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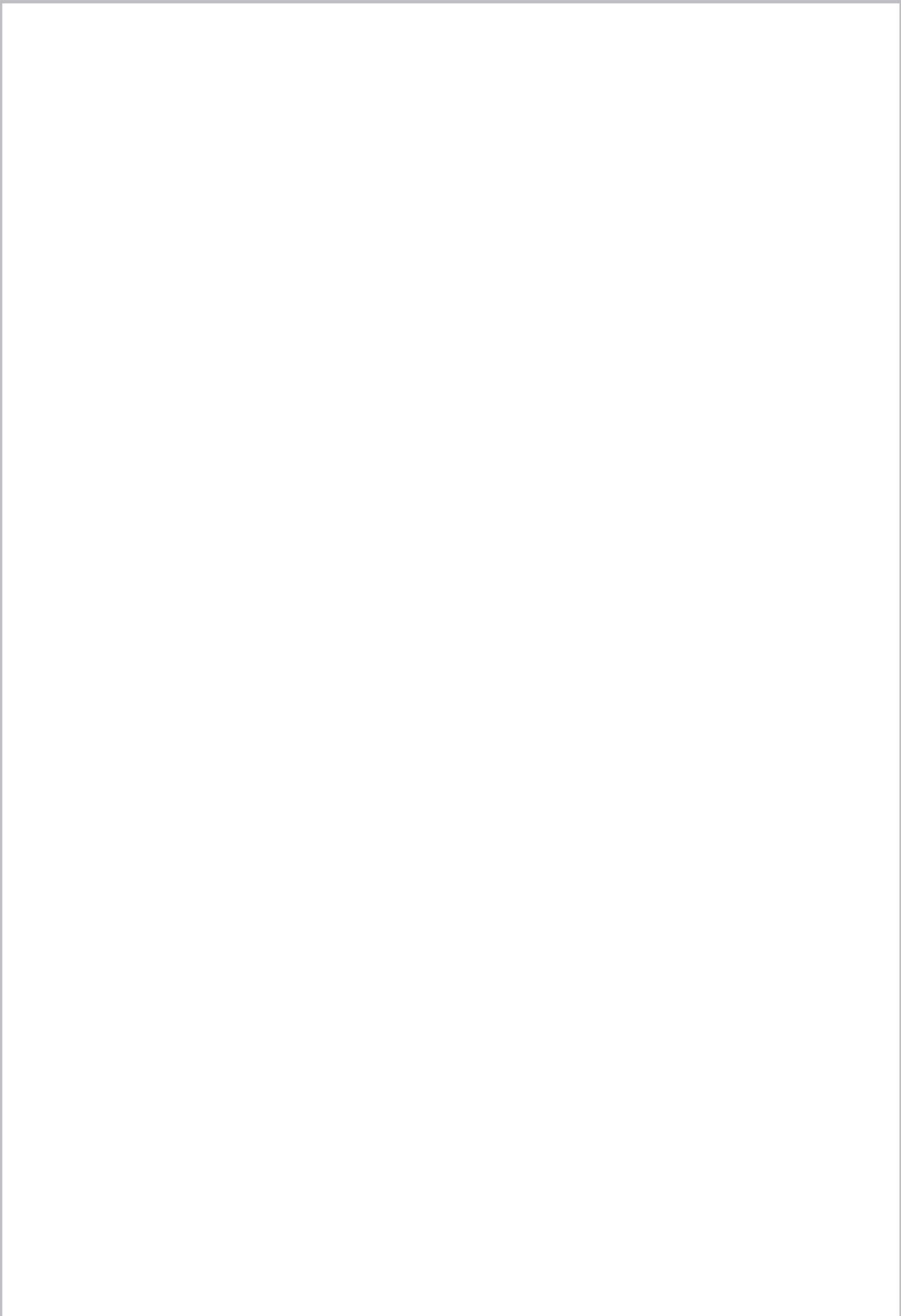


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TIKWERE STUDENTS RADIO PROGRAMS DURING
COVID 19 PANDEMIC: A CASE STUDY OF T/A CHIM-
WALA, MANGOCHIE BEHAVIOUR THERAPY ON SELF
ESTEEM AND DEPRESSION OF ADOLESCENCE**
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AN INVESTIGATION ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF TIKWERE STUDENTS RADIO PROGRAMS DURING COVID 19 PANDEMIC: A CASE STUDY OF T/A CHIMWALA, MANGOCHI

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Abstract

The study to examine the effectiveness of student radio program 'Tikwere' which the government of Malawi introduced as a makeup for students in view of the school's shutdown due to Corona Virus pandemic. This study seeks to assess the effectiveness of student radio program 'Tikwere' during Covid 19 a case study of Group T/A Chimwala in Mango chi. The study analyses gathered information from the field with the intending to assess how the radio program 'Tikwere' was successful during the crisis of novel Covid 19.

Review of literature

The major reviews entitled the Tikwere program was implemented by the International Development Division (IDD) of the Education Development Centre (EDC) and supported by the USAID and other partners, is an interactive radio instruction (IRI) project that is part of an effort to improve the teaching and learning conditions in Malawian primary schools. Radio is about speaking and listening. The preparation for talk shows, radio drama or telephone interviews and it is clear that writing plays a big role in radio and extends to meeting the National Curriculum in many ways.

Methodology : Design, universe, sampling and sample, tools

The universe of the study 95, 428 with T/A Chimwala consisting of over 93,858 people, 44 328 males and 49,530 females (National Statistical Office, 2018). The researcher selected 60 respondents from primary and secondary school. The research will be conducted in the 3 Villages of T/A Chimwala and from students, parents and even the staff at Mangochi Islamic Centre. Mixed research design method was used. Face to face interviews, Focus Group Discussions and questionnaire tools adopted for the study.

Major Findings of the study: (maximum 5 to 6 major findings)

The findings of the study show that the strategies are in place to the effectiveness of Tikwere student radio programs however, the study established the dependency relationship between the government of Malawi and various societies in order for radio educational programs to be effective.

Key words

Tikwere, Student Radio Program, Primary School Education

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INTRODUCTION

The introduction and the general background information of the research. The aim of the study to examine the effectiveness of student radio program 'Tikwere' which the government of Malawi introduced as a makeup for students in view of the school's shutdown due to Corona Virus pandemic. Education play an important role in the social economic development of the nation Malawi. This study seeks to assess the effectiveness of student radio program 'Tikwere' during Covid 19 a case study of Group T/A Chimwala in Mango chi. The body examines a body of available literature on student radio program to verify its effectiveness to the Malawian primary school children. The study analyzes gathered information from the field with the intending to assess how the radio program 'Tikwere' was successful during the crisis of novel Covid 19.

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China. On 11 March 2020, the (World Health Organization (WHO), 2020) classified COVID-19 as a pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been one of the biggest disruptions to education the world has ever known affecting more than 90% of the world student's population. Many countries turned to online based distance education to ensure that learning never stops.

However, some 826 million students (50%) kept out of classrooms by the pandemic do not have access to a computer at home. According to (UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) and the Teachers Task Force, 2020) . Around 706 million students lack internet access and 56 million live in areas not covered by mobile networks. Many countries had to quickly find effective solutions and television and radio have proven to be a good alternative in a context where online learning is not possible. In response to the pandemic, the minister of education science and technology, William Susuwele Banda reveled that radio and television classes to start, the goal is to make up for students in the students in view of the schools' shutdown to corona virus. In his statement he said "The goal is to make sure that every child is able to learn during the period of Covid 19" (Nyasa Times, 2020). The Education Act (No. 21) of 2013 of the

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Education plays a vital role to the personal moral development of an individual as it brings to the light for the youth, the existing social challenges (Laura, 2006). This knowledge has made many countries to focus on improving the education sector with the aim of advancing personal development which ingredients all forms of development in the country. It from this point of view that Malawi realized the impact that the education sector has in advancing the national socio- economic and political development. The ministry of education in Malawi hold education with high esteem as it makes citizens to willingly embrace, preserve and advance the principle of sustainable development (MoEST, 2016). Schools of Malawi were on lockdown as such, the right to eduation of Malawian children was hindered. But because of the pandemic the ministry of education introduced radio and television classes for standard 1 to 4 from 8 am and standard 5 to 8 at 1am.

As long as most primary school children are failing in their primary education during the reopening of schools because of failing to attend radio education during the crisis of Covid 19, it means Malawi will fail to have productive citizens that will develop her in the near future because the beginning of a child education is essential for development. According to the (Gondwe, 2020) some teen children failed to attend radio programs because they are the heads of child headed families.

The research will examine the progress towards goals, the systematic measurement of the attitude of most families in understanding radio educational programs 'Tikwere which means Let's rise' and the effectiveness of the student radio programs in Mangochi district with particular reference to T/A Chimwala, in selected one primary school and two villages as a case study.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Structural Functional System

This study is based on the Structural- Functionalist Theory of Emile Durkheim. The theory has several names given by different proponents. Functionalist theory and Functional theory are the two most common

names. The proponents of this theory argues that the society is structured in the way that each part works hand in hand to bring about stability in the society. These parts of the social structure include social organizations and social institutions. The society is also said to have social processes such as social change, learning and child rearing. The society works by looking at how parts of the society interrelate and how they contribute towards the normal functioning of the society. According to (Jeanne & Keith, 2014) argued that referred parts of the society as the structure and nabbed the contributions that the structures have on the society as the “functions”. Durkheim also pinpointed social conformity to norms, rules of the society and shared believes of a society as the stabilizing forces of the society. Constant observation of these societal stabilizers gradually internalize the shared beliefs and rules. Further, an individual’s behavior is driven by what is upheld from within which influences the way one behave in the society

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The research findings on the effectiveness of student radio programs during Corona virus pandemic in T/A Chimwala, Mangochi District are hoped to provide useful information to the community, district and the national stake holders in malawi. The study paid attention to the factors that prevent students to access student radio programs ‘Tikwere’ during covid 19 pandemic and the problems that came with it in the country.

Such information will be useful for the stateholders and education planner in designing customized and more efficient strategies to the problems that most malawian families faced during the covid 19 pandemic. The information collected would add to the information that is available on the factors that contribute to the effectiveness of student radio programs.

This would help identify specialization and strategies by the area of education officials to address the situation. The parents and teachers would use the research findings in providing educational help to the students, the change of mindset on radio education by the society .i.e. parents, students and other stakeholders.

MATERIALS AND METHODS OF THE STUDY

AIM OF THE STUDY

The aim of this research is to empirically investigate the effectiveness of student radio programs. To achieve this, the study employs a mixed research approach, which entails collecting and analyzing both qualitative and quantitative research approach.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

MAIN OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of this study is to investigate the effectiveness of student radio programs during Covid 19 pandemic.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The following are the specific objectives of the research project

- To evaluate whether the public is largely addressed and civic educated on student radio programs specifically “Tikwere”
- To investigate the society attitude towards student radio programs
- To investigate and examine challenges faced by the students in accessing the radio programs
- To suggest solutions to the current problems faced by students in assessing radio programs during the pandemic.

DEFINITIONS OF KEY CONCEPTS AND TERMS

EDUCATION

Is the process of facilitating learning, or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs and the habits. Education is defined as a learning process for the individual to attain knowledge and understanding of the higher specific objects and specific. The knowledge gained formally resulting individual has a pattern of thought and behavior in accordance with the education they have gained (Big Indonesian Dictionary, 1991).

CONSTITUTION

The formal or informal system of primary principles and laws that regulates a government or other institutions.

COVID 19

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person.

The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China

STUDY DESIGN

This research is descriptive in nature consisting both qualitative and quantitative primary and secondary data. Mixed research methods have been opted because the researcher intends to collect evidence of the effectiveness of Tikwere programs. With qualitative data collecting tool mainly face to face interviews, Focus Group Discussions and questionnaires the researcher will get to the knowledge on the effectiveness of student radio program in the study area. The challenging problem that follows the task of defining the research problem is the preparation of the design of the research project, popularly known as the “research design”. Decisions regarding what, where, when, how much, by what means concerning an inquiry or a research study constitute a research design. “A research design is the arrangement of conditions for collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose with economy in procedure (Kothari, 1998). Hence, this paper shall be born of exploratory research and descriptive research.

POPULATION AND SAMPLE SIZE

This research has a total of 60 participants from whom the primary and secondary data will be gathered. The research will be conducted in the 3 Villages of T/A Chimwala and from students, parents and even the staff at Mangochi Islamic Centre. The total population of T/A Chimwala with the inclusion of the population of University students of DMI is estimated to be at 95, 428 with T/A Chimwala consisting of over

93,858 people, 44 328 males and 49,530 females (National Statistical Office, 2018).

SAMPLING TECHNIQUES

Non-random or non-probability sampling techniques will be used to choose the SMEs that will be used in the study.³¹

Non-random sampling techniques are used where the population is very large and it would be difficult to randomly pick a member of the sample for the study. This is also called Purposive or judgmental Sampling

TOOLS FOR DATA COLLECTION

The questionnaires will be designed to incorporate all the research questions while achieving the specific objectives and the main objective of the study. The questionnaire will have 23 questions which included both open and closed questions. The questionnaire also considered the education level of the respondents and two copies were made in order to overcome the language barrier. The questionnaire was divided into 4 sections as follows; Profile, Demography, Challenges and capitalization and finally environment

FINDINGS

DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS

Under this section A, the data analysis was to examine the age range, gender, religion, the level of education, the marital status, the occupation of the respondent because the data focused much on the parents and the primary school teachers at Mangochi Islamic Centre and also the number of children the respondent have that assess Tikwere student radio programs.

Figure 1 Age range

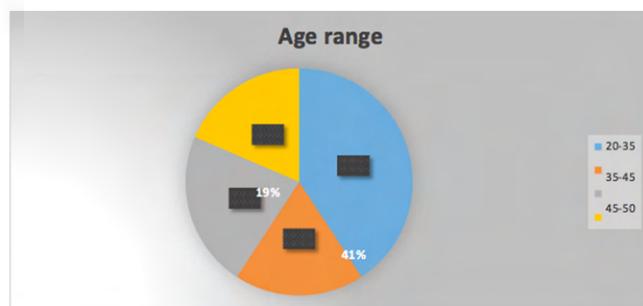
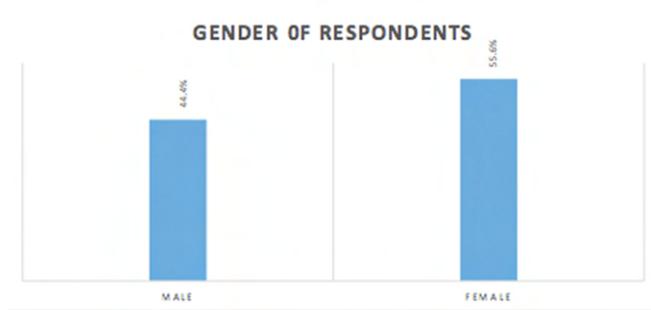


Figure 1 shows the age range of the 60 respondents involved in the study. The illustration shows that a high number of respondents were between the ages of 20-35 which is 41% and followed by those from 45-50 with 22%. Thirdly is the age range of 35-45 which is 18%, lastly is the age range of above 50 which is 19%. With these results the researcher conclude that the majority is 20-35 and these are the ones having more children who attend Tikwere student radio programs.

Figure 2. Gender distribution



The figure 2 above shows the percentage of gender distribution among the respondents, 56% of the respondents were females and the remaining 44% were males which shows that females were the ones who were more involved. The gap between male and female is due to convenience of the respondents, and since descriptive and exploratory sampling were used more females were the ones selected because they had more information regarding how their children are attending school because they show more seriousness regarding the education of their children's education.

Figure 3. Religion of the respondents



The figure above shows the religion distribution of the respondents; the highest percentage is Christianity with 52% which contrast the fact that in Mangochi the majority are Muslims seconded by Christians of the diocese of Anglican. But it is like that because the study was conducted in the village of T/A Chimwala

and since exploratory sampling was used the majority involved were Christians. Muslims were second with 44% with other religion least with 4%.

Figure 4. Level of education of respondents

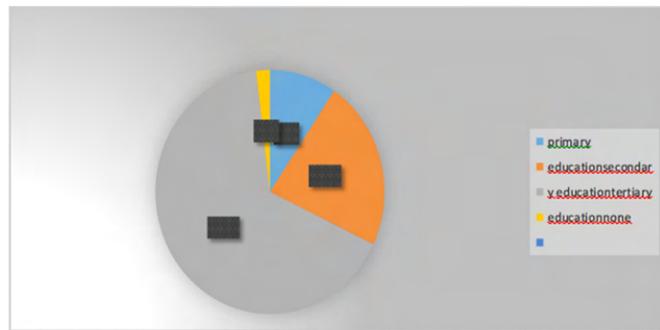
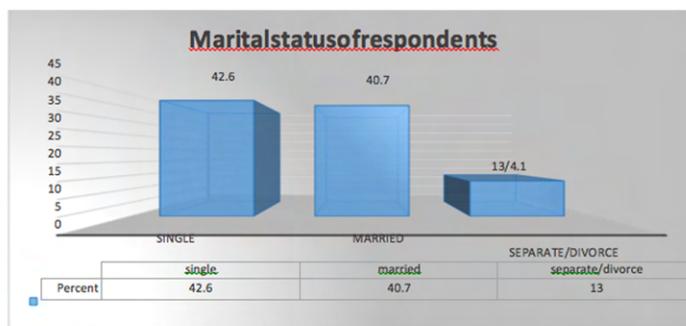


Figure 4 shows the percentage of education levels of the respondents of the study, out of 60 respondents in total 19% percent of the respondents indicated that they only attended primary school, 23% indicated that they went to secondary school, and they are the highest in terms of percentage with tertiary coming second with 66%. To conclude only 2% of the responded had no education.

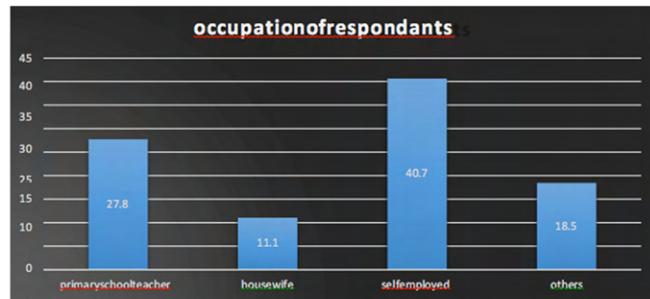
Figure 5. Shows the marital status of the respondents



Source: field data April, 2021

The results obtained from the figure above shows that 40% of the respondents are married, 42.6 % are single, 13% are divorced and 4.1% are widowed. The findings demonstrate that most are married, some are divorced, some are single and a few are widowed.

Figure 6. Occupation of the respondents



The graph above shows that the majority of the respondents are self-employed business people with 40.7% and 27.8% are primary school teachers which are also the main respondents of the research only 11.1% are housewives and 18.5% have other means of getting monetary resource. This shows that the majority of people in Mangochi are involved in business.

Figure 7. The number of the respondent's children that assess Tikwere

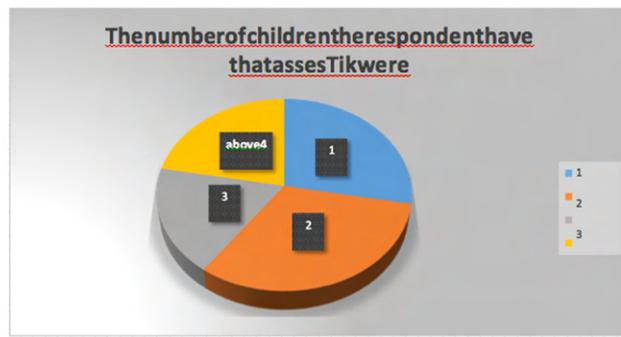
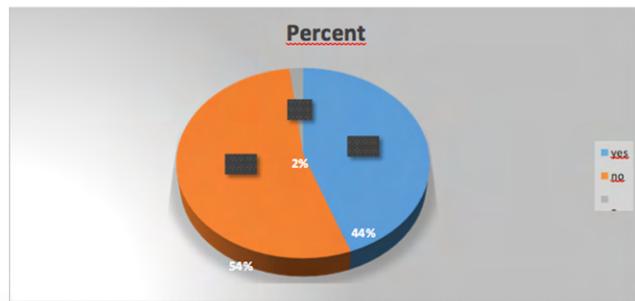


Figure 7 shows the number of children the respondents have that assess Tikwere radio student's programs. According to the figure shows that many 32% of the respondents had 2 children who attended Tikwere, 28% had a single child, 18% had 3 children and 22% of the respondents have above 4 children.

Figure 8. The percentage of the respondents who were aware when Tikwere Student Radio Program was being launched



Source: field data April, 2021

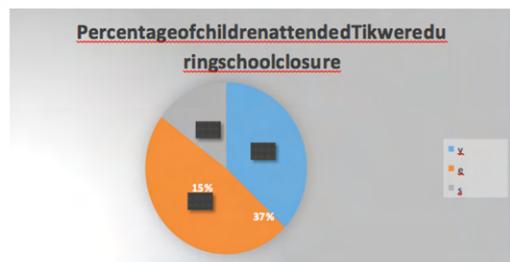
The results obtained from the figure above shows that 44% of the respondents were aware when Tikwere Student Radio Programs was being launched, 54% of the respondents were not aware when the programs were being launched and the remaining 2% did not respond to the question. The findings demonstrate that more than half of the respondents did not know when the program was being launched

Figure 9. The percentage of respondent's children who attended Tikwere Student Radio Programs



The figure 9 above shows the percentage of respondent's children who attend Tikwere programs in general, 44.4% of the respondent's children attend the radio programs, 25.9% of the respondent's children did not attend the programs and the remaining 24.1% they had no idea if their children attend the program at school.

Figure 10. The percentage of children who attended Tikwere Student Radio Programs during the closure of schools because of the pandemic



Source: field data April, 2021

The results obtained from the figure above shows that 48% of the respondent's children did not attend Tikwere student radio programs during the closure of schools because of the pandemic, 37% of the children attended the programs and the remaining 15% did not know if their children attended the program during the closure of schools.

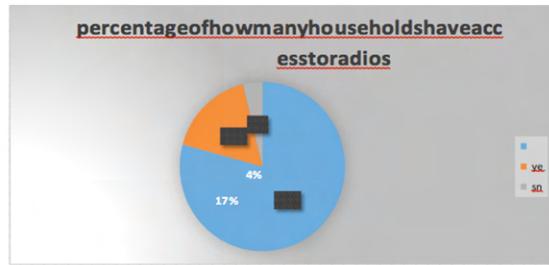
Figure 11. The percentage of how often the children who attended Tikwere Radio Programs



Source: field data April, 2021

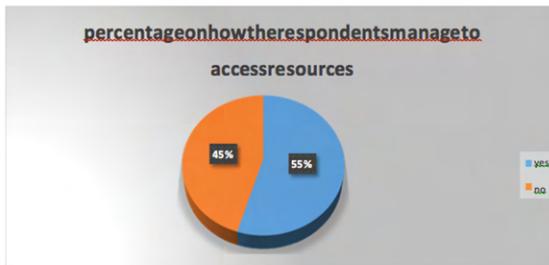
The results obtained from the figure above shows that 48% of the respondent's children did not attend Tikwere student radio programs during the closure of schools, 14.8% attended the programs only once a week, only 5.6% twice a week and the remaining 20.4% attended the program all the weekdays during the closure of schools

Figure 12. Percentage on how many households have an access to radios



The above figure shows that 79% of the respondents has access to radios in their households, as a medium of student radio programs, 17% of the respondents had no access to radio and the remaining 4.5% of the respondents did not answer this question on the questionnaire

Figure 13. The percentage on how the respondents if they managed to have resources for their children to access the Tikwere student radio programs during the pandemic



The above figure shows that 55% of the respondents managed to have the resources for their children to access the program during the pandemic, while the remaining 45% did not manage to have the resources, specifically radios for their children to access Tikwere radio programs, hence a major challenge in the education sector. The above illustration shows the major challenges in acquiring the radio programs during the novel Covid 19 using the questionnaire distributed

TO SUGGEST SOLUTIONS TO THE CURRENT PROBLEMS FACED BY STUDENTS IN ACCESSING TIKWERE STUDENT PROGRAMS

How the government can improve Tikwere student radio program

About 37.8% of respondents indicated that the government of Malawi introduced the tutorial hours of the program, 24.3% indicated that the government allocated funds to make the program more accessible for example a number of radio stations even after learning hours, 24.3% indicted that the government improved the student radio programs distributed more radios in the houses and in communities so that students have higher access to education and the remaining 24.3% suggested by improving the radios frequencies to rural areas.

How the parents can ensure that their children assess Tikwere Student radio programs

Respondents were asked to tell how the parents can ensure that their children can assess Tikwere student programs, 62.2% of the respondents indicated that by monitoring as well as checking the work after a Tikwere programs by punishing their children who are not attending the Tikwere lessons, by simply encouraging all the children to participate and by telling their children how important of participating the radio program and the remaining 37.8% indicted that parents should civic educate their children the importance of Tikwere student radio programs.

SUMMARY

The findings in this chapter indicate that there are several factors that are contributing to the lack of effectiveness of Tikwere student radio programs during Covid 19. The findings of the study show that the strategies are in place to the effectiveness of Tikwere student radio programs however, the study established the dependency relationship between the government of Malawi and various societies in order for radio educational programs to be effective.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Although the research was carefully prepared, there were a number of limitations and shortcomings that were experienced during the data collection. First of all most neglected student radio program during the covid 19 pandemic because, the children were involved in money generating activities ie selling mandazi and doing household chores.

There was limited willingness on the side of the respondents to give desired information because most of them neglected and ignored the researcher thought a report was established. Also as, majority of the community members were illiterate making the research work a problem. To conclude, the study was conducted in rural areas and the findings are not likely to apply the urban areas.

DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS ACCORDING TO THE OBJECTIVES

Challenges faced by students in accessing Tikwere student radio programs during Covid 19 pandemic

Lack of radios in many households

According to the findings of the research, many households of the community do not have the access to radio stations in their household as a result it was difficult for many junior primary school learners to attend the Tikwere student radio programs during the novel Covid 19 pandemic. One of the parents of the children who had this challenge which lead to her children not to attend Tikwere said "I don't have access to a radio for my child to attend the lessons"

According to this questionnaire finding it was noted that many households are poor as such it is hard for them to have a radio due to economic backwardness. This lead to many junior primary students not to attend the Tikwere student radio program hence the program was not effective during the closure of schools because of Covid 19.

Children's Attitude to Education

Most children love to go to school. They are keen to learn and explore but they also need more guidance. The general behavior of primary school children in Malawi is good and results in a high pass rate in the Primary School Leaving Certificate Examinations. Most of the children are willing to listen to their teachers and learn from them, but it is very challenging to teach and control a class of over 100 children and hence

some rowdy behavior still develops. That is why during the Covid 19 pandemic holiday Tikwere student radio program was not effective because children are used that they have to be in class for them to learn not at home.

Infrastructure

Children have to learn under trees because there are more children attending primary schools and not enough classrooms to house the children. As a result, children are being denied the chance to learn under normal conditions due to scarce resources e.g. desks, books, teaching materials etc. Children are also exposed to hardships beyond their age due to lack of classrooms e.g. cold, rain, and wind since most of them are learning outside.

Hygiene

Children have to live in an environment that has very poor sanitation, without proper toilets and clean water sources.

Teachers

The Government has made provisions that for every 60 children there is a teacher allocated but in most cases the teacher pupil ratio is higher.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Having discussed, analyzed and interpreted the data collected in the study, the researcher therefore recommended that

1. Promote vocational training. This will provide parents who their children attend Tikwere with essential skills and knowledge giving them an added advantage in the outside world. Most often the education curriculum is not as attractive or satisfactory to those that are underprivileged. So this would be a way of enticing them to continue going to school. Vocational training will provide them with skills that will help them find employment.
2. Raising awareness in communities. As many parents do not see the value in sending their children to school due to the mindset they inherited or acquired. There is need to put more effort into raising awareness

about the importance of education in communities. This can be done by organizing gatherings or public events. Therefore apart from stating the importance of education, communities should be shown the value of education.

3. Building strong teaching institutions that foster dedication and passion. Teachers play a huge role in the quality of education they give our children. Most of the teacher do not have passion for teaching majority of teachers join the education department because that is where they easily join, therefore the delivery of services is not of high quality since it is not their passion but rather a means to get paid. Most children are not motivated to learn because of their teachers and those in rural locations can easily dropout due to lack of professionalism of teachers.
4. Providing education incentives, this is one way where government can engage with the private sector by providing education incentives, such as scholarships to students that are performing well in school this will motivate the rest of the classmates to work hard. Bursaries can also act as an incentive to students that are in financial need.
5. Government must adapt to using our motherland tongues (language) such as Chichewa, Chitumbuka, Yao just to mention a few when Tikwere programs are being conducted. This will make it much easier for student to catch up quickly; English should be used as a secondary language. A change in language can also spark development and generate income from foreigners seeking to visit the country
6. Invest in illiteracy programs that will cater for parents as well communities to know the disadvantages of not conducting Tikwere programs. These programs will benefit the elderly as well as parents, as this will motivate them further as they will realize the benefits of the programs
7. Engage with policy maker to come up with strategies that will keep children in school for children to become productive citizens in Malawi even when the holidays were prolonged because of Covid 19.

CONCLUSIONS

The corona virus pandemic brought more challenges to the whole world, and it will take time to recover from its effects, so the research on the investigation on the effectiveness of student radio program during covid-19 pandemic.

The research has analyzed that Tikwere was not effective, as such it has made the education sector of Malawian education to face a lot of challenges. In order to curb the spread of the covid-19 pandemic safety measures were put in place and also the restrictions, which restricted people from income generating activities hence much impact of the pandemic on education.

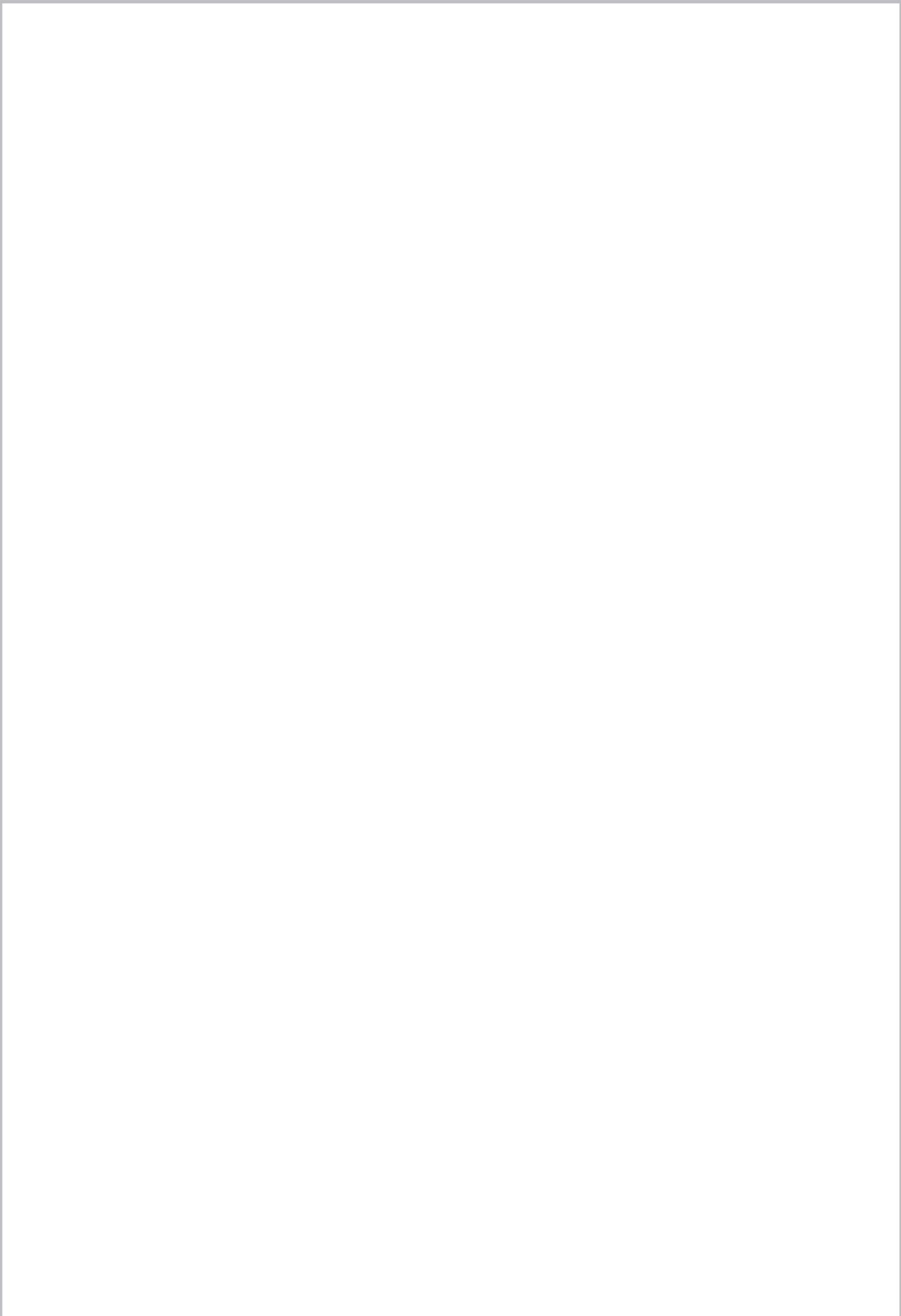
Schools were closed for over six months and children were forced to stay at hence a lot of families could not afford to buy radios for their children to attend Tikwere radio programs. It can be seen in chapter 4 of the research, that many households stressed over their children's education.

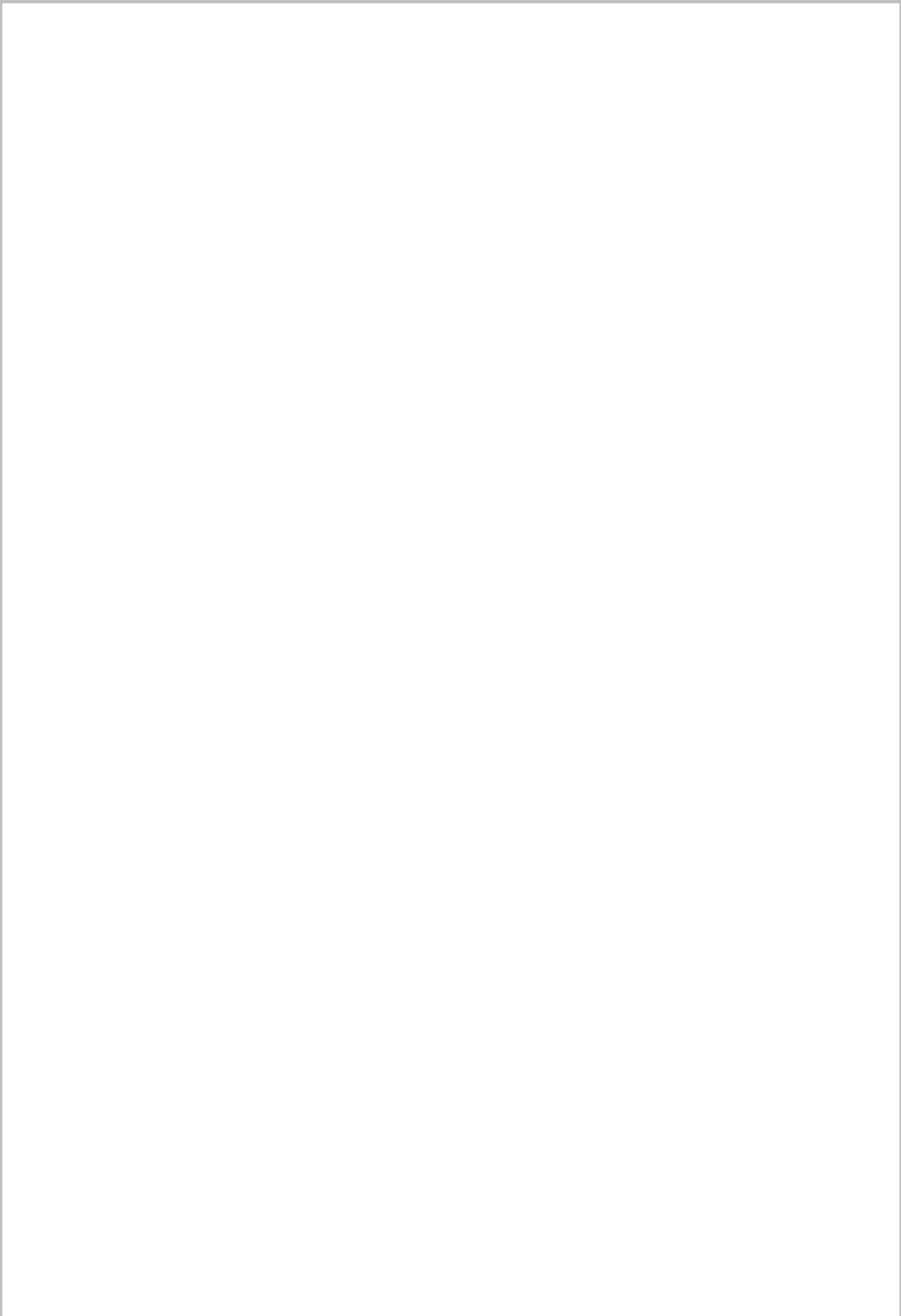
The research has highlighted to the extent of how the pandemic impacted the households, especially the educational sector of families whose children attend Tikwere student radio programs. Out put it in a nutshell, there are many negative impacts of covid-19, hence the purpose of the research has been fulfilled, since all the objectives have been answered and the study was conducted effectively.

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