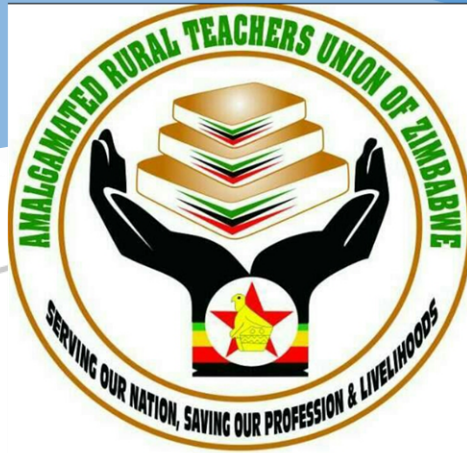


ARTUZ EDUCATION AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT



TITLE:

Investigating the adherence levels to the Standard of Operation Procedures in schools amidst the Corona Virus disease (Covid-19) pandemic.

ABSTRACT:

Research has proven the Covid-19 pathogen as a highly contagious disease that can be transmitted through air and having contact with infected people and contaminated surfaces. The World Health Organization (WHO) set standard measures to prevent the spread of the disease which include preserving social distancing, and use of alcohol-based sanitizers when washing hands and surfaces. In Zimbabwe, the pandemic disease induced a lockdown which disrupted the national academic calendar for the year 2020. Schools were closed on the 24th of March. In a bid to mitigate the Covid-19 induced crisis, the government of Zimbabwe eased the lockdown restrictions resulting in the reopening of schools six months after imposing the lockdown. According to the ARTUZ investigation, the reopening of schools was done without the government supplying adequate resources to curb the spread of the pandemic disease in public schools. In all the ten provinces of Zimbabwe, about twenty schools per province were inspected to check if the schools adhere to the WHO stipulated guidelines of Covid-19 prevention. The ARTUZ investigation also sought to check on the schools' adherence to the Standard of Operation Procedures (SOP) that was crafted by the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education (MoPSE) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC). The outcome of the ARTUZ investigation reflected that all sampled schools were Covid-19 danger zones because of shortages of required resources to reduce the spread of the pandemic disease.

INTRODUCTION

The Covid-19 pandemic resulted in more than 1.4 billion children's schools closed particularly during the times when there were extensive lockdown restrictions put in place by governments. New technology-based measures have been developed in most developed countries to continue the learning process. This positive development from the recent technological revolution supports the resilience to shocks in education, a key human development dimension. The newly developed offsite learning mechanisms appear to be centred on the availability of internet in respective residential areas for the targeted learners. Despite the emergence of new technologies to support continuous learning for learners in Zimbabwe's education system was already troubled before the Covid-19 pandemic as a result of multiple crises, including the impact of Cyclone Idai in 2019, the economic crisis, and the austerity measures under the Transitional Stabilization Program, corruption and persistent droughts. According to the Zimbabwean education cluster report, before the onset of the Covid-19 epidemic, of more than 3.4 million children of school-going age (3 to 12 years), at least 1.2 million (35 per cent), would need emergency and specialized education services in 2020. This includes more than 853,000 children in acute need, such as: children not enrolled in school; orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC), including children with disabilities and children living with HIV; and those in need of school feeding.

In the Zimbabwean context, the custodians of the education system did not build the structures that facilitate continuous learning in a multifaceted crisis such as that induced by the Covid-19 pandemic disease. In some other countries there was a smooth transition of the learning process from onsite to online because their governments had already been given full support in adopting new technologies in the education sector. Access to education was severely compromised since Zimbabwe has no remote learning policy, no supporting infrastructure and teachers are incapacitated to deliver remote learning. According to the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education 2018 education statistics report, 20.02% of primary schools have internet connectivity, with a higher percentage of 39.67% for secondary schools. The unavailability of the internet has made internet-based learning impossible. Internet Data Costs are beyond the reach of the majority of our poverty-stricken populace. Only learners in the P1 and S1 elite schools, have access to effective internet-based remote learning. These disparities in access to education further entrench inequality and exacerbate poverty in the long term. There is a great risk that some learners may permanently drop out of schools if schools remain closed for too long.

Unlike in developed countries where most learners have access to internet services, the Covid-19 driven lockdown in Zimbabwe affected the learning process of about 5 million learners due to unavailability of structures that support

online learning. The majority of learners who were affected come from poor families or rural areas on the borders of Zimbabwe. Among the affected learners are teachers, nurses and indigenous business peoples' sons and daughters.

Zimbabwe's education system heavily relies on the physical classroom as the chief means of delivering learning instruction. We do not have a remote learning policy, nor are we teachers skilled to deliver remote learning and we also do not have supporting infrastructure. When schools closed, an estimated 5% of our around 5 million learners were able to receive effective formal instruction through internet-based remote learning. The government's intervention of using radio and television was not fully effective because it was centralized. The intervention never provided for feedback from learners and was not systematic. It is apparent that 95% of our learners lost six months of learning. This time has to be compensated for, if learners are going to be adequately prepared for examinations.

METHODOLOGY:

1. Inspectors were randomly selected from ARTUZ teachers stationed in twenty districts across the ten provinces of Zimbabwe.
2. Inspectors received online training on Covid-19 WHO stipulated guidelines and the Zimbabwean schools SOP module.
3. Checklist questions were made and transformed into a SOP adherence questionnaire.
4. Twenty schools were randomly picked from all the ten provinces in Zimbabwe for monitoring levels of adherence to the SOP.
5. The questionnaire was posted on ARTUZ whatsapp platforms for teachers to assess their respective schools.
6. Selected Inspectors and ordinary ARTUZ members carried out the monitoring exercise on schools in their respective districts and stations.
7. Inspectors worked out overall scores attained at each school and calculated the adherence level as a percentage.
8. Percentages of adherence were averaged to come up with an estimated adherence percentage for districts, provinces and the whole nation.
9. Individual schools were rated using an ARTUZ Covid-19 colour coded risk chart.
10. Campaigns to expose the risks in schools in line with the spread of Covid-19 pandemic disease.

RESULTS:

MASHONALAND EAST

GOROMONZI DISTRICT

NAME OF SCHOOL	ADHERENCE %GE	COLOUR CODE & INTERPRETATION
MUNENGA PRIMARY	31%	RED LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19
CHIBVUTI PRIMARY	30%	RED LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19
CHIBVUTI SECONDARY	31%	RED LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19
CHABWINO SECONDARY	35%	ORANGE LOW SALARY ZONE AND FAIRLY SAFE FROM COVID-19
HOWSON PRIMARY	37%	ORANGE LOW SALARY ZONE AND FAIRLY SAFE FROM COVID-19
E GUTI PRIMARY	37%	ORANGE LOW SALARY ZONE AND FAIRLY SAFE FROM COVID-19
MUTANHURWA SECONDARY	37%	ORANGE LOW SALARY ZONE AND FAIRLY SAFE FROM COVID-19
TSATSE PRIMARY	52%	ORANGE LOW SALARY ZONE AND FAIRLY SAFE FROM COVID-19
TSATSE SECONDARY	40%	ORANGE LOW SALARY ZONE AND FAIRLY SAFE FROM COVID-19
GROOVE PRIMARY	33%	RED LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19

GOROMONZI DIST AVE SCORE = \sum schools scores/number of schools

$$= (31\%+30\%+31\%+35\%+37\%+37\%+52\%+40\%+33\%)/10$$

$$= \underline{\underline{32.6\%}}$$

MUDZI DISTRICT

NAME OF SCHOOL	ADHERENCE %GE	COLOUR CODE & INTERPRETATION
CHIFAMBA,	28%	PURPLE LOW SALARY ZONE WITH EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID 19
DENDERA HIGH	60%	ORANGE LOW SALARY ZONE AND FAIRLY SAFE FROM COVID-19
, MASARAKUFA,	30%	RED LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19
NYAMAPANDA,	35%	RED LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19
KOTWA HIGH,	45%	ORANGE LOW SALARY ZONE AND FAIRLY SAFE FROM COVID-19
DENDERA PRIMARY	32%	RED LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19
DENDERA DAY	22%	PURPLE LOW SALARY ZONE WITH EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID 19
CHINGWENA PRIMARY	14%	PURPLE LOW SALARY ZONE WITH EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID 19
KARONGA PRIMARY	22%	PURPLE LOW SALARY ZONE WITH EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID 19
KARONGA SECONDARY	36%	ORANGE LOW SALARY ZONE AND FAIRLY SAFE FROM COVID-19

MUDZI DISTRICT AVE SCORE= \sum MUDZI SCORES OF SAMPLED SCHOOLS /NUMBER OF SAMPLES

$$= (28\%+60\%+30\%+35\%+45\%+32\%+22\%+14\%+22\%+36\%)/10$$

$$= \underline{\underline{32.4\%}}$$

Mash west:

Zvimba district

NAME OF SCHOOL	ADHERENCE %GE	COLOUR CODE & INTERPRETATION
MUROMBEDZI PRIMARY	42%	ORANGE LOW SALARY ZONE AND FAIRLY SAFE FROM COVID-19
MATORANHEMBE PRIMARY	26%	RED LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19
MATORANHEMBE SECONDARY	44.6%	ORANGE LOW SALARY ZONE AND FAIRLY SAFE FROM COVID-19
MHANDU SECONDARY	21%	PURPLE LOW SALARY ZONE WITH EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID 19
GOREDEMA PRIMARY	21.3%	PURPLE LOW SALARY ZONE WITH EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID 19
MUROMBEDZI SECONDARY	28%	RED LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19
MUROMBEDZI PRIMARY	42.6%	ORANGE LOW SALARY ZONE AND FAIRLY SAFE FROM COVID-19
ALPHA BRICK PRIMARY	35.3%	ORANGE LOW SALARY ZONE AND FAIRLY SAFE FROM COVID-19
ALPHA BRICK SECONDARY	22.7%	PURPLE LOW SALARY ZONE WITH EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID 19
chikaka secondary	28%	RED LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19

ZVIMBA DISTRICT AVE SCORE = \sum ZVIMBA SCHOLS SCORES/NUMBER OF SAMPLED SCHOOLS

$$=(42\%+26\%+44.6\%+21\%+21.3\%+28\%+42.6\%+35.3\%+22.7\%+28\%)/10$$

=31.15%

Hurungwe District

NAME OF SCHOOL	ADHERENCE %GE	COLOUR CODE & INTERPRETATION
MUDZIMU HIGH,	33%	RED LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19
MUDZIMU PRIMARY	43%	RED LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19
CHITIKI PRIMARY	27%	RED LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19
NJENGENJA PRIMARY	34%	RED LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19
MENOEMBWA PRIMARY	53%	ORANGE LOW SALARY ZONE AND FAIRLY SAFE FROM COVID-19
MENOEMBWA SECONDARY	40%	RED LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19
MAHWADA SECONDARY	33%	RED LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19
MAHWADA PRIMARY	26%	RED LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19
DZIMAIHWE SECONDARY	18%	PURPLE LOW SALARY ZONE WITH EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID 19
DZIMAIHWE PRIMARY	13%	PURPLE LOW SALARY ZONE WITH EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID 19

HURUNGWE DIST AVE = \sum SCHOOLS SCORE/NUMBER OF SCHOOL

$$= (33\%+43\%+27\%+34\%+53\%+40\%+33\%+26\%+18\%+13\%)/10$$

$$= \underline{\underline{28.6\%}}$$

Mashonaland central:

Shamva

NAME OF SCHOOL	ADHERENCE %GE	COLOUR CODE & INTERPRETATION
SHAMVA GOLD MINE SECONDARY,	50%	ORANGE LOW SALARY ZONE AND FAIRLY SAFE FROM COVID-19
SHAMVA GOLD MINE PRIMARY	40%	RED LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19
WADZANAI HIGH	24%	PURPLE LOW SALARY ZONE WITH EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID 19
WADZANAI 1 PRIMARY	36%	RED LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19
WADZANAI 2 PRIMARY	24%	PURPLE LOW SALARY ZONE WITH EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID 19
LDV PRIMARY	53%	ORANGE LOW SALARY ZONE AND FAIRLY SAFE FROM COVID-19
CHIWORE PRIMARY	26%	PURPLE LOW SALARY ZONE WITH EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID 19
JITI HIGH	33%	RED LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19
JITI PRIMARY	38%	RED LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19
Mingchang primary	40%	RED LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19

SHAMVA DIST AVE SCORE= \sum SCHOOLS SCORE/NUMBER OF SCHOOL

$$= (50\%+40\%+24\%+36\%+24\%+53\%+26\%+33\%+38\%+40\%)/10$$

$$= \underline{\underline{36.4\%}}$$

Matebeleland north:

Lupane district

NAME OF SCHOOL	ADHERENCE %GE	COLOUR CODE & INTERPRETATION
PUPU SECONDARY	16%	PURPLE LOW SALARY ZONE WITH EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID 19
GOBHI PRIMARY	22%	PURPLE LOW SALARY ZONE WITH EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID 19
MPAHLWA PRIMARY	25%	PURPLE LOW SALARY ZONE WITH EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID 19
MAKUNI PRIMARY	35%	RED LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19
MAKUNI PRIMARY	30%	RED LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19
SIBAMBENE HIGH	51%	ORANGE LOW SALARY ZONE AND FAIRLY SAFE FROM COVID-19
TSHEBETSHEBE PRIMARY	44%	RED LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19
MBONDO PRIMARY	23%	PURPLE LOW SALARY ZONE WITH EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID 19
GOMOZA PRIMARY	17%	PURPLE LOW SALARY ZONE WITH EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID 19
NDIMIMBILI PRIMARY	55%	ORANGE LOW SALARY ZONE AND FAIRLY SAFE FROM COVID-19

LUPANE DIST AVE SCORE = \sum SCHOOLS SCORE/NUMBER OF SCHOOLS

$$= (16\%+22\%+25\%+35\%+30\%+51\%+44\%+23\%+17\%+55\%)/10$$

$$= \mathbf{31.8\%}$$

Matebeleland south:

UMZINGWANI DISTRICT

NAME OF SCHOOL	ADHERENCE %GE	COLOUR CODE & INTERPRETATION
MAWABENI SECONDARY	23%	PURPLE LOW SALARY ZONE WITH EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID 19
MAWABENI PRIMARY	44%	ORANGE LOW SALARY ZONE AND FAIRLY SAFE FROM COVID-19
MZINYATHI PRIMARY	20%	PURPLE LOW SALARY ZONE WITH EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID 19
MZINYATHINI HIGH	29%	PURPLE LOW SALARY ZONE WITH EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID 19
MZINGWANE HIGH	30%	RED LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19
MVUTHU SECONDARY	18%	PURPLE LOW SALARY ZONE WITH EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID 19
MVUTHU PRIMARY	43%	ORANGE LOW SALARY ZONE AND FAIRLY SAFE FROM COVID-19
MLOMOLIHOTO PRIMARY	20%	PURPLE LOW SALARY ZONE WITH EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID 19
ESIKHOVENI SECONDARY	11%	PURPLE LOW SALARY ZONE WITH EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID 19
NSEZI SECONDARY	28%	RED LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19

UMZINGWANI DIS AVERAGE= \sum SCHOOLS SCORE/NUMBER OF SCHOOLS

$$= (23\%+44\%+20\%+29\%+30\%+18\%+43\%+20\%+11\%+28\%)/10$$

$$=\underline{\underline{26.6\%}}$$

MASVINGO

CHIVI

NAME OF SCHOOL	ADHERENCE %GE	COLOUR CODE & INTERPRETATION
MASUNDA NORTH SECONDARY	44%	ORANGE LOW SALARY ZONE AND FAIRLY SAFE FROM COVID-19
MASUNDA NORTH PRIMARY	42.7%	ORANGE LOW SALARY ZONE AND FAIRLY SAFE FROM COVID-19
MADANGOMBE HIGH	37%	ORANGE LOW SALARY ZONE AND FAIRLY SAFE FROM COVID-19
MADANGOMBE PRIMARY	42%	ORANGE LOW SALARY ZONE AND FAIRLY SAFE FROM COVID-19
RUMINYA HIGH	46%	ORANGE LOW SALARY ZONE AND FAIRLY SAFE FROM COVID-19
RUMINYA SECONDARY	16%	PURPLE LOW SALARY ZONE WITH EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID 19
JENYA HIGH	45%	ORANGE LOW SALARY ZONE AND FAIRLY SAFE FROM COVID-19
JENYA PRIMARY	32%	RED LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19
MADA PRIMARY	22%	PURPLE LOW SALARY ZONE WITH EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID 19
MADA SECONDARY	19%	PURPLE LOW SALARY ZONE WITH EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID 19

CHIVI DIST AVE = $\sum \text{SCHOOLS SCORE} / \text{NUMBER OF SCHOOLS}$

$$= (44\% + 42.7\% + 37\% + 42\% + 46\% + 16\% + 45\% + 32\% + 22\% + 19\%) / 10$$

$$= \underline{\underline{34.57\%}}$$

MANICALAND

MUTASA DISTRICT

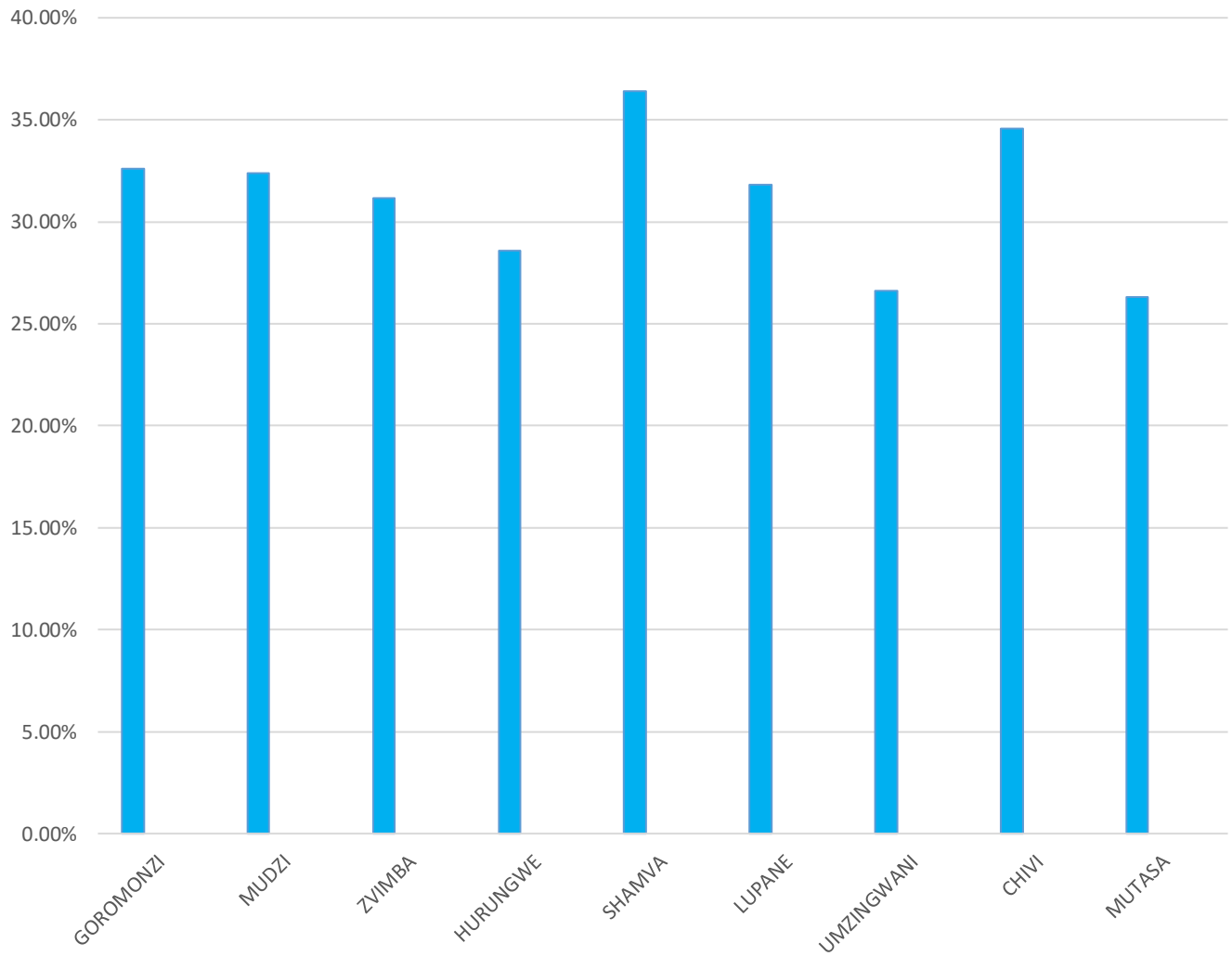
NAME OF SCHOOL	ADHERENCE %GE	COLOUR CODE & INTERPRETATION
NYAMHINGURA PRIMARY	10%	PURPLE LOW SALARY ZONE WITH EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID 19
SAGAMBE SECONDARY	15%	PURPLE LOW SALARY ZONE WITH EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID 19
CHIRARWE PRIMARY	22%	PURPLE LOW SALARY ZONE WITH EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID 19
CHIRARWE SECONDARY	35%	PURPLE LOW SALARY ZONE WITH EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID 19
NYAMANDE PRIMARY	21%	RED LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19
MUNDENDA PRIMARY	38%	RED LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19
ST PETERS	40%	RED LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19
MANDEYA PRIMARY	21%	PURPLE LOW SALARY ZONE WITH EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID 19
MANDEYA PRIMARY	24%	PURPLE LOW SALARY ZONE WITH EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID 19
BVUMBA SECONDARY	37%	RED LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19

MUTASA DIST AVE SCORE= \sum SCHOOLS SCORE/NUMBER OF SCHOOLS






$$= (10\%+15\%+22\%+35\%+21\%+38\%+40\%+21\%+24\%+37\%)/10$$

$$= \underline{\underline{26.3\%}}$$

SAMPLED DISTRICT SCORES ON SOP ADEHERANCE



THE ABOVE GRAPH SUMMARIZES THE CALCULATED %GE LEVELS OF ADHERANCE OF DISTRICT SCHOOLS IN SAMPLED FOR MONITORING. THE CALCULATIONS SHOW THAT THERE IS A VERY HIGH RISK OF THE SPREAD ODF THE SPORADIC VIRUS IN SCHOOLS WHICH IS IN TURN A THREAT TO COMMUNITIES AS LEANERS, TAECHERS AND THE NON-TEACHING STAFF INTERACT WITH MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY ON DIFFERENT PLATFORMS. THERE IS NO DISTRICT THAT IS OPERATING AT SOP ADHERANCE OF 50%.

		<u>colour codes</u>
 <p>A check list has been prepared from the standard operating procedures produced by Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education. The checklist will be used by our volunteers to evaluate school safety.</p> <p>All public schools are graded low salary zone. The COVID 19 rating will be used to alert parents, learners and visitors of COVID 19 ratings. Purple, Red, Orange and Green are the colour codes to be used.</p>		<p>Goromonzi district: 32.6%</p> <p>RED</p> <p>LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19</p>
		<p>Mudzi district: 32.4%</p> <p>RED</p> <p>LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19</p>
		<p>Zvimba district: 37.15% RED</p> <p>LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19</p>
		<p>Hurungwe district: 28.6% RED</p> <p>LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19</p>
 <p>LOW SALARY ZONE WITH EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID19</p> <p>Schools which are failing to meet the bare minimums of safety. A score of less than 25 % means the school is extremely hazardous to COVID19 exposure. Colour code purple will be displayed.</p>	 <p>LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID 19.</p> <p>A score between 25% and 45% means school poses hazardous exposure to COVID 19. Color code red will be used for this category.</p>	<p>Shamva district: 36.4%</p> <p>RED</p> <p>LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19</p>
		<p>Lupine district: 31.8%</p> <p>RED</p> <p>LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19</p>
		<p>Umzingwani district:</p> <p>RED</p> <p>LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19</p>
 <p>LOW SALARY AND FAIRLY SAFE FROM COVID 19 EXPOSURE.</p> <p>Schools scoring from 45% to 75% are deemed to be fairly safe from COVID 19 exposure. Colour code orange will be used for these schools.</p>	 <p>LOW SALARY ZONE SAFE FROM COVID 19 EXPOSURE</p> <p>Schools which score over 75% are classified as safe from COVID 19 exposure. Such schools will be assigned green colour code.</p>	<p>Chivi district: 34.57%</p> <p>RED</p> <p>LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19</p>
		<p>Mutasa district: 26.3%</p> <p>RED</p> <p>LOW SALARY ZONE WITH HAZARDOUS EXPOSURE TO COVID-19</p>

DISTRICTS AND RISK COLOUR CODES

Discussion:

The investigation was carried out efficiently though there were quite a number of factors that affected the gathering of data. Of major interest on factors affecting the investigation was accessibility of schools for inspection. Some school administrators denied the ARTUZ inspectors access to schools for onsite inspection. The stance of the school administrators was driven by fear of victimization from those who regard ARTUZ as a regime change agent. Some administrators did not appreciate that ARTUZ is a well-recognized teachers' union hence denied access to schools in demand of a letter of clearance from respective education district offices. Considering the fact that the government used state media to portray high level of preparedness for schools reopening, administrators feared that the inspection results would be published and expose the government on how it failed to supply adequate resources to curb the spreading of the pandemic disease. Apart from being denied access to schools, inspectors had challenges in visiting other schools because of their spatial distribution. Online assessments in schools which denied inspectors access to schools was conducted done through liaising with teachers stationed at the inaccessible schools. The inspection managed to cover all provinces hence the sampled schools represent the real situation in all the public schools in Zimbabwe. To extend the coverage of the exercise, ARTUZ members received questionnaires to inspect their respective schools and hence increased the number of schools inspected.

Considering the findings from the monitoring, the implementation of the SOP is compromised, thereby making schools unsafe as far as the spread of the Covid-19 is concerned. About 95% of the schools inspected scored a mark below 50%. This confirms the fact that schools are not ready to operate amidst the Covid-19 pandemic. The poor scores attained by the majority of schools were due to negligence of the government in supporting schools for the reopening post Covid-19 lockdown. The findings highlight that prerequisite procedures for safely operating schools were abandoned. About 75% of the inspected schools were not fumigated yet they were used as quarantine centres. Most schools were found to be unsafe as they did not have running water, personal protective equipment (PPEs), an adequate supply of sanitizers, health personnel in the schools and enough infrastructure to facilitate social distancing during lessons and examinations.

Onsite inspections carried out at boarding schools, day schools and schools undertaking hot seating schemes at both primary and secondary level, exposed that 90% of schools are having difficulty in altering the master timetable to cater for the staggering of commencement, break, lunch and dismissal times for learners at different levels in schools. To add to the onsite observations, it was noted that the movement of learners from their respective homes was not monitored hence increasing the chance of spreading the Corona Virus, observations revealed that day scholars use their own means of transport to and from school. The SOP documents emphasized that the government would deploy buses to specifically ferry learners to and from school, but on the ground, it was observed that learners have been using public transport. Observations highlighted that there was poor hygiene particularly in flush toilets because of inadequate supplies of running water, especially in urban and peri-urban schools. All rural schools adopted the use of Blair toilets before the pandemic disease outbreak. Amidst the pandemic it was found out that schools could not afford to conduct regular fumigations and sanitization of surfaces around the toilets.

In summary, of all the districts and individual schools' comprehensive reports from onsite and online inspections, worked questionnaires proved that less than 10% of all the sampled schools attained marks above 50%. The reports proved that 60% of the schools are low salary zones with extremely hazardous exposure to Covid-19, 28.5 % are low salary zones with hazardous exposure to Covid-19, 1.5% of the schools are low salary zones with fairly safe environments to the Covid-19 and none of the public schools are abiding by the SOP.

The reports from the executors of the monitoring exercise recommend that government should not enforce normalcy and safety from Covid-19 in public schools but rather call off all programs for the academic year 2020. The monitors in their reports urged the government to avail enough funds to facilitate partaking of corrective measures. Adherence to the SOP can only be achieved if schools are supplied with sufficient resources required to meet the SOP stipulated standards. Predictions from the reports stated that if the current state of Covid-19 preventative measures is not addressed, Zimbabwe will experience surges in the number of Covid-19 positive cases.

Conclusion

90% of public schools in Zimbabwe are not adhering to the SOP, therefore, schools are not safe from the Covid-19 virus. It is, therefore, advisable to shutdown schools and get rid of the catastrophe associated with Covid-19. 10% of schools are fairly safe from Covid-19 but not absolutely safe from the spread of Covid-19.