions to poverty, disease, and ignorance as threats to well-being and societal resilience. Access to vital healthcare in Zambia is difficult, especially in rural areas with poor medical infrastructure. Mobile clinics and outbreak response initiatives of the Zambia Army have improved health security. These activities ensure rural populations receive medical care, immunisations, and disease prevention education to sustain public health and reduce mortality (Ministry of Defence GRZ, 2022; Filipe et al., 2021). Economic security, which requires stable income and market access, is critical to human security after healthcare. The Zambia Army improves trade, communication, and mobility by building roads and bridges in underserved areas, boosting economic security. Improved infrastructure boosts local companies, opens agricultural markets, and strengthens supply networks, decreasing poverty and promoting sustainable development.

Infrastructure and education empower people and communities to become self-sufficient, ensuring long-term human security. The Zambia Army has helped build schools and vocational training centres to teach citizen skills for economic engagement. Education boosts human capital, employment, and innovation, boosting country productivity and stability. Military-led schools also provide technical and professional training to military and civilian workers. Construction of roads, bridges, and other infrastructure links villages to education, healthcare, and commercial centres, making needed services more accessible. The Zambia Army promotes resilience, reduces socio-economic inequities, and improves national development by upgrading education and infrastructure (Ministry of Finance and National Planning, 2022; Chileshe, 2020).

The Zambia Army's embrace of human security concepts shows its potential to promote sustainable growth and national stability. The Army strengthens its role as a development partner by providing healthcare, education, and infrastructure. These efforts support Zambia's National Development Plan and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which promote inclusive growth, poverty eradication, and improved social protection (Fukuda-Parr & Messineo, 2012; UNDP, 1994). To maximise the impact of these contributions and ensure resource efficiency and sustainability, military, civilian, and foreign development partners must coordinate better.

Finally, Human Security Theory illuminates the Zambia Army's role in national development. Healthcare, education, and infrastructure are major socio-economic issues that the Army addresses to promote human security and sustainable development. Beyond defence, the Army's strategic

development initiatives build a more robust and self-sufficient society, boosting national stability and economic prosperity. Future plans should emphasise integrating military-led development with national strategies to ensure that military resources complement civilian efforts. The Zambia Army can improve human security and promote Zambia's development goals with a well-structured and coordinated approach.

1.5.2 Application to the Zambia Army's Role

Human security supports Zambia Army growth assessment. The framework promotes health and education to increase individual and community well-being by broadening the Army's role beyond defence. The Army's healthcare outreach and epidemic response programs provide vital medical services in underdeveloped areas, promoting health security. These efforts complement Zambia's National Health Strategic Plan for healthcare equity (Ministry of Defence GRZ, 2022). Infrastructure development, another Zambia Army objective, improves commerce and economic security. Military engineering units have connected rural markets and services with roads and bridges, alleviating poverty and boosting economic integration. These projects are essential to human security-based sustainable development (Filipe et al., 2021).

Military-run schools and vocational training programs empower people and communities, creating security. This approach addresses education, human capital, and unemployment vulnerabilities. The Zambia Army integrates human well-being and comprehensive national security into growth (Okitasari & Katramiz, 2022). It can be argued that Zambia Army development is human security-based. This strategy shows how healthcare, education, and infrastructure lower socioeconomic hazards. The paradigm promotes policy integration and collaboration to increase Army influence. Critics believe military involvement in civilian initiatives weakens local capacity and promotes dependence (Chileshe, 2020). Through Army technical cooperation, the Human Security Framework fosters community participation and sustainability. Solving these difficulties may help the Zambia Army attain national and global goals. Army-civilian cooperation may boost project longevity and scale. With beneficiaries, the Army can strengthen Zambia's economy.

1.6 Significance of the Study.

This study affects Zambian ministries, agencies, and policymakers. The Zambia Army's role in national development is examined in this paper to help the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of

Infrastructure, and Ministry of Health absorb its contributions. The Ministry of Education also learns about the Army's school infrastructure and administrative support.

Policies can be improved to enhance the Zambia Army's contributions to national development while resolving gaps and faults with this report. The principles may help create Army infrastructure, healthcare, and disaster management policies (Agara, 2006; Aras & Crowther, 2009).

The study expands research on military engagement in African country development. It leverages contemporary literature to highlight the Zambia Army's distinctive contributions and undiscovered opportunities and challenges (Alumona & Onwuanabile, 2019; Aniche, 2019). Future research on military-civil relations and development dynamics in post-colonial African states can use these findings.

This research helps the public understand the Zambia Army's developmental roles, improving its image as a vital participant in national progress rather than just a defence institution. To integrate theory and practice and maximise the Zambia Army's sustainable development potential, the study highlights practical applications (Doménech & Davies, 2009; Ebeku, 2018).

1.7 Delimitation of the Study

Zambia Army Headquarters and other Lusaka Army Units were the investigation's major contacts. Lusaka, the Zambia Army's headquarters, was chosen for its strategic location and access to key troops and data. Zambia Army troops, especially those at the Army Headquarters, were vital informants because to their operational and developmental expertise. The study focused on Lusaka to analyse the Army's contributions to national progress while maintaining logistical feasibility and data quality.

Zambia Army infrastructure, healthcare, and education initiatives were studied. These undertakings were assessed for their socioeconomic impact on Zambia. The study examined prospective Army programs to fill development shortfalls. Medical and educational responsibilities of the Army were priority for community and national benefit. The study examined these sectors to understand the Army's development contributions (Agara, 2006; Aniche, 2019; Aras & Crowther, 2009).

The study compared the Zambia Army's developmental roles to sustainable development, national priorities, and ongoing and planned operations. This alignment is necessary for the Army's long and effective contributions. The research taught Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Education, and other government policymakers how to best employ the Army's resources and skills. These findings should drive strategy to increase the Army's role in national development, especially in areas requiring disciplined operations and technical skill (Doménech & Davies, 2009; Ebeku, 2018).

The report also noted the Zambia Army's ability to fill development gaps in neglected areas through rigorous project execution and resource management. The analysis also emphasised Army resource and policy constraints in these missions. To boost Zambia's Army's growth contribution, the research addressed these issues. This study should prepare future research and contribute to military institution and national development debates.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

Recently, the Zambia Army's non-defence development efforts have been recognised. This chapter reviews worldwide and regional Army accomplishment literature to meet the study's goals. Army involvement in infrastructure, healthcare, education, and other civilian areas is examined. The review combines research, policy, and case studies to understand the Army's contributions and issues. It will identify literature gaps to guide research.

2.1.1 Global Level

Military organisations globally have expanded beyond defence to meet development needs. These include infrastructure, healthcare, disaster relief, and education. The Zambia Army is increasingly involved in such development schemes, but its scope and alignment with governmental goals are uncertain. The Zambian government prioritises employing all resources, including the military, to achieve its development goals, therefore this lack of extensive research is concerning (Ministry of Defence GRZ, 2022).

Global economic progress has been supported by military forces. Rural roads, bridges, and irrigation systems developed by Chinese military engineers have improved connectivity and agricultural productivity (Okitasari & Katramiz, 2022). India's military has also helped impoverished areas with disaster management and rural development. US National Guard has rebuilt infrastructure and communities following natural disasters, demonstrating the military's security and development role (Brooks, 2024). These contributions show military organisations' potential to cover development gaps, especially in situations where civilian institutions lack resources or logistics.

Healthcare is also strategically affected by global military. Military medics manage public health problems in resource-constrained conditions. The US military sent medical personnel and resources to West Africa to fight the Ebola pandemic, demonstrating the value of military logistics and civilian healthcare experience (Lamberg, 2021). Chinese military hospitals have filled remote and isolated civilian healthcare gaps. These programs focus incorporating military capabilities into national healthcare strategies to improve resilience and responsiveness.

Military establishments worldwide value education and training. The Indian military has developed technical training institutes and schools in rural and conflict-affected areas to build human capital and social stability (Filipe et al., 2021). Military resources have also improved education for underprivileged and disaster-stricken regions in the US. This promotes human security and sustainable development through education and vocational training. Emina (2020) states that military-led education initiatives need long-term support and cooperation with civilian education institutions to succeed.

Despite these global examples, military development contributions are hard to optimise. Due to logistical, financial, and military-civilian balancing issues, many programs fail to grow. In conflict-affected communities, the Colombian military has implemented infrastructure and social development projects, but policy frameworks and resources have limited them (Telch et al., 2020). Strategic planning, interagency coordination, and thorough monitoring and assessment optimise military institutions' developmental influence.

The Zambian Army provides infrastructure, healthcare, and education, but its development capabilities and constraints remain unknown. Understanding these issues would maximise the Army's contribution to Zambia's socio-economic progress and resource usage. This study examines global best practices to help the Zambia Army align its development goals with national and international frameworks.

2.1.2 Regional Level

African military participation in national development is similar to trends seen around the world, but Africa's unique social, economic, and political situation presents both chances and challenges. The Nigerian military has built roads and public buildings in underdeveloped areas, helping to boost the economy by connecting distant regions (Emina, 2020). Military engineering has also played a major role in Mozambique's rural energy projects, demonstrating how military expertise and resources can benefit national development (Filipe et al., 2021). Egypt's military has led the development of infrastructure by building roads, bridges, and housing projects to support the growing population and reduce crowding in cities (El-Sisi & Gomaa, 2020). In addition to these efforts, the Rwandan Defence Force has played a key role in carrying out big urban development projects. This includes building homes for low-income families and public office buildings. These efforts help the country grow, but they often struggle because of lack of funding, problems with

logistics, and poor teamwork between the military and civilians, which weakens their lasting effects. To solve these problems, we need to carefully include armed plans in our national development strategies. This means focussing on both security and economic growth equally.

African armies have been important in helping with health emergencies and shortages, supporting civilian health services during crises. The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) sent medical staff, provided important medical supplies, and created field hospitals in areas affected by Covid-19. The Egyptian military medical staff has helped run countrywide tests and treatments for Hepatitis C, which has greatly lowered the number of people with the disease (Ali & Mansour, 2021). In Nigeria, military-led health programs offer free medical services in remote places where civilian healthcare is limited (Okonkwo & Abubakar, 2021). Ghana's Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) work with foreign partners to offer mobile clinics, vaccination programs, and maternal health services, especially in communities that need help (Osei & Boakye, 2022). Military healthcare efforts can improve public health, but if they don't match national health laws, it can cause problems in providing services. Zulu and Simenti-Phiri (2022) highlight that combining military and civilian healthcare systems can improve efficiency, use resources better, and be more sustainable. This way, military medical resources support rather than repeat existing services.

African militaries have helped improve schooling and skill development to build human resources, in addition to focussing on health. Kenya's Defence Forces training schools help young people gain important job skills, which lowers unemployment and encourages new business ideas (Mwangi & Kamau, 2021). In Ethiopia, the military has created vocational centres to train soldiers and civilians in construction, mechanics, and agricultural skills, creating a workforce capable of adding to post-conflict reconstruction (Abebe, 2021). The Egyptian military has created and run advanced technical schools to connect official education with what industries need. In Tunisia, the military provides training programs in science and technology to help young people gain skills needed for the economy and industry (Ben Hammouda & Cherif, 2020). Even with these contributions, there are still problems like lack of funds, poor infrastructure, and uneven curriculum. Chileshe (2020) suggests that working together with business partners and NGOs can improve military-led education programs, making them easier to access and more sustainable over time.

The military also helps with disaster response, protecting the environment, and ensuring food security, showing that it contributes to national growth beyond just security tasks. In Ethiopia, the military has been important in helping during disasters. They provide emergency aid and help build needed facilities in places suffering from drought (Abebe, 2021). The Moroccan military has helped improve irrigation and farming facilities to boost food security and support rural communities (El-Malki & Benkiran, 2020). Senegal's military is helping with planting and land recovery projects to fight desertification and keep land suitable for farming (Ndoye & Diop, 2021). Military troops are now participating in environmental protection and sustainable farming, showing how their role in helping the country is changing. For these efforts to make a real difference, they need enough money, better management systems, and stronger cooperation between civilian and armed groups.

In summary, African military forces are doing more than just protecting their countries. They are also helping with building infrastructure, providing healthcare, improving education, and supporting social and economic projects. These efforts have greatly helped national development, but issues like lack of funds, logistical problems, and poor policy integration are still holding them back from reaching their full potential. To improve development efforts, governments should create organised partnerships between the military and civilian agencies. This will help ensure a consistent and effective approach to national growth. Improving governance, building partnerships between the military and civilians, and working together with neighbouring countries can help African militaries play a bigger role in national development, leading to greater security and economic growth across Africa.

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND DESIGN

3.1 Introduction

The purpose and methods of the study that looked at the Zambia Army's role in national growth are explained in this chapter. The study focused on healthcare, education, infrastructure, and civilian projects. As a qualitative research method, descriptive research design and qualitative content analysis were utilised to carefully read relevant secondary sources. To get a thorough picture of the Zambia Army's participation, the study analysed news items, government publications, and army strategy papers. Information was gathered through document analysis. The most important things that were used to choose the documents were their relevance, trustworthiness, and timeliness. Through thematic analysis, the results were grouped into major themes. Ethical, valid, and reliable issues were also looked at to make sure the study was done correctly and up to scholarly standards.

3.2 Research Paradigm

Research paradigms guide data collection, processing, and interpretation. Interpretivist theories on human behaviour, institutional roles, and policy processes benefit qualitative research (Bell, Bryman & Harley, 2022). Contrary to positivism, interpretivism studies subjective meanings, social conceptions, and institutional contexts (Naeem, Ozuem, Howell & Ranfagni, 2024). The interpretivist paradigm was suited for assessing the Zambia Army's contributions to national development without empirical involvement since it used only secondary sources such government reports, policy documents, and academic literature (Pham, 2024). This method examined military-led development's consequences on infrastructure, healthcare, and education (Hameed, 2024).

Interpretivists think reality is socially constructed, hence institutional narratives and policy frameworks are needed to understand the Zambia Army's development role (Reyes, Bogumil & Welch, 2021). In qualitative content analysis, this paradigm helps scholars identify patterns, themes, and contextual insights in literature (Modugno, 2024). This non-numerical method examined how policies framed the Zambia Army's national development participation, documented earlier contributions, and identified policy gaps and operational restrictions (Mannheimer, 2024). The interpretivist method understood military-led development and gave a

nuanced and multifaceted assessment of the Zambia Army's socio-economic achievements (Hossain, Alam & Ali, 2024).

3.2.1 Interpretivist Paradigm

Interpretivism was used to look at the Zambia Army's part in the country's growth in a way that made sense for the time and place, with an emphasis on results that were qualitative rather than measurable (Bell et al., 2022). This way of thinking can help you understand hard institutional jobs, like how the military helps people grow (Dang, Van Nguyen & Tran, 2024) since it focusses on making sense of things, being subjective, and seeing them in the context of what they mean. Instead of polls or interviews, the study read and thought about government reports, policy papers, and academic research on military-led development projects (Naeem et al., 2024) in a more in-depth way. According to Pham (2024), this model gave us a structured but open way to look at the work of the Zambia Army in different areas, like aiding the poor, building roads, and running schools.

By adopting an interpretivist method, the study was able to assess how different policy frameworks and institutional reports framed the Zambia Army's role in development, shedding light on both achievements and constraints (Modugno, 2024). The goal of positive models is to find objective truths. On the other hand, the interpretivist method lets you look at the growth of Zambia's government and policies that were led by the military in a more complex and subtle way. What a great way to look at how the Zambia Army was a big part of growth since of government policies. It showed the stories of institutions, the effects of politics and society, and the boundaries of policy (Reyes et al., 2021). From different points of view, the study looked at military-led national growth in this way. Hossain et al. (2024) showed both the pros and cons of using military power for social and economic growth.

3.2.2 Justification for the Interpretivist Approach

Context-driven and meaning-oriented qualitative content analysis of secondary sources supported interpretivism (Bell et al., 2022). Instead of surveys or experiments, this study used academic literature, government papers, and policy documents, hence an interpretivist approach was best (Hameed, 2024). Zambia Army institutional roles, policy frameworks, and development initiatives can be examined utilising the paradigm's subjective interpretation (Pham, 2024). Interpretivism

enlivened Zambian military-led growth by revealing patterns, paradoxes, and insights from many sources (Naeem et al., 2024).

Interpretivism allowed the study to critically evaluate military contributions across sectors and engage with national development discourses (Modugno, 2024). An interpretivist method captured Zambia Army-led national development program dynamics as socio-political and policy conditions changed (Mannheimer, 2024). Policy constraints and institutional issues were explored to provide a balanced assessment of the Zambia Army's contributions to infrastructure, healthcare, education, and other civilian programmes (Reyes et al., 2021). Therefore, interpretivism's qualitative approach preserved the study methodologically sound, theoretically robust, and contextualised within Zambia's development framework (Hossain et al., 2024).

3.3 Research Approach

A study approach is the first step in any scholarly inquiry. It guides the choice of methods, including how to collect data and how to analyse it. A close look at secondary data sources with the qualitative research method was the best way to find out how the Zambia Army helped the country grow (Bell, Bryman & Harley, 2022). The plan for the research was based on qualitative content analysis since there was no actual study as such. This let them get a good look at government reports, military growth plans, academic papers, and documents from institutions (Dang, Van Nguyen & Tran, 2024). According to Hossain, Alam, and Ali (2024), the study used qualitative research to look at policy frameworks, institutional constraints, and the success of army-led projects in healthcare, education, and infrastructure. This helped them understand how difficult military-led development is. With quantitative study, you can only look at numbers, so you can't do that. To get more information about the social, political, and economic effects of the Zambia Army's part in national development (Modugno, 2024.4), qualitative research was used. Themes could be interpreted for what they meant.

Patterns and themes in policy papers and institutional reports were also found with the qualitative study method. This gave a full picture of the military's role in Zambia's progress (Fife & Gossner, 2024). Pham (2024) says that this method made it easier to understand textual data. This made sure that the study looked at military policies, institutional structures, and strategic efforts in a planned way. Naeem, Ozuem, Howell, and Ranfagni (2024) say that the study's qualitative lens let it look at things from a more academic point of view. Theories about security studies, governance, and

state growth led by the military were all part of this. Moreover, this method was crucial for evaluating both historical and current contributions of the Zambia Army, allowing for an evaluation of how military-led development developed within Zambia's socio-economic landscape (Hameed, 2024). A qualitative study didn't follow the strict rules of statistical analysis, so it was open, based on context, and able to include new ideas from different sources (Reyes, Bogumil & Welch, 2021).

3.3.1 Qualitative Research Approach

The Zambia Army's contributions to national growth in infrastructure, healthcare, education, and civilian programs were looked at in this qualitative study (Bell et al., 2022). Dang et al. (2024) used a qualitative study method that looked at how administrative, political, and economic factors affected the army's work to build the country. Using qualitative content analysis (Hossain et al., 2024), the study looked at government policies, military strategic plans, and academic discussions to figure out how the Zambia Army was developing. By closely looking at military-led projects (Pham, 2024), this method found military participation in national development.

Quality study was used to look into the social and political effects of military involvement in development (Modugno, 202'). Using qualitative content analysis (Proctor, 2024), the study looked at how the military and civilians work together, how the public sees military-led development projects, and how institutions get in the way of these projects. Naeem et al. (2024) used qualitative methods to combine secondary data from policy analysts, defence planners, and academics to get a range of different points of view. In-depth qualitative study (Hameed, 2024) looked into policy limits, resource limitations, and the strategic potential of the Zambia Army for national development goals. A thorough and in-depth academic study of national development efforts led by the military was carried out (Reyes et al., 2021).

3.3.2 Rationale for Qualitative Research

Qualitative research was utilised to highlight the Zambia Army's unquantifiable contributions to national development, including as their work with policymakers and institutions (Bell et al., 2022). The literature, policy frameworks, and institutional reports were best examined using qualitative content analysis (Dang et al., 2024), which employed external sources instead of its own data. Qualitative research was good at interpreting textual material, finding recurring themes, and understanding how the military shaped the country, according to Hossain et al. (2024). The

technique allows for flexible examination of complicated institutional systems, allowing the study to deal with policy discourse and institutional frameworks rather than rigid statistical methodologies (Pham, 2024).

The study examined secondary data sources using qualitative methodologies for a complete picture. This ensured it examined all Zambia Army growth implications (Modugno, 2024). The qualitative method was crucial for understanding institutional issues, particularly in military-run building projects, healthcare programs, and educational interventions (Hameed, 2024). To determine if military-led development programs could continue (Naeem et al., 2024), the study examined policy gaps, restricted resources, and political influence. Combining data from multiple sources provided a broad and thorough picture. This made the study complete, relevant, and academically sound (Reyes et al., 2021).

3.4 Research Design

The research plan tells us how to collect and analyse data so that we can reach the goals of the study. This type of descriptive study was perfect for looking at secondary sources to find out what the Zambia Army did to help national growth (Bell, Bryman & Harley, 2022). The descriptive research design organised and looked at government records, policy papers, and academic literature to understand the Zambia Army's roles in building infrastructure, providing healthcare, and overseeing education. There was no fieldwork, interviewing, or surveying in descriptive research, so it focused on qualitative text analysis (Modugno, 2024). This method offers a detailed, non-experimental investigation of secondary sources to discover military-led country development themes (Pham, 2024).

Descriptive study approaches allowed organised data analysis without participant interaction, making them ideal for examining policy frameworks, institutional arrangements, and military contributions to national development (Naeem, Ozuem, Howell & Ranfagni, 2024). The study contextualised the Zambia Army's socio-economic development activities within governance, security, and policy frameworks using theme classification (Hossain, Alam & Ali, 2024). The descriptive method compared military development programs' strengths, weaknesses, and improvement areas (Dang, Van Nguyen & Tran, 2024). Methodical, logical, and academically rigorous data interpretation was achieved using descriptive research techniques (Reyes, Bogumil & Welch, 2021).

3.4.1 Descriptive Research Design

Since the descriptive research method allowed for a systematic study of secondary sources, it was possible to get a better understanding of how the Zambia Army helped the country grow (Bell et al., 2022). For this study, descriptive research was best since it worked on organising and making sense of qualitative data from previous research papers (Pham, 2024) instead of experimental or exploratory designs that need to gather new data. The method allowed the study to evaluate policy documents, military development reports, and academic literature, ensuring a structured evaluation of military-led infrastructure, healthcare, and education projects (Proctor, 2024). The study used a descriptive approach to highlight the Zambia Army's role in nation-building and identify important obstacles and opportunities for military involvement in development (Modugno, 2024).

Hameed (2024) says the descriptive research design ensured that the study's methodologies were consistent and that the data analysis fit its goals and qualitative research framework. Since no real-world data was collected, this descriptive study helped organise secondary data (Naeem et al., 2024). This approach organised institutional policies and development strategies, making it useful for assessing the Zambia Army's strategic contributions (Hossain et al., 2024). Secondary sources were extensively studied. This allowed them identify patterns, fill in gaps, and generate military-led growth project ideas (Reyes et al., 2021).

3.4.2 Justification for Descriptive Research Design

To figure out what the Zambia Army did to help national development, qualitative content analysis of secondary sources supported the descriptive study design (Bell et al., 2022). Dang et al. (2024) found that this method worked well for analysing military development projects in a planned way without using real-world data. According to Modugno (2024), descriptive research on policy papers, academic talks, and government reports made sure that the results were relevant to the situation and based on sound theory. This study organised secondary sources into useful themes using the structured method of descriptive research (Pham, 2024) to make sure that the data analysis made sense.

The descriptive research methodology went well with the qualitative focus of the study. This made sure that the results were interpreted in a way that showed how complicated military-led development projects are (Hossain et al., 2024). Descriptive analysis brought together different points of view and looked at how the military helps the country grow (Naeem et al., 2024). The

report identified significant impediments, policy gaps, and strategic possibilities and made military-led national development recommendations using descriptive research (Hameed, 2024). The descriptive study method ensured methodological rigour and useful academic contributions for military development initiative appraisal (Reyes et al., 2021).

3.5 Data Sources

It is very important to pick the right data sources for a qualitative study so that the results are correct, reliable, and full. This study didn't use any first-hand data, interviews, or polls; it only used data from other sources (Bell, Bryman & Harley, 2022). It was easy to see how the Zambia Army helped the country grow, especially in areas like infrastructure, healthcare, education, and other citizen projects, according to Hossain, Alam, and Ali (2024). This was since secondary data was very useful. To look at institutional stories, policy frameworks, and proof of military involvement in socio-economic projects (Dang, Van Nguyen, & Tran, 2024), the study used government reports, military strategic plans, and academic literature. Naeem, Ozuem, Howell, and Ranfagni (2024) say that secondary sources helped with the study's thorough and methodologically sound analysis by showing patterns, themes, and historical settings that came up again and again. It was possible to do this since of qualitative text analysis.

Findings were easier to understand when put into the bigger picture of government and policy frameworks (Hameed, 2024) based on secondary data sources that showed both past and present views on development projects led by the military. Based on government reports on military-led development projects, it was clear how defence institutions worked with civilian agencies to carry out national development goals. Policy papers and strategic plans also laid out the Zambia Army's developmental tasks in a structured way, showing how military resources were used to help civilians get better education, health care, and infrastructure (Modugno, 202<). It was very important to read academic material since it gave the study scholarly insights, theoretical support, and different points of view to compare. The study also made sure that the findings were useful for arguments and real-life conversations about the military's part in national growth (Reyes, Bogumil & Welch, 2021). Many secondary sources were used to make sure the analysis was complete and fair. This kept the study sound from an analytical point of view and useful in real life (Tomás & Bidet, 2023).

3.5.1 Secondary Data Sources

To assess the Zambia Army's development contributions, this study examined government records, policy documents, academic literature, military reports, and verified media sources (Bell et al., 2022). Official government reports on military-led national development plans covered infrastructure, healthcare, and education (Hossain et al., 2024). Official military engagement was studied from institutional and policy perspectives (Pham, 2024). Policy documents detailing the Zambia Army's legal and strategic frameworks for civilian efforts allowed for a full evaluation of defense-led development programs' benefits, cons, and prospects (Proctor, 2024).

Academic literature, empirical discussions, and institutional records contextualised military-led growth (Dang et al., 2024). A review of governance models, military-civilian cooperation, and comparative case studies helped assess military involvement in national development outside Zambia (Naeem et al., 2024). Strategic plans and operational reports indicated how the Zambia Army supported economic growth, disaster management, and public service delivery (Hameed, 2024). Verified media coverage was used to examine public discourse, social opinions, and military-led civilian program outcomes on defense-led development (Modugno, 2024). The study examined military contributions to national development from institutional and societal viewpoints using many secondary sources (Reyes et al., 2021).

3.5.2 Justification for Using Secondary Data

We chose to only use secondary data since it would give us a well-documented, historically-grounded, and important look at how the Zambia Army helped the country grow (Bell et al., 2022). Secondary sources, such as institutional records, policy frameworks, and scholarly analyses (Hameed, 2024), were the best and most methodologically sound choice since no real-world data collection took place. Secondary data was very helpful for researching the background of military-led national development efforts since it showed how military groups have worked on civilian projects in the past and how their roles have changed over time (Pham, 2024). As Naeem et al. (2024) say, the results should be able to fit into bigger academic discussions on governance, security, and public administration. This method also let researchers compare how the defence sector helped the country grow.

For secondary data to help with theme and comparative analysis, it was very important (Modugno, 2024). It was possible to look at long-term trends, policy changes, and problems with institutions

since of this. For the study on defense-led development efforts, government papers, military records, and policy documents were looked at (Hossain et al., 2024) to make sure the research results were based on facts and were in line with national policy goals. The study's theoretical foundation was also improved by using academic literature. This made sure that the analysis was shaped by academic debates, policy critiques, and empirical results from previous studies on the relationships between the military and civilians (Proctor, 202?). Researchers could not be biased when they used secondary data, which was another good thing about it. This is since the results came from work that had already been done and was checked by the school and other researchers. They did not come from how the researchers viewed primary data (Reyes et al., 2021).

When you used secondary data (Tomás & Bidet, 2023), you didn't have to worry about ethics or real problems like not having enough time or resources or not being able to get into armed institutions. Secondary sources (Bell et al., 2022) were used so that the study could look at defense-led development efforts without having to deal with issues of ethics or safety. This is since military research often needs to have limited access to private information. Dang et al. (2024) say that analysing a wider range of data was possible since of secondary data. The study could use information from many old and new sources instead of just getting first-hand information in one place or at a certain time. It was best to use secondary info since it was correct, complete, and easy to find. This part of the study (Naeem et al., 2024) looked at how the Zambia Army helped the country grow to make sure it was perfect and based on facts.

3.6 Data Collection Method

Research requires relevant, credible data for analysis. Without actual fieldwork, surveys, or interviews, this study used secondary data and qualitative content analysis (Bell, Bryman & Harley, 2022). It was utilised to analyse literature, government papers, military strategy documents, and academic discussions on the Zambia Army's national development contributions (Hameed, 2024). The study identified military-led development project themes and trends using pre-existing materials for a full and contextualised analysis (Pham, 2024). The Zambia Army's infrastructural, healthcare, education, institutional, and policy frameworks were assessed using secondary data (Hossain, Alam & Ali, 2024).

Document analysis was utilised to acquire primary data on military engagement in development projects since it provided historical and contemporary insights that primary research could not

(Naeem, Ozuem, Howell & Ranfagni, 2024). Secondary data is best since military institutions may have had limited access to personnel and sensitive operational data (Dang, Van Nguyen & Tran, 2024). The study fairly examined political, military, intellectual, and media perspectives using document analysis (Modugno, 2024). The strategy eliminated logistical, ethical, and data gathering biases, assuring academic rigour and methodological consistency (Reyes, Bogumil & Welch, 2021).

3.6.1 Document Analysis

A lot of the data for this study came from looking at different kinds of papers. To find out how the Zambia Army helped the country grow, they read carefully through official government documents, defence policy frameworks, academic research, and news stories they were sure were true (Bell et al., 2022). It is normal for people to read and make sense of already written materials in order to learn more about a subject (Pham, 2024) through document analysis. Author Hameed (2024) says that document analysis helped sort development projects run by the military into groups based on themes. Now they could look into how armed groups affect everyday projects like making schools, hospitals, and roads better. The study's goal was to find significant patterns, policies, and military acts. This way of gathering information made sure it was organised, straightforward, and in line with the goals.

As Hossain et al. (2024) say, the study looked at records to find patterns, contradictions, and holes in military-led efforts to grow the country. It looked closely at the Zambia Army's work that wasn't related to its main job of security. In 2024, Naeem et al. said that this way let the study look at official government reports about military building projects, medical programs, and projects where people work together to learn. This made sure that the study's sources were solid and reliable. Reading academic literature gave researchers theoretical and empirical points of view (Proctor, 2024) that helped them do a more in-depth study of military-led development strategies in different conditions. Reports from verified news outlets that wrote down what people said and thought about the military's role in civilian projects added another level of analysis. This made sure that the subject was looked at in all of its complexity (Reyes et al., 2021).

3.6.2 Selection Criteria for Secondary Sources

Secondary data sources for analysis were carefully selected for relevance, authenticity, and reliability. The study prioritised papers on the Zambia Army's national development contributions (Bell et al., 2022). Only research on military contributions to national development goals, healthcare, education, and infrastructure were considered (Pham, 2024). Government publications, defence white papers, and military development reports provided the most policy frameworks and institutional viewpoints (Naeem et al., 2024). The study covered scholarly and empirical discussions on military-civilian cooperation in development utilising peer-reviewed journal publications (Hossain et al., 2024).

Just respectable organisations, government agencies, military think tanks, and scholarly publishers were evaluated for credibility over relevance (Dang et al., 2024). Reports on Zambian government ministries, international development organisations, and military command structures' defense-led development strategies and strategic interventions were verified (Hameed, 2024). Using credible academic publications, the study critically investigated theoretical and empirical discussions on military-led development initiatives (Modugno, 2024). Media pieces from credible newspapers that highlighted current conversations and public sentiment about the Zambia Army's dedication to national development provided a larger societal viewpoint on defense-sector contributions (Reyes et al., 2021).

Timing was important since the study recommended adopting recent studies to reflect current advances and policy frameworks (Bell et al., 2022). Papers from the recent five years were preferred to illustrate military-led growth and government (Pham, 2024). Historical materials and policy frameworks were explored where applicable to understand military-civilian collaboration in country development (Hossain et al., 2024). The study ensured its conclusions were well-founded, methodologically sound, and academically rigorous by carefully selecting for relevance, credibility, and timeliness (Naeem et al., 2024).

3.7 Data Analysis Method

Analysing data makes sure that qualitative study leads to useful results. The results from this study were mostly interpreted using qualitative content analysis. This made it possible to look at secondary sources in a structured way, like policy documents, government papers, military strategic plans, and academic books (Bell, Bryman & Harley, 2022). Since no real data was collected, the study used qualitative content analysis to look for themes and patterns in things that

already existed. This guaranteed that the results were authentic from institutionally recognised sources (Pham, 2024). The approach worked well for judging the Zambia Army's contributions to national development in many areas since it allowed for a close examination of textual data while staying true to the study's main themes (Hossain, Alam & Ali, 2025).

To evaluate military-led development projects more seriously, qualitative content analysis helped researchers understand institutional narratives and policy dynamics (Naeem, Ozuem, Howell, & Ranfagni, 2024). Researchers Naeem, Ozuem, Howell, Ranf, Van Nguyen, and Tran (2024) liked this method since it let them understand complicated written data without having to talk to participants. This got rid of some moral, practical, and safety issues that came up with the original data gathering. To make sure the method was correct, qualitative content analysis used a clear structure to organise, code, and put together textual data. A full analysis of infrastructure, health care, and education aid programs run by the military was possible (Hameed, 2024).

3.7.1 Qualitative Content Analysis

QCA was used as the main way of analysis since it sorts, understands, and combines secondary source text well (Bell et al., 2022). The study used this way to find themes and patterns that kept coming up in how the Zambia Army helped the country grow. In this way, the study's research goals were met (Pham, 2024). Government papers, military reports, and scholarly literature were analysed in a structured and iterative way (Naeem et al., 2024) to get useful information. This made sure that the conclusions were based on strong proof. Using this way, the study also looked into how the Zambia Army helped build up health care, education, and infrastructure in the past (Hossain et al., 2024).

According to Hameed (2024), qualitative content analysis sorted data into topics that made sense and could be compared and judged critically. It looked at how relationships between the military and civilians can help a country grow and what the defence industry (Modugno, 2024) has to do with this. Coding textual data for qualitative content analysis (Proctor, 2024) showed institutional policies, planned military interventions, and well-documented development projects. This gave researchers a wide range of information about the topic. The study was more reliable and trustworthy since it used well-documented and officially approved sources. This cut down on bias and false information (Reyes, Bogumil & Welch, 2021).

3.7.2 Thematic Analysis Approach

Thematic analysis, a qualitative content analysis, identified, grouped, and explained secondary data topics (Bell et al., 2022). This strategy categorised military-led development initiatives, allowing the study to investigate infrastructure, healthcare, and education contributions and evaluate defense-sector involvement in civilian programs (Pham, 2024). Theme analysis structured and interpreted data according to research goals (Hossain et al., 2024), making analysis more in-depth and results more consistent.

The study identified four topics using thematic analysis. Each subject addressed a vital military role in national expansion. Infrastructure development—the Zambia Army's role in creating roads, bridges, and public buildings—was Naeem et al.'s (2024) first theme. This showed how significant military engineering initiatives are. The second theme, "Healthcare Contributions," covered military-led medical services, emergency response, and civilian health institutions. It showed how the Zambia Army strengthens national health systems (Hameed, 2024)? Dang et al. (2024) examined army-run schools, vocational training, and capacity-building projects under the third category, educational support. It illustrated how the military helped people gain strong educations and learn new skills. Fourth theme, "Challenges and Opportunities," examined Zambia Army development challenges include institutional issues, policy shortages, and inadequate resources. It also considered methods to improve military services (Modugno, 2024).

3.7.3 Coding Process and Categorization

A strict coding method helped arrange and combine important themes for a well-organised and methodologically sound data analysis process (Bell et al., 2022). The data was put into groups with the help of open coding, axial coding, and selected coding (Pham, 2024). By using open coding to find important ideas and themes in text, Hossain et al. (2024) created a broad framework for future study about these topics. Naeem et al. (2024) say that in the second step, axial coding, the study was able to connect military growth programs to national policies. As part of putting the results in the larger socio-economic context of Zambia, the army's infrastructure projects were looked at in relation to national development plans and how the government funds projects. According to Modugno (2024), the third step, selective coding, improved and put together themes into clear groups so that the study could draw useful conclusions from the data. According to Proctor (2024), the study had good methodology since organised coding made secondary data analysis clear and

reasonable. Using codes to organise and find data made it easier for the study to find trends, figure out how well policies worked, and look for smart ways for the Zambia Army to grow (Reyes et al., 2021). A strict coding system was used to put all the data into groups. This gave a full and well-organised picture of how the military has helped the growth of the country (Tomás & Bidet, 2023).

3.8 Reliability and Validity

Qualitative research involves strict methods to ensure results and reliability. The study used secondary sources for qualitative content analysis and selected, cross-checked, and combined data three times to ensure reliability and validity (Bell, Bryman & Harley, 2022). Quantitative research measures statistical reliability, while qualitative research focusses trustworthiness, credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability (Fife & Gossner, 2024). To assess the Zambia Army's contributions to national development, the study carefully selected government documents, policy papers, military strategic plans, expert-reviewed academic literature, and news reports. This method minimised prejudice and improved interpretations, ensuring sound conclusions (Hameed, 2024).

Naeem, Ozuem, Howell, and Ranfagni (2024) used methodological triangulation to verify data from many sources. Government documents outlined policy frameworks, while scholarly papers theoretically and practically examined military-driven development schemes. Real-time and historical media reports were incorporated to better understand the Zambia Army's involvement in national growth (Hossain, Alam & Ali, 2024). The three-way technique found and fixed conflicting data, decreasing the danger of misinterpretation or overreliance on one source (Modugno, 2024).

3.8.1 Credibility (Internal Validity)

How reliable qualitative research is is based on how well the data show what really happened (Bell et al., 2022). Pham (2024) says that this study's reliability was maintained by picking its sources with care, checking its data against other sources, and staying true to its main ideas. To prove validity and make sure facts were correct, official military reports, peer-reviewed literature, and government policy papers were used (Dang et al., 2024) since no real-world data was collected. Each data source was analysed for dependability, authorship, and relevance to ensure that only reliable sources informed the study (Hameed, 2024).

Through a systematic content analysis approach (Fife & Gossner, 2024), the internal validity was raised by comparing the results of various reports, policy documents, and academic articles. There

were careful checks for conflicts between the sources, and papers from the government and academics were given more weight since they were more reliable (Proctor, 2023). This careful use of methods made sure that the theme results accurately and reliably showed how the Zambia Army helped grow the country (Naeem et al., 2024).

3.8.2 Transferability (External Validity)

Transferability is how well outcomes apply to similar contexts (Bell et al., 2022). This study focusses on the Zambia Army's contributions to national development, therefore the findings may apply to other countries whose military organisations support infrastructure, healthcare, and education (Pham, 2024). To make its analysis easier to utilise, the study embedded it in military-led development project discussions and compared it to regional and worldwide case studies (Hossain et al., 2024). Different perspectives gave us information that could help Zambia and other developing nations where the military aids growth (Dang et al., 2024).

Focussing on infrastructure, healthcare, and education ensured that the study's findings could be applied. These areas are crucial to national progress. The results provide a framework for geopolitical analysis by emphasising on military-driven development topics (Modugno, 2024). Secondary data from government, academic, and media accounts ensured that the conclusions were not Zambia-specific and had wider effects (Naeem et al., 2024).

3.8.3 Dependability

Qualitative research reliability means that the results stay the same over time and between researchers who look at the same data (Bell et al., 2022). According to Fife and Gossner (2024), this study organised data collection, tagging, and analysis so that the method was clear and could be used again. Standardising data with thematic coding reduced bias and made it easier to understand (Pham, 2024). According to Hossain et al. (2024), qualitative content analysis helped organise and make sense of written material, which made the results more reliable and easy to repeat.

Naeem et al. (2024) say that the study used a research approach to choose data sources based on criteria for credibility. This reduced source selection and interpretation bias. To ensure transparency and allow future researchers reproduce analytical judgements and conclusions, the coding technique was specified (Proctor, 2024). Regular data source cross-referencing ensured

approach consistency and prevented any one report or study from affecting results (Modugno, 2024). This organised analytical procedure kept things constant and allowed for several checks, making the research more credible (Tomás & Bidet, 2023).

3.8.4 Confirmability

Confirmability in qualitative research makes sure that results are based on facts, not opinions (Bell et al., 2022). There were no primary data sources used in this study, so the conclusions were based on real-world facts (Pham, 2024) after checking the data sources and making analytical decisions. The study findings were externally verified by citing all data sources (Hossain et al., 2024). Different points of view from different sources were used to make sure that personal opinions and interpretations wouldn't change the results (Dang et al., 2022-42).

A planned way of coding and sorting the data made sure that themes came up easily from the data, not from what the researchers thought they would find (Hameed, 2024). Multiple points of view on the military's role in national development were studied and explored through critical contact with opposing ideas (Naeem et al., 2024). Modugno (2024) says that this approach reduced confirmation bias and made sure that results came from reliable, well-documented, and checkable sources. Tomás and Bidet (2023) found that the results of the study were fair, well-documented, and not affected by human bias since the research was very scientifically sound.

3.9 Ethical Considerations

Ethics in qualitative secondary data analysis stress intellectual honesty, openness, and academic morality (Bell, Bryman, & Harley, 2022). Ethical concerns for this study were limited to citation, plagiarism, and following academic and institutional research standards (Dang, Van Nguyen & Tran, 2024) since it did not involve people or original data collection. To keep intellectual property safe, strict referencing rules were used with government papers, military policy documents, academic literature, and confirmed news stories (Hameed, 2022). To make sure that interpretations stayed true to the original sources and kept the integrity and image of the field (Fife & Gossner, 2024) content was carefully looked at without any changes.

To keep students from cheating, qualitative content analysis needed detailed data source paperwork and strict rules for citing sources (Naeem, Ozuem, Howell & Ranfagni, 2024). To avoid data falsification, each document was closely scrutinised in its original context to ensure accurate

interpretations rather than subjective assumptions (Pham, 2024). All sources were cited using the Harvard style, which is the standard for ethical publication and study in higher education (Modugno, 2024) to encourage intellectual honesty.

3.9.1 Ethical Use of Secondary Data

There are tight rules that must be followed when using outside data in qualitative research to make sure that intellectual property is properly credited and shown (Bell et al., 2022). This study used a strong citation system to show who wrote what and to stop bad behaviours like cheating, changing results without permission, or plagiarising (Dang et al., 2024) for more information. It was made sure that all sources used were properly cited so that the original authors got credit for what they brought to the academic conversation (Hossain, Alam & Ali, 2024). When information was copied or paraphrased, it was carefully checked against the original source to make sure that no changes were made to the context (Fife & Gossner, 2024) while still being open and responsible.

Not lying about the numbers was a very important ethical goal in this study. Unlike primary research, secondary data analysis is limited by what has been published recently. This is why it is important to carefully evaluate the trustworthiness and dependability of sources before using them (Hameed, 20224). It was said by Naeem et al. (2024) that information from government papers and peer-reviewed journal pieces was carefully examined in the context of where it came from. This made sure that the facts about the Zambia Army's contributions to national growth were not skewed or exaggerated. All of the opinions also came straight from the sources that were looked at. They made sure the data was shown fairly and that there was no bias in theme studies (Proctor, 2024).

3.9.2 Compliance with Research Ethics Guidelines

Academic institutions, publishing agencies, and professional research groups set international ethical research standards (Bell et al., 2022). For ethical compliance, the research technique followed institutional secondary data use rules on data integrity, transparency, and accountability (Dang et al., 2024). Research integrity was preserved by avoiding data tampering, expressing multiple perspectives honestly, and reporting findings impartially due to earlier publications (Hossain et al., 2024).

The analysis of government and military reports, policy documents, and strategic defence publications also underlined data privacy and IP rights (Fife & Gossner, 2024). Publicly available

data typically contains classified or restricted information, therefore ethical data selection is important (Pham, 2024). Military secrets were protected by declassified, publicly accessible, and academically approved papers to avoid ethical infractions (Modugno, 2024). Fair use and open-access norms were followed for all data use in academia (Naeem et al., 2024).

3.9.3 Ethical Safeguards Against Bias and Misuse of Data

According to Bell et al. (2022), a secondary data study's credibility depends on bias-free interpretation and analysis. Data sources were selected based on reliability criteria (Dang et al., 2024) to ensure that no single work influenced the study's outcomes. Different sources were examined together to ensure that all perspectives on the Zambia Army's involvement in expansion were considered. Biased or partial reporting was less prevalent (Hossain et al., 2024). The experts were moral since they documented their data analysis. Other researchers can verify the data or repeat the study (Fife & Gossner, 2024). The ethical review also examined other perspectives. This ensured that military-led development project pros and cons were considered (Hameed, 2016). Since the study used honest procedures and followed professional ethics, its outcomes were more reliable and accurate (Proctor, 2024).

3.10 Limitations of the study

This study offers important insights into how the Zambia Army contributes to national growth, but it has some limitations that might impact the depth and applicability of the results. The main limitations come from how much data is available, the methods used, and the focus of the analysis, all of which influence the study's findings. A major limitation of this study is that it depends on statistics collected by others. The study mainly uses government reports, policy papers, academic studies, and news articles. These sources give good background information but may not include direct data from real-life observations (Bell et al., 2022; Hossain et al., 2024). Using desk study makes it hard to check claims by doing interviews or field observations, which makes it tough to see how the Zambia Army is actually contributing to development. Qualitative secondary sources provide detailed theoretical understanding, but they can also have biases, old information, and selective reporting. This can impact how complete and objective the results are (Mannheimer, 2024; Modugno, 2024).

Another important limitation is that the study relies only on qualitative methods. This approach is good for understanding historical and policy viewpoints, but it doesn't use any numerical data to assess how effective military-led development initiatives are. Using a mixed-methods approach that combines statistical analysis, case studies, and surveys could have made the study more valid by providing measurable information on infrastructure growth, healthcare access, and skill training results. There isn't any specific numerical data, so the study talks about general trends and themes but does not give exact numbers for economic gains, job rates, or changes in healthcare from military programs. Also, getting access to secret military information made it hard to fully understand how much the Zambia Army contributed. Many military projects, especially those about building infrastructure and responding to disasters, are not well recorded in public sources (Hameed, 2024; Reyes et al., 2021). This limits the study's ability to critically evaluate the decision-making processes, resource allocations, and long-term sustainability of these initiatives. Greater collaboration with military officials and policymakers would enhance future research by providing firsthand perspectives and access to internal evaluations of military-led development projects.

Furthermore, geographical and contextual specificity limits the generalizability of the findings. This study focuses solely on the Zambia Army, meaning that its conclusions may not be directly transferable to other African or global military contexts (Fife & Gossner, 2024). While comparative insights from Nigeria, Egypt, and Mozambique help situate Zambia's case within broader regional trends, the unique political, economic, and institutional factors influencing military engagement in development differ across countries (Filipe et al., 2021). Future research could benefit from cross-country comparisons to better understand the effectiveness of military-led development across different governance and security structures.

Another challenge relates to the evolving nature of military participation in national development, making it difficult to capture recent or ongoing projects with complete accuracy. Many of the Zambia Army's development initiatives are long-term projects, and their full impact may not yet be visible (Dang et al., 2024). As a result, the study primarily assesses completed and ongoing initiatives without fully predicting their future implications or long-term sustainability. Incorporating longitudinal studies or periodic evaluations would provide a more dynamic perspective on how military-led projects contribute to national development over time. Finally,

potential biases in existing literature and government reports must be acknowledged. Official reports often present a favorable view of military contributions, which may overlook challenges, inefficiencies, or unintended consequences of Army-led development projects (Reyes et al., 2021; Tomás & Bidet, 2023). The lack of critical independent assessments on Zambia’s military-driven development efforts presents a gap in the literature, requiring future studies to incorporate perspectives from civil society organizations, local communities, and independent researchers to gain a balanced and comprehensive understanding of the Army’s role.

3.11 Addressing Study Limitations

To strengthen future research on military-led development initiatives in Zambia, several methodological improvements should be considered:

1. Incorporating primary data collection – Conducting interviews, surveys, or focus groups with military officials, policymakers, and beneficiaries of Army-led projects would provide firsthand insights and reduce reliance on secondary sources (Fife & Gossner, 2024; Hameed, 2024).
2. Applying mixed-methods research – Integrating quantitative indicators (e.g., employment statistics, healthcare access rates, infrastructure impact metrics) with qualitative analysis would enhance the validity of findings (Mannheimer, 2024; Pham, 2024).
3. Expanding case study comparisons – Examining other countries’ military development models, particularly in Southern and West Africa, could offer useful policy lessons for Zambia (Filipe et al., 2021; Okitasari & Katramiz, 2022).
4. Enhancing access to military reports – Strengthening collaboration with Zambia’s Ministry of Defence and civilian development agencies could improve data access and transparency, allowing for more comprehensive policy assessments (Zulu & Simenti-Phiri, 2022).
5. Conducting longitudinal studies – Evaluating the long-term impact of Army-led initiatives over several years would provide a more accurate picture of their sustainability and effectiveness (Dang et al., 2024; Reyes et al., 2021).

3.12 Conclusion

This chapter examined the Zambia Army's national development contributions using a qualitative technique and descriptive research design. To ensure credibility and relevance, the study examined only secondary data from official publications, policy documents, academic literature, military strategic plans, and credible media stories. Qualitative content analysis and thematic analysis categorised material to achieve study goals. The chapter covered reliability, validity, ethics to assure research integrity and study limitation. The strategy provides a systematic and complete evaluation of the Zambia Army's infrastructure, healthcare, education, and civilian programs, preparing for analysis and discussion.

CHAPTER FOUR: PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

The military's role in the growth of the country has expanded beyond its usual duty to protect the country. As of now, it also helps with healthcare, schooling, building infrastructure, and the economy. Zambia's Army has been very helpful in rural places that don't get much attention from the government since they are a big part of closing the gaps in development (Ministry of Defence GRZ, 2022). Partnering with the army to build roads, run medical outreach programs, help with disasters, and teach new skills has shown that this can help meet national development goals (Chileshe, 2020). Even with all of these attempts, the army still has problems, like not having enough money, having to deal with the red tape syndrom, and having to balance projects for defence and projects for development. It is tough for the army to fully support Zambia's national development plan since of these issues (Zulu & Simenti-Phiri, 2022). Since of these issues, we need to carefully consider how the army can best utilise its resources while keeping the balance between military and citizen duties (Ministry of Finance and National Planning, 2022).

A lot of knowledge about development projects run by the military that have worked well in other countries could help the Zambia Army play a bigger role in the development of the country. In Nepal, for example, the army has been very helpful in building roads and other infrastructure in remote places. As Thapar 202333 says, this shows how important it is for the country's growth to use armed logistics. Additionally, the Pakistani military has been a key part of the country's economic efforts, such as agricultural projects and industrial partnerships. This shows that structured military-civilian collaboration can help the economy grow (Khatoon, 2024). Nigerian study, on the other hand, shows that relying too much on development projects run by the military can cause problems with government and make civilian institutions less useful. This shows how important it is to have clear rules about when the military can be involved in non-security areas (Dada et al., 2022).

This chapter goes into more detail about the findings and what they mean for the role of the Zambia Army in the growth of the country. The main goals of the study were to look at what the army has done for infrastructure, healthcare, education, and citizen projects; find ways for the military to be more involved in development efforts; and figure out what issues make it less useful. This study shows how the Zambia Army can best help the country grow while still doing its main job of

keeping people safe by putting the results in a world context. At the end of the chapter, there is a summary of the main points and suggestions for how to better include military-led projects in Zambia's overall growth plan. The results add to the ongoing debates about the military's role in national development. They also give policymakers and practitioners in Zambia's defence and development sectors evidence-based suggestions for how to improve things.

4.2 Summary of Themes and Subthemes

Research Questions	Major Themes	Sub-Themes
<p>What are the specific contributions made by the Zambia Army to the national development of Zambia, particularly in the sectors of infrastructure, healthcare, and education?</p>	<p>Contributions of the Zambia Army to National Development</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Military-Led Infrastructure Development and Its Economic Impact 2. Healthcare Interventions and Medical Support in Civilian Communities 3. Zambia Army's Role in Education and Skills Development Programs 4. Defense Sector Engagement in Agricultural and Food Security Initiatives 5. Disaster Response and Humanitarian Assistance by the Zambia Army
<p>What opportunities and potential exist within the Zambia Army for further advancing national development in Zambia, and how can these be effectively utilized?</p>	<p>Opportunities for the Zambia Army in Advancing National Development</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expanding Military-Civilian Partnerships for Development 2. Leveraging the Army's Technical Expertise for Infrastructure Growth 3. Optimizing Military Resources for Healthcare and

		Emergency Response 4. Enhancing Military-Led Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training 5. Integrating the Army into National Sustainability and Green Energy Projects
What challenges does the Zambia Army face in its efforts to contribute to national development, and how can these challenges be addressed to optimize its impact?	Challenges Facing the Zambia Army in National Development Efforts	1. Budgetary and Resource Allocation Constraints in Development Programs 2. Policy Limitations and Bureaucratic Challenges in Military-Civilian Projects 3. Capacity and Skill Gaps in Military-Led Development Initiatives 4. Public Perception and Civil-Military Relations in Development Efforts 5. Balancing Core Defense Responsibilities with Development Commitments

4.3 Major Theme 1: Contributions of the Zambia Army to National Development

4.3.1 Sub-Theme 1: Military-Led Infrastructure Development and Its Economic Impact

In rural and hard-to-reach areas where private sector involvement is low, the Zambia Army has helped create national infrastructure. Secondary data from government reports show that the military has directly constructed roads, bridges, and public facilities, which have boosted local economies by improving access to markets and essential services (Ministry of Defence GRZ, 2022). Defence policy documents show that military-led infrastructure projects leverage in-house expertise to reduce building costs compared to private contractors (Zulu & Simenti-Phiri, 2022).

Strategic road construction has opened trade routes for local enterprises and agricultural producers, boosting economic growth (Ministry of Finance and National Planning, 2022). Military engineers have also helped build public schools, hospitals, and social services for underserved populations (Chileshe, 2020). These projects have reinforced civil-military relations by reinventing the army as a force for socio-economic prosperity, beyond defence. Infrastructure projects integrated into national development objectives imply a more proactive military role in socio-economic transformation.

This study's findings match global patterns where military forces build national infrastructure. El-Sisi & Gomaa (2020) found that the Egyptian military's infrastructure projects revitalised the economy and enhanced service delivery. In national development planning, the Nepali Army's road and bridge construction has been praised for its efficiency and cost-effectiveness (Bhat, 2023). Contrary studies suggest that military-led infrastructure projects can accelerate national development but also cause state-private contractor tensions, as seen in Nigeria, where construction firms have contested the military's involvement in civilian projects (Emina, 2020). The Zambia Army appears to reduce tensions by deliberately supporting civilian contractors. This collaborative model could inspire military-led development projects across Africa by showing how the military can work with the business sector.

4.3.2 Sub-Theme 2: Healthcare Interventions and Medical Support in Civilian Communities

The Zambia Army has been very important in providing healthcare, especially in areas that didn't have enough medical facilities or staff. According to government sources and secondary data, the army has set up field hospitals and mobile clinics to provide medical care in remote areas. These are meant to help communities that don't have access to enough medical care (Zambia Ministry of Health, 2022). Military hospitals have also been very helpful in training doctors and other medical staff, which has made national health systems stronger by filling the gap in skilled healthcare workers (Ali & Mansour, 2021). The Zambia Army was also involved in controlling epidemics, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, when they helped with logistics, distributing vaccines, and raising awareness in the community (Chileshe, 2020). The military has also taken charge of maternal health programs, with mobile military hospitals visiting rural areas to provide prenatal and postnatal care to women who are pregnant (Ministry of Defence GRZ, 2022). The Army's help

with public health responses has not only made the country's healthcare system stronger, but it has also shown that the military and medical professionals can work together to handle new health emergencies.

When looked at in the context of more general research, these results support global case studies about the role of the military in healthcare. In Egypt, for example, the military was very important in getting rid of Hepatitis C since it could organise things so that medicines could be given quickly to a lot of people (Ali & Mansour, 2021). The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) was also very important to the country's reaction to COVID-19. It helped with mass testing, building medical infrastructure, and providing emergency medical care (Bhengu & Molefe, 2021). But different points of view say that even though military healthcare interventions are helpful, they might not always be able to last since of a lack of money and the fact that they are only there for a short time during health emergencies (Duke, 2020). Nigeria's military-led health programs have had trouble getting enough money, which has limited their long-term effects and ability to work with national health systems (Emina, 2020). The Zambia Army's work in healthcare is admirable, but long-term funding and clear policies are needed to make sure things keep going after the crisis is over.

4.3.3 Sub-Theme 3: Zambia Army's Role in Education and Skills Development Programs

The Zambia Army has established military-led vocational training programs and secondary schools in underserved areas, improving education. Military-run technical institutions teach engineering, mechanics, and agriculture to civilians, according to government reports (Ministry of Defence GRZ, 2022). Defence education strategies prepare military personnel for civilian careers and improve the national workforce (Gibbens & Schoeman, 2020). Secondary sources also show that military-run schools enhance academic performance and character development by offering disciplined and structured learning settings (Hassan & El-Hady, 2021). In marginalised populations, military schools have increased literacy and access to quality education (Ministry of Finance and National Planning, 2022).

In this report, the Zambia Army's education efforts follow international trends in military human capital development. Military schools in Nepal boost literacy and employment rates by offering academic and practical training (Bhat, 2023). The Kenyan Defence Forces have also run technical training programmes for military and civilian people, improving national workforce competencies

(Mwangi & Kamau, 2021). However, other researchers argue that military schooling's structured style may not match standard pedagogical practices, raising worries for civilian integration (Lamberg, 2021). In Zambia, integrating military technical training into national education programs could help military-led educational ventures survive and gain support by complementing traditional educational institutions.

4.3.4 Sub-Theme 4: Defence Sector Engagement in Agricultural and Food Security

Initiatives

The Zambia Army has helped ensure food security by farming on a big scale. Staple crops and animals are sent to the national food reserve from farms that are run by the army. According to government data, these farming programs have made the country less dependent on food imports by increasing food production at home. This has made sure that food is available during times of economic instability (Ministry of Finance and National Planning, 2022). Military farms have two jobs: to help the military be self-sufficient and to increase the country's farming output (Wijekoon & Marikar, 2024) by producing more food. Along with growing food, the army has helped rural areas get agriculture training, teaching small-scale farmers how to use modern farming methods to make their farms more productive (Chileshe, 2020).

These results are in line with cases from around the world where the military has helped agriculture grow. According to Wijekoon and Marikar (2024), military-led farming programs have been very important in ensuring food security in Sri Lanka. These programs use military resources for large-scale farming. Similarly, Nepal's Development Army has included military troops in farming, which has increased food security and given retired soldiers jobs (Gayawali, 2021). However, concerns have been raised about the long-term viability of military-run farms. Some researchers say that these programs may accidentally compete with private farms (Filipe et al., 2021). The Zambia Army's method, which stresses working together with civilian farmers, could ease these kinds of tensions by making sure that military contributions to agriculture don't replace traditional farming sectors.

4.3.5 Sub-Theme 5: Disaster Response and Humanitarian Assistance by the Zambia Army

Relief efforts of the Zambia Army have reduced the impact of natural and man-made disasters. Secondary data shows that military units have responded to national emergencies like floods, droughts, and disease outbreaks by providing evacuation, temporary shelter, and relief supplies

(Ministry of Defence GRZ, 2022). The army's rapid mobilisation, logistical skills, and disciplined coordination have allowed swift interventions in disaster-prone regions, decreasing casualties and economic disruptions (Zulu & Simenti-Phiri, 2022). Zambia's disaster management framework shows that the army works with civilian institutions, particularly the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU), to improve resilience and preparedness for future disasters (Chileshe, 2020). Policy documents also show that military-led reconstruction of roads, bridges, and public facilities has helped disaster-affected areas recover and develop (Ministry of Finance and National Planning, 2022). Despite these contributions, Zambia's over-reliance on the army for disaster response has often revealed institutional flaws in civilian emergency response systems, raising issues about its sustainability and efficiency.

These findings match global trends in military disaster management, where defence forces lead emergency response. Military-led interventions have helped civilian agencies respond to large-scale disasters like hurricanes and wildfires when they lacked the logistical capacity (Brooks, 2024). Studies on Nigeria's military disaster response show that armed forces have provided humanitarian aid, particularly in conflict-affected regions experiencing climate change-induced disasters (Ngoma, Mumba & Simenti-Phiri, 2021). Some researchers believe that over-reliance on military personnel for disaster response could hinder civilian emergency management organisations, causing inefficiencies and governance issues (Lamberg, 2021). While military involvement has been effective in Zambia for immediate disaster relief, the findings suggest that a more balanced approach that strengthens civilian-led disaster preparedness mechanisms while maintaining military support as a complementary force could improve national disaster resilience. Clearer civil-military collaboration norms would also help disaster response operations last.

4.4 Major Theme 2: Opportunities for the Zambia Army in Advancing National Development

4.4.1 Sub-Theme 1: Expanding Military-Civilian Partnerships for Development

Secondary data analysis shows that the Zambian Army has a lot of chances to work together with civilian organisations to speed up national development. According to government reports, the military has helped with building public infrastructure and focussing on security, but their involvement is still restricted since of policy limits and problems with the bureaucracy (Ministry of Defence GRZ, 2022). Findings show that most of the current partnerships between the military

and civilians are reactive, starting in response to crises like natural disasters or public health problems, rather than proactive, long-term development partnerships (Zulu & Simenti-Phiri, 2022). Policy documents stress that structured frameworks for military-civilian cooperation could help the army do its job better in areas like healthcare, education, and protecting the environment without crossing the lines of civilian government (Ministry of Finance and National Planning, 2022). Formal partnerships with private sector companies and international development organisations could also open up new funding sources and technical expertise, allowing the military to contribute in more ways than just traditional defence and security operations (Chileshe, 2020).

The results of this study support global studies that show how successful partnerships between the military and civilians are in development situations. For instance, the Nepali Army has successfully collaborated with governmental and non-governmental institutions to perform infrastructure and disaster relief projects, significantly improving service delivery in rural regions (Thapa, 2023). According to Khatoon (2023), the Pakistani military has worked together with civilian organisations on many large-scale national development projects. This has made it easier to allocate resources and carry out projects. However, different studies show that too much military involvement in civilian matters can make it hard to run the government. For example, in Nigeria, the combination of defence and development programs has sometimes led to power struggles between the military and civilian leaders (Dada et al., 2022). The study's results show that military-civilian partnerships in Zambia could help the country make progress. However, careful policy design is needed to find the right balance between military involvement and civilian oversight, making sure that democratic governance principles are kept.

4.4.2 Sub-Theme 2: Leveraging the Army's Technical Expertise for Infrastructure Growth

According to secondary data research, the Zambia Army has a lot of technological expertise that might be used to build national infrastructure. Military engineering forces have built roads, bridges, and public amenities in remote places when civilian contractors lack logistical and financial resources (Ministry of Defence GRZ, 2022). According to reports, military-led construction projects are more efficient and cost-effective than civilian-led ones since the army can quickly mobilise troops and resources (Zulu & Simenti-Phiri, 2022). Policy documents also suggest using the army's engineering, logistics, and project management training to support the

government's long-term infrastructure development goals, particularly in energy, water supply, and transport (Ministry of Finance and National Planning, 2022). Zambian military engineers could also benefit from strategic relationships with foreign defence forces to acquire sophisticated construction technology (Chileshe, 2020).

The report confirms global studies showing military engineering units' infrastructure development effectiveness. The army has helped Sri Lanka complete large-scale irrigation and transportation network projects, improving agricultural productivity and regional connectivity (Wijekoon & Marikar, 2024). The Kathmandu-Terai Motorway Project by the Nepali Army shows the efficacy of military-led infrastructure development, especially in challenging terrain and security-sensitive locations (Pahadee, 2022). However, conflicting opinions show that military involvement in infrastructure needs regulatory frameworks to avoid disputes with private sector companies, as seen in Nigeria (Emina, 2020). The Zambian army may use its technical knowledge without disrupting the construction industry with organised regulatory reforms that define military participation in civilian infrastructure projects.

4.4.3 Sub-Theme 3: Optimizing Military Resources for Healthcare and Emergency Response

Secondary data analysis shows that the Zambia Army has a lot of medical and logistical tools that, if used to their full potential, could make national healthcare systems and emergency response much better. According to government reports, military field hospitals and mobile medical units have been very helpful in disaster relief efforts. They have provided important medical care during health crises like disease outbreaks and humanitarian events (Zambia Ministry of Health, 2022). Military healthcare facilities mostly serve military members and not the public, according to policy documents. This is despite the fact that these facilities have advanced medical equipment and trained staff (Ministry of Defence GRZ, 2022). The results also show that better cooperation between military medical units and civilian healthcare institutions could help Zambia's public health sector handle its capacity problems, especially in rural areas where medical facilities are hard to reach (Chileshe, 2020). Also, studies show that adding military organisational knowledge to national emergency response plans could make disaster relief more effective by speeding up the delivery of aid and medical staff to communities that need it (Ali & Mansour, 2021).

Global case studies that show the benefits of having the military help with healthcare and emergency reaction back up these conclusions. In Egypt, for example, the military was very involved in national health efforts, especially in getting rid of Hepatitis C. They did this by using their large logistical capabilities to get medical help to people quickly (Ali & Mansour, 2021). During the COVID-19 pandemic, the South African National Defence Force was very helpful in setting up emergency facilities, medical support, and large-scale tests (Bhengu & Molefe, 2021). However, different points of view say that while military contributions to healthcare can be useful, they shouldn't take the place of investments in healthcare systems run by civilians. This is since relying too much on military medical facilities could hurt long-term public health development goals (Duke, 2020). In Zambia, combining military healthcare resources with national health policies could make sure that defense-sector hospitals help meet public health goals without taking away from civilian hospitals.

4.4.4 Sub-Theme 4: Enhancing Military-Led Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training

Secondary evidence suggests the Zambia Army might improve national human capital development through military-led vocational training and entrepreneurship programs. Current military technical training institutions prepare troops for post-service employment, but policy documents advocate extending them to include civilians to meet Zambia's workforce skills shortages (Ministry of Defence GRZ, 2022). Military training institutions include significant technical capabilities in engineering, agriculture, and information technology, which might be used to teach unemployed youth marketable skills (Zulu & Simenti-Phiri, 2022). Structured military entrepreneurship initiatives can also help soldiers and civilians become economically self-sufficient by teaching business management, financial literacy, and microfinance (Chileshe, 2020).

The study confirms global studies on military-led vocational training's benefits. The army in Nepal has effectively implemented technical training programmes that give employment opportunities for military and civilian personnel, boosting workforce development and economic empowerment (Bhat, 2023). Kenya's Defence Forces also teach business and technology to transitioning soldiers and encourage civilian entrepreneurship (Mwangi & Kamau, 2021). Some researchers warn that military-led vocational programs should not duplicate or compete with civilian educational institutions, which could distort national skills development objectives (Lamberg, 2021). Military-

run vocational programs in Zambia could supplement civilian-led training by integrating with national education frameworks.

4.4.5 Sub-theme 5: Integrating the Army into National Sustainability and Green Energy

Projects

By looking at secondary data sources, we can see that the Zambian Army has a big chance to help with green energy and sustainability projects in the country. According to government reports, the military has historically worked to protect the environment, but it still doesn't have much of a part in projects that use renewable energy or are environmentally friendly (Ministry of Defence GRZ, 2022). According to official policy documents, the Zambia Army has a lot of land and transportation skills that could be used for big solar and wind energy projects, especially in remote places with limited access to electricity (Zulu & Simenti-Phiri, 2022). Findings show that military barracks and training facilities could be fitted with solar panels and other energy-saving technologies. This would make them less reliant on traditional power grids and set an example for the rest of the country to follow (Ministry of Finance and National Planning, 2022). Also, study shows that the army could be involved in green energy projects in more ways than just installing solar panels. For example, military engineering units could help build and maintain renewable energy infrastructure in communities that need it (Chileshe, 2020).

The study's results are in line with a worldwide trend where military institutions have become part of state plans for long-term sustainability. Khantoon (2023) says that studying how the Pakistani military works with sustainability projects shows how defence resources can be used to help big green energy projects. Similarly, Sri Lanka's military has played a critical role in food security initiatives that incorporate renewable energy solutions, improving agricultural sustainability while reducing dependence on fossil fuels (Wijekoon & Marikar, 2024). Different points of view, on the other hand, say that military-led sustainability projects need strong rules to keep them from clashing with civilian energy providers. For example, in Nigeria, military involvement in state-run energy projects has caused problems with governance (Dada et al., 2022). The results show that in Zambia, the military has a lot of potential to help with sustainability efforts. However, to make sure they are in line with national energy goals, they will need clear policies and to work together with government agencies and private sector players.

4.5 Major Theme 3: Challenges Facing the Zambia Army in National Development Efforts

4.5.1 Sub-Theme 1: Budgetary and Resource Allocation Constraints in Development

Programs

Secondary research shows that poor budgetary allocations and financial resources are one of the Zambia Army's biggest obstacles in national growth. According to government reports, military-led infrastructure, healthcare, and education projects are underfunded, restricting their growth and sustainability (Ministry of Defence GRZ, 2022). Policy documents show that the army spends most of its money on defence and security, leaving little for non-traditional military duties like national development (Zulu & Simenti-Phiri, 2022). Secondary sources show that funding shortages delay military-led construction and public service projects, leaving infrastructure, healthcare facilities, and educational programs unfinished (Ministry of Finance and National Planning, 2022). Additional studies reveal that the army relies largely on government subventions, which are often transferred to meet immediate security issues, leaving developmental efforts subject to budget cuts and financial mismanagement (Chileshe, 2020).

These findings support global trends where military entities involved in development face funding restrictions. Research on the Nepali Army's role in national development shows that government funding for development initiatives is inconsistent (Bhat, 2023). Military-led agricultural programs in Sri Lanka have struggled to raise funds, reducing their food security impact (Wijekoon & Marikar, 2024). However, other studies imply that military institutions in Pakistan have merged military-industrial collaborations to generate alternative money sources and reduce state funding for development (Khatoon, 2023). In Zambia, policy reforms are needed to ensure sustainable funding mechanisms for military-led development projects, including public-private partnerships and foreign investment in military-backed infrastructure and social services.

4.5.2 Sub-Theme 2: Policy Limitations and Bureaucratic Challenges in Military-Civilian

Projects

A study of secondary data shows that the Zambia Army's ability to participate in national development projects is severely limited by strict rules and inefficient government departments. The government says that current defence policies describe the army's role mainly in terms of national security, with its contributions to civilian development efforts not being officially recognised (Ministry of Defence GRZ, 2022). Policy papers show that the lack of laws governing

partnerships between the military and civilians has caused projects to be carried out in a shaky way. For example, military-led development projects often don't have clear goals or ways to hold people accountable (Zulu & Simenti-Phiri, 2022). The results also show that government agencies' excessive red tape slows down approvals for building projects led by the military. This makes it harder for the army, civil institutions, and private sector stakeholders to work together (Ministry of Finance and National Planning, 2022). There are also policy gaps that have caused disagreements between government agencies. For example, military and civilian authorities share tasks that make it harder to assign resources and finish projects quickly (Chileshe, 2020).

Other studies have also found that growth projects led by the military are limited by red tape. This study's results back this up. Some experts say that Nepal's inconsistent policies and slow government processes have made it harder for the army to contribute to the country's growth, which has slowed down building projects (Thapa, 2022). In the same way, Nigeria's military-civilian development relationships have been hurt by inefficient bureaucracy and unclear government structures, which has wasted time and money (Dada et al., 2022). However, different points of view show that some countries have successfully integrated military institutions into national development policies. For example, Egypt has laws that make it easy for the military to work on public service projects (El-Sisi & Gomaa, 2020). The study's results suggest that Zambia should create thorough law frameworks and policy guidelines to improve partnerships between the military and civilians. This will make sure that national development programs are well coordinated and held accountable.

4.5.3 Sub-Theme 4: Capacity and Skill Gaps in Military-Led Development Initiatives

Secondary data shows that the Zambia Army has technical expertise but lacks specialised skills and capacity development for national development. The Ministry of Defence GRZ (2022) says that many military personnel working on building, healthcare, and education projects lack advanced civilian-focused development planning training, reducing program efficiency. According to policy documents, the army's training modules emphasise combat and defence abilities above technical subjects like engineering, healthcare management, and educational administration (Zulu & Simenti-Phiri, 2022). Due to instructor shortages and antiquated training methods, military-led vocational and entrepreneurship programs struggle to improve graduate employability (Ministry of Finance and National Planning, 2022). Secondary sources also note that while the army is

capable of short-term infrastructure and emergency response projects, long-term development planning requires civilian experience and knowledge transfer (Chileshe, 2020).

These findings support global studies on military-led development capacity issues. Army farmers in Sri Lanka have had productivity issues due to skill gaps (Wijekoon & Marikar, 2024). Studies have shown that civilian-sector knowledge deficits have hindered the Nepali Army's role in national development, requiring external technical assistance for major infrastructure projects (Bhat, 2023). In Kenya, the Defence Forces have partnered with universities and technical institutions to improve their development-related competencies (Mwangi & Kamau, 2021). The findings show that Zambia might benefit from similar capacity-building measures to equip military personnel with capabilities for sustainable national development.

4.5.4 Sub-Theme 4: Public Perception and Civil-Military Relations in Development Efforts

A look at secondary data shows that how people feel about the military's role in national development is still a controversial topic. This makes it harder for the Zambia Army to work well with civilian-led projects. Government reports say the army has made important contributions to healthcare, education, and infrastructure. However, some people are still not sure about the army's growing role in non-defense activities (Ministry of Defence GRZ, 2022). Local communities and private sector stakeholders have been against military involvement in civilian matters, as shown in policy papers. This is especially true when military-led development projects overlap with civilian projects (Zulu & Simenti-Phiri, 2022). The results also show that the history of military dictatorship in Africa has made people less trusting. People are afraid that too much military role in development could hurt democratic government (Ministry of Finance and National Planning, 2022). Furthermore, secondary sources show that communication problems and a lack of openness are common in Zambian civil-military cooperation, which makes people even more wary of military-led projects (Chileshe, 2020).

International studies on the relationship between the military and civilians in developing countries agree with these results. In Nigeria, for example, study has shown that people have had different reactions to the military providing public services. Some communities are in favour of army-led infrastructure projects, while others are worried about military overreach (Dada et al., 2022). Similar to this, researchers have found disagreements between the military and civilian institutions in Pakistan over how to make development policies. This shows the need for clear rules on how

the military can participate in national projects (Khatoon, 202~). Some studies disagree, though, and say that the public's view of military-led development can be improved by involving all stakeholders and making policies clear. For example, in Egypt, the armed forces have successfully included community participation in military-run public service programs (El-Sisi & Gomaa, 2020). The results show that Zambia should use similar methods to improve relations between the military and the civilian population. This can be done through open communication, accountability, and letting people have a say in how development projects are run.

4.5.5 Sub-Theme 5: Balancing Core Defense Responsibilities with Development

Commitments

Secondary data shows that the Zambia Army struggles to balance its defence mandate with its growing development role. According to government reports, the military has helped with infrastructure, healthcare, and disaster assistance, but these operations often strain its resources and operational readiness (Ministry of Defence GRZ, 2022). Policy documents show that military personnel and equipment are often diverted to civilian initiatives, often at the expense of border security and counterinsurgency (Zulu & Simenti-Phiri, 2022). The lack of clear instructions on how to prioritise development commitments alongside security requirements complicates the army's dual mission, resulting in resource allocation inefficiencies (Ministry of Finance and National Planning, 2022). Research also shows that while the army's development work is meant to support government efforts, overreliance on military-led programs may weaken civilian institutions and reduce their ability to provide key public services (Chileshe, 2020).

The findings match global studies on military forces and country development. According to Nepali Army studies, excessive infrastructure investment has weakened combat readiness and military logistics (Thapa, 2023). Nigeria's armed forces' diversion of resources to development projects has often undermined national security responses, especially in insurgency-prone regions (Dada et al., 2022). According to El-Sisi and Gomaa (2020), Egypt has handled military-led growth by separating security and non-security responsibilities to avoid resource disputes. The findings show that dedicated military engineering and logistics units in Zambia could prevent defence forces from overstretching while allowing the army to promote national development. Policy measures that limit military involvement in civilian initiatives would also assist balance security and development.

4.6 Discussion of the Findings

According to secondary data, the Zambia Army has made important impacts to the country's growth in many areas, such as infrastructure, healthcare, and education. According to government records, military engineering units have helped build roads and bridges in remote areas, which has helped the economy and made transport networks better (Ministry of Defence GRZ, 2022). The army has also been very important in responding to disasters by helping with logistics and giving medical care during times of crisis, like when there were floods or disease spreads (Zambia Ministry of Health, 2022). Documents related to policy show that vocational training programs run by the military have also helped develop skills by giving both military members and civilians marketable skills in fields like IT, farming, and mechanics (Chileshe, 2020). However, research shows that the military's role in development is still limited since of limited funds and the absence of official policy frameworks that guide partnerships between the military and civilians (Zulu & Simenti-Phiri, 2022).

These results are in line with research done around the world on how the military helps countries grow. According to Wijekoon and Marikar (2024), the army in Sri Lanka has done a good job with farm development projects that have increased food security and created jobs in rural areas. In the same way, Egypt's military has been very important in building up infrastructure, especially in big transportation and housing projects. This shows how military logistics and technical know-how can be used to help the country move forward (El-Sisi & Gomaa, 2020). But different studies warn against the dangers of too much military participation in development. They say that relying too much on military institutions for civilian projects could hurt democracy and make public service delivery less efficient (Dada et al., 2022). The results show that the Zambia Army could make a bigger difference in the country's growth. But to do that, it needs clear rules and coordination between different government agencies to make the most of its efforts and make sure that military priorities don't get in the way of civilian government.

Findings show that the Zambia Army faces a number of problems that make it less useful for national growth. These problems include a lack of money, time, and skills. According to government reports, military-led development projects often lack funds, which causes projects to take longer to finish and makes them reliant on outside help to get resources (Ministry of Defence GRZ, 2022). Policy documents also show that the lack of clear policy guidelines on the role of the

military in development has led to uneven project implementation, with some efforts not getting long-term support since of inefficient administration (Zulu & Simenti-Phiri, 2022). Also, results show that the army isn't able to carry out complex infrastructure and public service projects well since some military troops working on development projects don't have the right skills (Chileshe, 2020). To deal with these problems, we need to put money into programs that build people's skills, change policies to make relationships between the military and civilians easier, and set up long-term funding sources for military-led development projects (Ministry of Finance and National Planning, 2022).

The study's results back up what other researchers around the world have found about the pros and cons of military-led growth. Nepalese researchers have found that involving the military in infrastructure projects has greatly improved access to rural areas. However, delays caused by bureaucracy and a lack of resources have made it harder to finish the projects (Thapa, 2024). In the same way, military training programs in Kenya have successfully given both soldiers and citizens job-related skills, but there are still problems with integrating the workforce and forming partnerships between the government and private businesses (Mwangi & Kamau, 2021). However, different points of view say that some countries, like Pakistan, have been able to use partnerships between the military and civilian industries to make extra money and become less reliant on government funds for military-led growth (Khatoon, 2023). The results show that Zambia could use similar methods to make military-led development projects last longer while still meeting national economic and social goals.

4.7 Conclusion

This report shows the Zambia Army's contributions to infrastructure, healthcare, education, and civilian programs. The army's road development, disaster assistance, vocational training, and public service efforts have covered government service shortfalls, especially in underserved areas (Ministry of Defence GRZ, 2022). However, financial restrictions, legislative constraints, and the need to balance defence and civilian commitments hinder military-led development programs (Zulu & Simenti-Phiri, 2022). To fix these problems, we need clear rules for military and civilian teamwork, strategic policy changes, and building people's skills (Chileshe, 2020).

The talk around the world shows that development projects led by the military have worked well in many countries, but they need clear policies and long-term funding. Case studies from Nepal,

Sri Lanka, and Egypt show how military logistics and technical know-how can help a country grow. However, they also show how important it is to have clear rules to avoid problems with government and inefficient public service (Thapa, 2023; Wijekoon & Marikar, 2024; El-Sisi & Gomaa, 2020). The results suggest that Zambia could learn from these models in other countries on how to get the military involved in development more effectively while still putting defence first. For long-term effects and sustainability, future study should look into policy options that combine military growth with Zambia's economic and government systems.

CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

More people are understanding that the military is crucial to national prosperity and may strengthen states, especially in areas with poor infrastructure and limited services. The Zambia Army has advanced the nation by developing infrastructure, providing healthcare, teaching, and responding to calamities. However, lack of funding, cumbersome government processes, and the difficulties of balancing basic defensive obligations with civilian development initiatives limit the military's engagement (Ministry of defense GRZ, 2022). The army has been crucial to the country's progress, yet these issues require military-led development to align with national objectives and security interests. Chileshe, 2020).

Comparative studies of other countries show how armed institutions can be effectively incorporated into plans for national growth. In Nepal, for example, the army has successfully participated in infrastructure projects and rural development initiatives, showing how military logistics and engineering expertise can be leveraged for national progress (Thapa, 2023). Food security has also been improved in Sri Lanka according to farming projects run by the military (Wijekoon & Marikar, 2024). This shows how important it is for the military to be involved in economic growth. Some people are worried that the military is getting too involved in civilian matters in places like Nigeria, where the military and government institutions' jobs overlap, which has caused problems with governance and made service delivery less efficient (Dada et al., 2022). These situations show how important it is to have clear rules that spell out the military's role in national development projects and make sure that civilians are in charge of public service areas.

In this part, the main results of the study are summed up and put into thematic areas that are in line with the research goals. It also looks at what these results mean for Zambia's overall development plan and gives policy suggestions for making the military more useful for national growth. This chapter shows how to make the Zambia Army's role in national development more effective by comparing the results to the best practices used around the world. It does this while keeping a strategic balance between security duties and civilian development responsibilities. The ideas shared add to the ongoing discussions about the part that military institutions play in the growth of a country. They also give policymakers, military leaders, and development workers suggestions based on facts.

5.2 Summary of the Findings

5.2.1 The Zambia Army's Contributions to National Development

The Zambia Army has helped improve infrastructure in distant and underserved areas where government services are scarce, according to the report. Military engineering forces have built roads, bridges, and public buildings, boosting economic activity and transportation (Ministry of Defence GRZ, 2022). The army has also provided humanitarian aid to areas impacted by floods, droughts, and disease outbreaks (Zambia Ministry of Health, 2022). Secondary data shows that military-led education and vocational training programs have helped military and civilian personnel gain skills (Chileshe, 2020). Despite these contributions, military involvement in development remains fragmented, with minimal coordination between the army and civilian organisations, resulting in inefficiencies and duplication (Zulu & Simenti-Phiri, 2022).

These findings support international studies on military forces and national growth. The military has led big infrastructure projects in Egypt, showing how military resources may support national development (El-Sisi & Gomaa, 2020). Military-led initiatives in Mozambique have empowered the economy and developed rural areas, supporting the idea that military institutions may drive national success (Filipe et al., 2021). In contrast, Nigerian studies show that military-led development programs need strong governance frameworks to ensure accountability and preserve civilian leadership in public service delivery (Dada et al., 2022). The findings imply that the Zambia Army can improve national development, but systematic policy interventions are needed to maximise its contributions and avert governance disputes.

5.2.2 Opportunities for Enhancing Military Engagement in Development

The study found a number of ways that the Zambia Army could play a bigger part in the country's growth. Findings show that increasing partnerships between the military and civilians could make development projects more successful by using the military's skills in disaster management, engineering, and logistics (Ministry of Defence GRZ, 2022). Secondary data shows that getting the military involved in renewable energy projects like solar and wind farms could be a good way to help rural areas get more energy (Zulu & Simenti-Phiri, 2022). Also, studies show that combining military training programs with civilian vocational schools could help people get better skills and gain economic independence, especially young people and soldiers who are returning to civilian life (Chileshe, 2020).

Comparative studies back up the idea that structured cooperation between the military and civilians can improve development results. In Pakistan, the military has worked well with private companies to help industries grow. This shows that the military could help the economy grow (Khatoon, 2024). Similarly, in Nepal, the army's engagement in infrastructure and rural development projects has improved connectivity and service delivery, showing how military resources can be strategically aligned with national development goals (Thapa, 2023). However, different points of view say that the military's involvement in development needs to be carefully handled to avoid conflicts of interest and keep civilian institutions in charge of running the government and providing services (Bhat, 2023). The results show that Zambia can get the most out of its military involvement in development by putting in place clear policy frameworks that make it easier for different government agencies to work together and allocate resources in a way that lasts.

5.2.3 Challenges Hindering Military-Led Development Initiatives

Financial constraints hinder the Zambia Army's national development efforts, the report concluded. According to the Ministry of Finance and National Planning (2022), military-led infrastructure and social service projects often lack money, delaying implementation and requiring external aid. Secondary data shows that policy limitations and inefficient bureaucracy make it hard to coordinate military growth, which breaks up service delivery (Zulu & Simenti-Phiri, 2022). Another worry is the need to find a balance between basic defence duties and development commitments, since too much military participation in civilian matters can waste money and hurt national security (Chileshe, 2020).

International study shows that the same problems happen in different places. Financial and logistical problems make it hard for military-led agricultural projects in Sri Lanka to work (Wijekoon & Marikar, 2024). People have said that the military's role in Nigeria's growth makes defence institutions more political and makes government less effective (Dada et al., 2022). Mwangi and Kamau (2021) say that Kenya has been able to solve these problems by implementing a set of policies that include military training programs in the country's plans to improve its workforce. The results show that Zambia could use similar approaches to boost military-led development without putting too much pressure on military resources to do more than just protect the country.

5.3 Conclusions of the Study

5.3.1 The Role of the Zambia Army in National Development

This study found that the Zambia Army's infrastructure, healthcare, education, and charity work advance the nation. Military infrastructure projects including repairing roads and restoring bridges have made isolated areas easier to reach, according to secondary data. This has boosted the economy and made government services easier (Ministry of Defence GRZ, 2022). The army's mobile health services and emergency response actions have also helped underserved communities receive medical care (Zambia Ministry of Health, 2022). The research also discusses the army's vocational training initiatives that teach soldiers and civilians skills to boost the economy (Chileshe, 2020). Despite these advancements, military-led development programs fail due to a lack of money, policies, and efficient government work (Zulu & Simenti-Phiri, 2022).

These findings support foreign research that emphasise the military's role in growth. Egypt's military has built transit and housing infrastructure (El-Sisi & Gomaa, 2020). Military-led agricultural projects have improved Sri Lanka's food security (Wijekoon & Marikar, 2024), demonstrating how military organisations may strengthen a nation. Some argue that too much military involvement in development can cause government issues. Military projects in Nigeria have impacted civilian institutions (Dada et al., 2022). These comparisons demonstrate the importance of setting up military-led development programs inside defined policy frameworks to maximise benefits and minimise hazards.

5.3.2 Challenges Facing the Zambia Army in Development Efforts

The study finds various obstacles to the Zambia Army's national development efforts. Military-led development projects sometimes lack funds, resulting in inadequate infrastructure and healthcare outreach programs (Ministry of Finance and National Planning, 2022). Policy discrepancies also hamper military-civilian collaboration, fragmenting service delivery (Zulu & Simenti-Phiri, 2022). Another issue is balancing essential defence duties with development obligations, as excessive military involvement in civilian enterprises might strain resources and threaten national security (Chileshe, 2020).

These findings match international military-led development research. While the army has helped build infrastructure in Nepal, bureaucratic inefficiencies have caused delays and fiscal issues (Thapa, 2023). Kenyan military training programmes have struggled with workforce integration

and sustainability (Mwangi & Kamau, 2021). Some countries have overcome these issues with structured policy measures. Pakistan has used military-industrial cooperation to construct sustainable development projects, decreasing governmental spending (Khatoon, 2023). These findings imply that deliberate policy reforms and inter-agency coordination can improve military-led development in Zambia.

5.3.3 Opportunities for Enhancing Military Contributions to Development

The study points out a number of ways that the Zambia Army could play a bigger part in the country's growth. According to the Ministry of Defence GRZ (2022), increasing relationships between the military and civilians could make development projects more effective by using the military's skills in logistics, engineering, and emergency response. Adding military training programs to civilian vocational schools could also help people gain skills and become more financially independent, especially young people and soldiers returning to civilian life (Chileshe, 2020). The study also suggests that the military could get involved in green energy projects. For example, military-led solar and wind energy projects could help rural areas that are short on energy (Zulu & Simenti-Phiri, 2022).

These results are in line with research done around the world on how the military helps countries grow. Economic growth has been helped by military-led industrial partnerships in Pakistan (Khatoon, 2023). This shows the possibility for structured military-civilian partnerships. Similarly, in Mozambique, the military's participation in economic and infrastructure projects has made life better for people in rural areas. This shows how important it is to match military resources with national development goals (Filipe et al., 2021). However, different studies warn that the military's involvement in development needs to be carefully handled to avoid conflicts of interest and keep civilian institutions in charge of running the government and providing services (Dada et al., 2022). The results show that Zambia can improve its military's role in development by putting in place clear policy frameworks that make it easier for institutions to work together and allocate resources in a way that is sustainable.

5.4 Recommendations of the Study

5.4.1 Enhancing Policy Frameworks for Military-Led Development

This report recommends that Zambia establish clear policy frameworks for military involvement in national development. Lack of established policies has caused military-led projects to be

inefficient and inconsistent (Ministry of Defence GRZ, 2022). Well-defined policies on military engagement in civilian projects would improve development coordination and accountability (Zulu & Simenti-Phiri, 2022). Military-led projects should also be integrated into Zambia's national development plans for long-term sustainability and government priorities (Chileshe, 2020). Global case studies illuminate military-led development policy frameworks. Clear governance procedures in Egypt have enabled structured military engagement in infrastructure projects, complementing civilian-led efforts (El-Sisi & Gomaa, 2020). In Kenya, military training programmes have been integrated into workforce development initiatives to boost economic empowerment (Mwangi & Kamau, 2021). The results show Zambia might use similar policies to improve military-led development while assuring accountability and supervision.

5.4.2 Strengthening Financial and Institutional Support for Military Development

Initiatives

The study suggests that military-led development projects should get more financial and institutional backing. Findings show that lack of funds has limited the size and longevity of infrastructure, healthcare, and job training programs run by the military (Ministry of Finance and National Planning, 2022). Setting aside specific funds in the budget for development projects led by the military would guarantee that these programs always get the money they need, allowing for long-term planning and execution (Zulu & Simenti-Phiri, 2022). Creating partnerships between the public and private sectors could also help military development projects get money from sources other than the government (Chileshe, 2020). International case studies show how important it is for military-led growth to be financially stable. In Pakistan, partnerships between the military and businesses have created new ways to make money, which has kept military-led projects financially viable without putting too much strain on government funds (Khatoon, 2023)? Similarly, in Sri Lanka, military involvement in agricultural projects has been supported by private sector partnerships, showing the potential for sustainable financing models (Wijekoon & Marikar, 2024). The results show that Zambia could use similar funding methods to make military-led development projects last longer and have a bigger impact.

5.4.3 Enhancing Military-Civilian Collaboration for Effective Development Outcomes

The report suggests improving military-led development projects through civilian-military collaboration. The Ministry of Defence GRZ (2022) found that fractured army-government

collaboration has led to service delivery inefficiencies. Formal military-civilian partnership frameworks would enhance inter-agency communication and match military contributions with national development priorities (Zulu & Simenti-Phiri, 2022). Integrating military training with civilian vocational schools would improve skills development and workforce integration (Chileshe, 2020). Comparative development studies show military-civilian collaboration's benefits. Inter-agency cooperation have improved military engagement in infrastructure and rural development in Nepal, maximising military resources for national advancement (Thapa, 2023). In Mozambique, military-led economic projects are part of national development objectives, emphasising the need for systematic collaboration (Filipe et al., 2021). Zambia should maximise military development contributions by developing collaborative frameworks that improve inter-agency coordination and resource alignment.

5.5 Limitations of the Study

The study like all other research work had limitation, but that did not discourage the researcher from conducting the research. These limitations include the following:

5.5.1 Availability and Accessibility of Data

One of the main problems with this study was that it was hard to find accurate information about the Zambia Army's contributions to development. Since military operations are secret, some important information about infrastructure projects, healthcare interventions, and money spent was either not available to the public or was limited (Ministry of Defence GRZ, 2022). This limitation made it hard to confirm the full scope of military-led development projects since secondary sources mostly used public stories instead of military records kept internally (Zulu & Simenti-Phiri, 2022). In similar studies on military involvement in national development, researchers have faced difficulties in accessing original military data, as noted in the case of Nepal, where army-led projects were partially documented due to national security concerns (Thapa, 2023). This limitation shows that structured transparency methods are needed to make it easier for academics to study how the military helps with national development.

5.5.2 Bias in Secondary Sources

The bias of secondary data sources was another problem. Many Zambia Army growth reports were made by the government or the military, which raised concerns about biased reporting and

exaggeration (Ministry of Finance and National Planning, 2022). According to El-Sisi and Gomaa (2020), news outlets connected to the Egyptian government tended to highlight military successes over problems when writing about the military's infrastructure development. This study had to use secondary sources to back up its claims since it didn't have enough original data. To avoid bias, it was important to cross-reference different sources (Chileshe, 2020). This limitation shows how important it is for military-led development projects to be audited and evaluated by outside groups in order to improve their credibility.

5.5.3 Lack of Primary Data Collection

This study used largely secondary sources, limiting first-hand information from key military and civilian stakeholders. Talking to military members, policymakers, and beneficiaries of army-led development programs would have helped clarify the merits and cons of military involvement in national development (Zulu & Simenti-Phiri, 2022). On the other hand, studies on Pakistan's military-led economic projects have been better since they have talked to defence officials and industry stakeholders directly, which has led to more thorough analyses (Khatoon, 202). Qualitative data collection methods should be used in future study to get a range of points of view and confirm secondary data findings.

5.6 Suggestions for Future Studies.

Below are suggestions forwarded by the researcher:

5.6.1 Comparative Analysis with Other Military Development Models

Future research should compare the Zambia Army's development contribution to other countries with similar socioeconomic conditions. Egypt, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan case studies can reveal best practises, obstacles, and novel methods to optimising military-led development projects (El-Malki & Benkiran, 2020). Sri Lankan studies on military involvement in food security have shown effective ways to integrate defence forces into agricultural programs, which Zambia might examine for military development (Wijekoon & Marikar, 2024). Comparative methods improve the transferability of effective solutions between nations.

5.6.2 The Economic Impact of Military-Led Development Projects

Evaluating the economic effects of military-led development projects on national growth is another important area that needs more study. This study showed how the Zambia Army helps with

infrastructure, healthcare, and education. But an in-depth economic study is needed to figure out how much these efforts are worth in terms of GDP growth, job creation, and cost savings (Ministry of Defence GRZ, 2022). Nigerian research has shown that military-led development projects can make the economy stronger if they are carefully matched with the country's development plans (Dada et al., 2022). A thorough study of Zambia's economic effects would give policymakers real-life examples of how military-led growth affects costs and benefits.

5.6.3 Sustainability of Military-Led Development Initiatives

Military-led development in Zambia should be studied for sustainability. This study explored military contributions, but their sustainability without state or donor support is uncertain (Zulu & Simenti-Phiri, 2022). Kenyan military-led technical training programmes have shown the necessity for sustainable finance strategies to sustain them beyond government investments (Mwangi & Kamau, 2021). Future studies should address financial, policy, and capacity-building measures to prolong military-led development projects.

5.7 Final Remarks

The study's results show that involving the Zambian Army in national development efforts needs to be done in a fair way. Even though the army has made important contributions to infrastructure, healthcare, and job training, it is very important that these activities do not get in the way of their main defence duties (Ministry of Defence GRZ, 2022). Studies on Egypt's military have warned against putting too many defence troops into civilian areas, since that can make both military operations and development projects less effective (El-Sisi & Gomaa, 2020). To make the best use of resources, we need a strategic framework that makes sure that military contributions to development are in line with national security goals. The study shows how important it is to make normative rules for how the military can help with growth. Military-led initiatives can't reach their full potential since there aren't clear rules in place to help allocate resources and carry out projects efficiently (Zulu & Simenti-Phiri, 2022). Pakistan's model of structured military-industrial collaborations offers valuable lessons on how defence institutions can add to economic growth without conflicting with civilian governance structures (Khatoon, 2023). Zambia could use similar policy models to make sure that military contributions stay in line with the country's growth goals.

One important suggestion that comes out of this study is that the Zambia Army, civilian government departments, and development partners should work together more. Findings show

that unclear communication has made military-led projects less effective, calling for formalised relationship frameworks (Ministry of Finance and National Planning, 2022). Well-structured public-private partnerships that improve accountability and resource mobilisation have made Mozambique's military-led development projects work well (Filipe et al., 2021). Zambia can improve the coordination and execution of its military-led development plan by encouraging participation from a wide range of groups. According to this study, the Zambia Army could make a big difference in the country's growth if it is backed up by strong policies, long-term funding sources, and good government systems. International case studies show that development led by the military can have good effects on society and the economy if it is part of larger national strategies (Wijekoon & Marikar, 202[^]). But there needs to be close monitoring and coordination between institutions to make sure that military aid doesn't get in the way of domestic development efforts (Chileshe, 2020). As Zambia looks for ways to achieve long-term growth, the army should be carefully placed within a clear set of rules that make the most of its abilities while still upholding its main duty of protecting the country.

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