

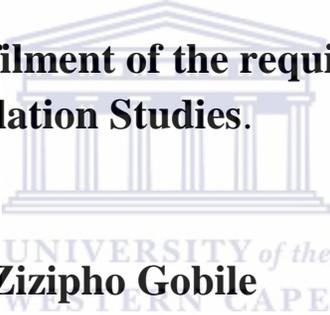
# UNIVERSITY OF THE WESTERN CAPE

**Faculty of Natural Sciences**

**Department of Statistics and Population studies**

**Being a mother and owning an informal hairdressing  
business in Cape Town, South Africa: A study on Congolese  
female migrants.**

**A thesis submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the award of  
an MPhil degree in Population Studies.**



**By Zizipho Gobile**

**Supervised by: Prof. Gabriel Tati**

**November 2015**

## DECLARATION

I hereby declare that **Being a mother and owning an informal hairdressing business in Cape Town, South Africa: A study on Congolese female migrants** is my own work, that it has not been previously submitted for any degree or examination in any other university or institution of higher education, and that all sources I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by complete references.

**Zizipho Gobile**      **November 2015**

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_



## KEYWORDS

Entrepreneurship

Informal sector

Female migration

Motherhood

Hair platting

Democratic Republic of Congo

Financial autonomy

Entrepreneurial migration



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to give my first thanks to God for giving me strength and courage to finish this work

My second thanks goes to my supervisor Prof Gabriel Tati for his constant push and encouragement through his advice and comments.

I would also like to thank my family for their constant support and encouragement throughout the period of this work.



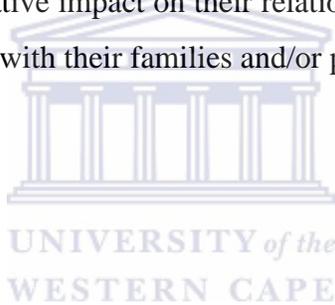
## DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my mother Noteke Regina Gobile, who taught me the value of education through her passion for education. Her sacrifices and prayers are greatly appreciated and may God continue to bless her.



## ABSTRACT

This study investigates how female migrants negotiate the tension that arises from being entrepreneurs, being mothers, and having families. It shows how entrepreneurship offers them self-emancipation but limits the time they spend raising their children and time they spend with their families, but puts them in a position to provide financially for themselves, their children, and families. The focus of the study is on Congolese female migrant and also females from few African countries. It is hypothesized that female migration and entrepreneurship negatively impacts the relationships of these females with their children and families. Data was obtained through a survey of fifty-three respondents who were conveniently selected. This took place in the Western Cape Province, taking Cape Town, Bellville, and Parow as the cities to be observed. The statistical package for social sciences was used to analyze data. The results showed that female entrepreneurship has a negative impact on their relationships with their children but to an extent improves their relationships with their families and/or partners.

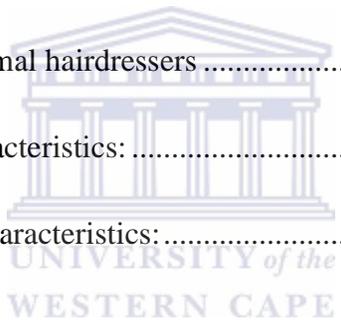


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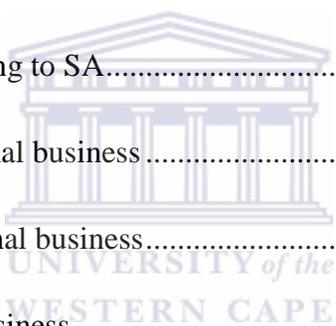
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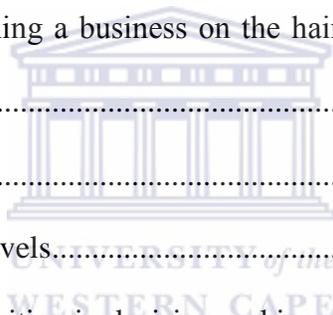


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## ACRONYMS

**COB:** Country of Birth

**DRC:** Democratic Republic of Congo

**SA:** South Africa

**SPSS:** Statistical Package for Social Sciences



## CHAPTER ONE

### 1 Introduction and setting of the study

#### 1.1 General background

The number of migrants coming to South Africa, particularly those coming from the African continent, has increased since the early 1990s, and even more increase has been seen after the first democratic elections of 1994 (Kok, Gelderblom, Oucho & Van Zyl, 2006). This meant that the relationship South Africa had with the African countries took a change; it was no longer Black South African politicians taking refuge in neighboring countries it was now people from neighboring countries who are migrating to South Africa for a better living. “Despite deficiencies in migration statistics it is clear that at the global level, the numerical importance of female migration has been comparable to men” (Randenberg, 1993). Evident in South Africa females are part of migration and their numbers are evidently increasing. Since 1994 it has also been visible that the migration of independent females is on the rise.

Getting into the labor market of South Africa is highly difficult and close to impossible for these female migrants. Due to the high number of informal businesses in cities and the ease of access to this sector female migrants turn to this sector to make a living in South Africa. And the hairdressing industry is one of the largest industries that female migrants get into and it is composed mostly of these female migrants than South African females.

#### 1.2 Problem statement

Most of these female migrants get into the informal sector in South Africa. Many of these female migrants are in hairdressing and they own their own informal hairdressing businesses. And they find hairdressing as a suitable means of survival. Looking at Congolese female migrants, even

though they are from Congo they have different socio-economic, political, and cultural backgrounds; they find different ways of adapting in the cities and sustain a living. Most studies in the field of female migration and female entrepreneurship tend to focus on the impact migration has on them socially and economically and most studies still view female migrants as silent migrants; only moving because of family or to get married or to join husband. Little attention has been paid to the tension between the responsibilities they have that they are faced with; like, taking care of children and working long hours in the informal sector of a foreign country trying to provide for themselves and their families.

### **1.3 Aim of the study**

The aim of this study is to show how female Congolese migrants deal with the task of finding a balance between being self-employed, working long hours and being mothers. It explores how Congolese females who are in the informal industry deal with the responsibilities that arise from being entrepreneurs and having domestic relationships. It therefore seeks to explore ways in which female migrants that are mothers get to be entrepreneurs and how they manage the responsibilities that come with those two titles and the tension between them. The study does this by to answering the following questions:

### **1.4 Research questions**

The study seeks to answer the following questions:

1. Is the hairdressing industry easily accessible to the Congolese female migrants?
2. To what extent is self-employment beneficial to these migrant women?
3. In what ways does the career conflict with parenting and domestic relations?

### **1.5 Justification of the study**

A lot of research has been done on female migration and female entrepreneurship which is the area of this study, but not much has been done on the relationship between female entrepreneurship and motherhood of female migrants especially on informal hairdressing industry. More so, little has been done on Congolese female migrants in the informal hairdressing industry in South Africa. This researcher believes that female migrants in South Africa depend on self-employment for their survival and therefore argues that they contribute more to the creation of jobs.

## **1.6 Theoretical background**

This study makes use of different views put forward by different authors as theoretical structure. The first view is by Randenberg (1993) of emancipation and subordination; in the view of emancipation Randenberg (1993) states that owning an informal business or even participation in the labor market and earning an income bring migrant females a sense of liberation. Being able to contribute economically to the family gives these female migrants a sense of autonomy, economic freedom, a sense of self-worth or confidence. At the same time this brings about a challenge of the female taking on multiple roles in the family (being a home makers and a breadwinner), which poses a problem for the males in the family or the partner because they feel their roles taken and their worth in question. On the other hand Randenberg (1993) states that participation in the labor market or entrepreneurship brings about subordination to the women, especially those who moved with their families or partners, because they are opposed by the society or by the culture and values or norms of the family. In this case, the foreign women, instead of getting economic freedom their incomes are controlled by the family or the partner or husband and they dictate what is done with the income. This is done to keep the women under the control of the males in the family or the partners or so that they do not take the roles of the

males or partners. The second view posed by Erel (2002) maintains that many mothers who migrate leave their children behind. Erel (2002) argues that the separation of children from mothers because of the long working hours brings conflict to mothers and children, and for the mothers who migrate and leave their children behind it brings even sharper conflict to these mothers and children. This is especially true to the societies with the tendency of holding mothers sole caregivers of their children. The last view is by Drine and Grach (2011) in which they believe that female responsibilities (fertility schedule, children and families) are what cause conflict with the job. They state that a woman's family responsibilities are a major constraint to her becoming an entrepreneur.

This study is based on the following hypotheses in relation to the questions posed above:

1. Entering the informal hairdressing industry is relatively easy for female migrants.
2. Starting their own informal hairdressing business is more advantageous in the sense that they do not go through all the screening they would go through if they were looking for employment.
3. The long hours put in the business negatively affect parenting and domestic relations.
4. To a large extent the gender of the migrants play a big role to the choice of economic activity.
5. Owning a business has positive effects on the livelihood of the migrants.
6. Congolese females rely on family, friends, and other Congolese migrants for economical support and experience needed to start their businesses.

### **1.7 Delimitations of the study**

This study was conducted using Cape Town as the geographical setting. It focuses on Congolese female immigrants as they constitute the female immigrants in the informal hairdressing industry

in urban South Africa and female migrants from some other African countries were also included.

### **1.8 Data collection**

Data was collected through observations and interviews that were conducted by the student herself. The sampling method used was purposive. This took place in the Western Cape Province, with Cape Town CBD, Bellville, and Parow as the sites that were observed. The researcher aimed to get 50 respondents to the questionnaire. The respondents were conveniently selected.

### **1.9 Definition of key concepts**

- **Entrepreneurship** is the ability and enthusiasm to develop, organize and manage a business endeavor along with any of its risks in order to make a profit.
- **Informal sector** is a sector which includes all jobs or businesses which are not recognized as normal income sources, and on which taxes are not paid.
- **Female migration** is the act of moving of females from one place to the next, moving from one country to the next.
- **Motherhood** is the state of having a baby and caring for him or her to grow up.

### **1.10 Structure of dissertation**

This study is made out of five major chapters namely: Introduction and setting; Literature review, methodology, results, and discussion and conclusion. The first chapter positions the framework of the study. It lays the foundation on which the whole study is built. The second chapter reviews some of the literature on female migration and working in the informal sector (namely; the hairdressing industry) and motherhood and tries to examine the tension between.

Chapter three discusses the processes and procedure that were taken in this study while chapter four presents the findings from site observations and interviews. Chapter five gives a discussion of the data analyzed and conclusion of the study in relation to the research questions and hypothesis and also draws from the results to suggest some recommendations.



## CHAPTER TWO:

### 2 LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Theoretical framework

From the literature review done, there are theories in relation to female migration, female entrepreneurship and motherhood. It is evident that theories on the issues of female migration are very few since this area of study just recently became of enough interest to do independent studies on. I will mention theories that I came across in the review of literature and views from some authors that I consider theoretical.

First is a widely accepted economic framework for migration, according to this framework the most important reason for migration is the probability of finding a job that pays a better wage at the destination than origin. According to Randenberg (1993) this theory has not been arbitrated appropriate for the study of female migration, since it has been proposed that women are most of the time driven to migrate for other reasons than purely economic reasons.

Second is the theory of agency and social networking, this theory holds that networks facilitate migration and finding a job in the place of destination. The gendered labor market is found to have substantial impact on the social networking of migrant families, where females play a significant role in the mobilization and access of social networks (Neetha, 2004). The networks also define the social arena and helps in creating identity and social dignity in the lives of female migrants in the informal labor market. Agency and networking are the most important way of access to employment opportunities in the foreign land.

Lastly is a framework that migration studies are based on one of two paradigms deriving from opposing ideological views. The first focuses on the individual migrant, who is seen as moving

to improve his or her economic situation, and this view is based on the equilibrium model of migration. According to Randenberg (1993) in studies base on this view change is conceptualized as a passage from tradition to modernity. The second view is the historical-structural perspective which emphasizes class conflict and uneven regional development between rural and urban areas within countries. This approach barely gives attention to the individuals and families involved, let alone the problem characteristics of women (Radenberg, 1993).

## **2.2 Female migration, female entrepreneurship and motherhood**

According to Sanghera (2004) globalization is the context within which the female migrant is created; migration is the avenue through which she seeks to access a better life or escape a really bad situation. She also claims that the migrant females of this age are more self-assured, assertive, and resourceful women who have a dream and a mission. According to this writer female migrants migrate because they are escaping an unbearable situation; be it unemployment or failed marriages but they are moving ahead.

There are according to Sanghera (2004) 179 million migrants in the world and about half globally are women with a majority migrating not as family associates but as independent migrants in their own right. When women migrate role changes are fundamentally transgressive, female migration causes a great deal of changes for the subject migrant and those left behind.

Moser and Peake (1996) argue that it is known that until recently women were basically unnoticed in the migration process, because of the supposition that most females were merely passive movers who followed the head of household. Supporting the view of Randenberg that women not only migrate for economic reasons is Moser and Peake (1996) arguing that equally important as motivation to migrate for females was autonomy, independence, with women

increasingly having sufficient social and psychological independence to migrate on their own. And that the motivation for females to join the family is not the whole story.

Sharma (2011) argues that a large number of female migrants are independent movers and migrate for work. But she also argues that marriage remains the major cause of female migration (Sharma, 2011). Women that migrate to escape rural poverty are typically called survival migrants; they migrate to escape an unbearable marriage, to avoid being beaten up by the husband or being forced into another marriage, to escape the control of their families or to secure financial independence (Randenberg, 1993). These migrants have no choice but to enter in the informal businesses when they get to the country of destination because of their relatively little education.

Female migrants are presumed to have no much social or economic influence on their places of origin or to the place of destination. Implied in the study of migration is the supposition that the patterns of female migration reflect those of male migration, thus gender related disparities in causes, consequences and patterns of migration have not been considered important enough to deserve specific analysis (Neetha, 2004). According to Neetha (2004) the associational status of females in migration points to the structural imbalances in the analysis of the existing theories of migration.

Neetha (2004) extends that female migration cannot be understood without relating to the dynamics of gender relation in the family and the labor market; women are neglected due to their secondary migrant status, which basically emanates from the assumption of subsidiary income earning position of females. She also argues that it is progressively being acknowledged that women are no longer submissive movers who follow the head of the household.

In the recent years, the rate of new business formation by women has outpaced significantly the rate of new businesses formation by men across all ethnic groups in the US (Minniti & Naude, 2010). According to this author similar trends have been found across developing countries, and they say the reason for this and the behavior of female entrepreneurs in terms of characters, motivations and success rates, and its gender-related distinctiveness is complex and multifaceted.

According to the study “women without borders informal cross-border trade among women in the Southern African development community region (SADC)” by Muzvidziwa (2007) over the past two decades Zimbabwean informal cross-border trade had become a strategy that enable women who were previously poor and disadvantaged people to climb out of poverty. This was a form of entrepreneurship for the women of Zimbabwe, a form of self-employment that allows these women to get out of poverty and be able to provide and support their families financially. The women embraced strategies that enable them not only to cope with poverty but to invest, escape, and climb out of poverty (Muzvidziwa, 2007).

The women in cross-border trade developed relationships through a massive network of clients that connected to Southern African region (Muzvidziwa, 2007). This helped the women to maximize investment strategies and their coping in the urban areas. Access to the informal cross-border sector was hard, even though it was a market niche that had been seized by women and was still outside influence of the patriarchal state and men (Muzvidziwa, 2007).

According to Neetha (2004) the amount of female labor migration has been acknowledged to escalate over the past few decades especially, with the changes in the economic structure of most countries. Despite their relatively low earnings, many female migrants are still able to generate surplus for the rural family, the economic obligations of migrants to their parents depend upon

the strength of family ideology with regard to the pooling of family resources (Randenberg, 1993). According to Sharma (2011) women migrants tend to remit a much larger share of their earning compared to men.

The economic theory has approached the decision of an individual to start a business as an occupational choice between self-employment and wage employment (Minniti & Naude, 2010). This is to say that people who open their business chose self-employment rather than wage employment. They go on to say that entrepreneurial ability is most often measured by educational status and expertise, but at the same time age, experience and background are equally important and can compensate for lack of education in startup rates and success of a business.

In developing countries women most often do not have the same entrepreneurial experience as men; this is because of disadvantages and discrimination in education and labor market. Yueh (2009) discusses the case of women entrepreneurs in China and supports the idea that lack of self-confidence is a substantial limitation hampering women entrepreneurial entry in developing countries. And also in developed countries getting credit and start-up costs have been identified as significant constraints to business startups, the same is true for developing countries possibly affecting women more than men (Minniti & Naude, 2010). In this regard a large number of studies have found that access to micro-credit has improved women's decision-making autonomy, and general household well-fare and consumption.

When men are unemployed or under employed, women are inspired to go in low income, low status jobs in order to feed their families (Narayan *et al*, 2000). According to Narayan *et al* (2000) women's duty for everyday well-being of children and family has been a strong cause for

them to swallow their pride and move into such un-prestigious activities as street trade. And they go on to argue that the most prominent group of females in trade is those who are unmarried, widowed, divorced, or whose husbands are unemployed. Keeping the family together is also what motivates females to migrate and enter the informal sector.

“Under the growing economic pressure, men in many parts of the world have lost their traditional livelihoods, and women have been forced to take on extra income-earning tasks while continuing their domestic task” (Narayan *et al*, 2000). According to Drine and Grach (2011) women entrepreneurs have different incentives and different difficulties than men when starting and owning a business, women are directed mainly by female motives, such as the desire to balance work and family, and to have more flexible work schedules. Women may also be attracted to business because of job dissatisfaction or difficulty in obtaining employment and in addition, unemployment, poverty, and family responsibilities can be the stimuli to drive women to set up or acquire a business.

Women are still disadvantaged in labor markets because children are seen as burdens and women are primarily responsible for their care (Narayan *et al*, 2000). Employers think that women with kids will always ask for more time off than others to attend to the needs of her children. Women want opportunities for self-employment based in their homes, because they feel they cannot leave their homes and children (Narayan *et al*, 2000). Erel (2002) argues that many mothers who migrate left their children temporarily. The mother-child dyad is thus constructed as the relationship most crucial for child’s development. This has the consequence of exercising a burden on mothers and holding them singularly accountable for their child’s development. The issue of mother-child affection that is disturbed by the mother’s employment is brought into even

harsher battle for mothers who migrate and are separated for long periods of time from their children (Erel, 2002).

According to Muzvidziwa (2007) in a study about cross-border trade on women in Zimbabwe, the life style of many of the women in cross-border trade showed clearly that the urban family was breaking up as most of these women's marriages revealed new patterns of commuter type marriages. In this he shows that the family adjusts to the changing living conditions as the women cross borders to provide for the family to accommodate the changing conditions they live in.

The consequences of migration for women are likely to differ according to the type of migration involved and the circumstances in which migration occurs, both positive and negative changes may be expected depending upon the timing of migration with respect to a woman's life cycle, the type of migration involved, the set of cultural or social constraints to which women are subject to and the resources women have at their disposal (Randenberg, 1993). According to Randenberg (1993) whether the working experience of female migrants has a positive impact on their status in part depends upon the type of work they do, a woman's financial contribution to her family and the help that she provides for new arrivals from the village in the city enhance her status. That change may cause conflict and strains within the family, but it also gives young women a greater sense of their own worth and a stronger basis for self-esteem.

### **2.3 Challenges brought about being entrepreneurs in the informal sector and mothers**

Migrant women participating in the informal sector face different challenges. Narayan *et al* (2000) argues that the work load of women has increased because they play the role of being responsible for making a home for the family and earning income to support the family; this has

resulted in women feeling secluded because their workload has left them no time for relaxation with friends.

According to Sharma (2011) another challenge is the tightening of borders and curbing the legal channels increases irregular migration, subjecting women to the risk of exploitation and trafficking and prostitution. The movement of women as a part of family migration changes the nature of social reproduction among migrants and creates new sources of labor that can enter formal and informal labor market (Sharma, 2011).

According to Drine and Grach (2011) female entrepreneurs do face some additional problems because of deeply entrenched discriminatory socio-cultural values and traditions that are rooted in the policy and legal environment, and in institutional support mechanisms. A survey of 100 Nigerian female entrepreneurs shows that family commitments, sexual discrimination, lack of career guidance and of adequate capital, inadequate education and technology are the major barriers and woman's family responsibilities are often a major constraint to her becoming an entrepreneur (Drine and Grach, 2011).

A host of social factors and values not only constrain female migration but also prevent its consequences from being positive (Randenberg, 1993). Migration can bring several risks to the household and migrant work can be dangerous for both the migrant worker and the family dependent on the remittance income (Narayan *et al*, 2000). Women may find a new self-confidence over new economic opportunities, although these may be unsubstantiated; they may expose themselves to risk and take on work in the informal sector in addition to their household responsibilities (Narayan *et al*, 2000). They go on to argue that taking on additional income-earning role has not automatically led to the social empowerment of women or greater equity and

peace in the household. At the same time some women feel a sense of empowerment with the chance to take on new roles. What is clear is that the entire household pays a high price for adjusting to new gender roles and deeply held notions of gender identity. In order to assist families both women and men need social and psychological support to explore and navigate change that brings into question their own worth as human beings (Narayan *et al*, 2000).

Supporting Randenberg's view that migration and migrant work has both positive and negative changes is Narayan *et al* (2000) they argue that migrant work may lead to family dissolution as men and women establish new families at their current work location. While migrant work has strained household relations, many women may benefit from related independent income. Women may gain confidence as they start earning and retaining cash incomes.

#### **2.4 Hairdressing as part of the informal sector**

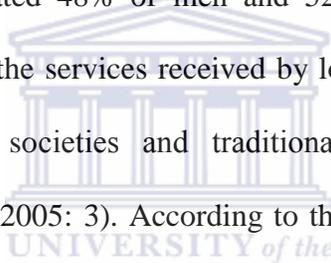
Throughout the 1970s most informal sector research was gender-blind and under-enumerated women. A proliferation of studies soon proved women were there, showing globally the critical importance of the informal sector as a source of income for women, not only in female-headed households but as secondary income earner (Moser & Peake, 1996). Supporting the view that the argues that women in their desperation to provide for their families and keep them together they have emerged in large numbers to find work in the informal sector, the informal sector offers some opportunities for women to earn income. Also they argue that increased participation of women in the informal sector has opened avenues for female empowerment and innovation.

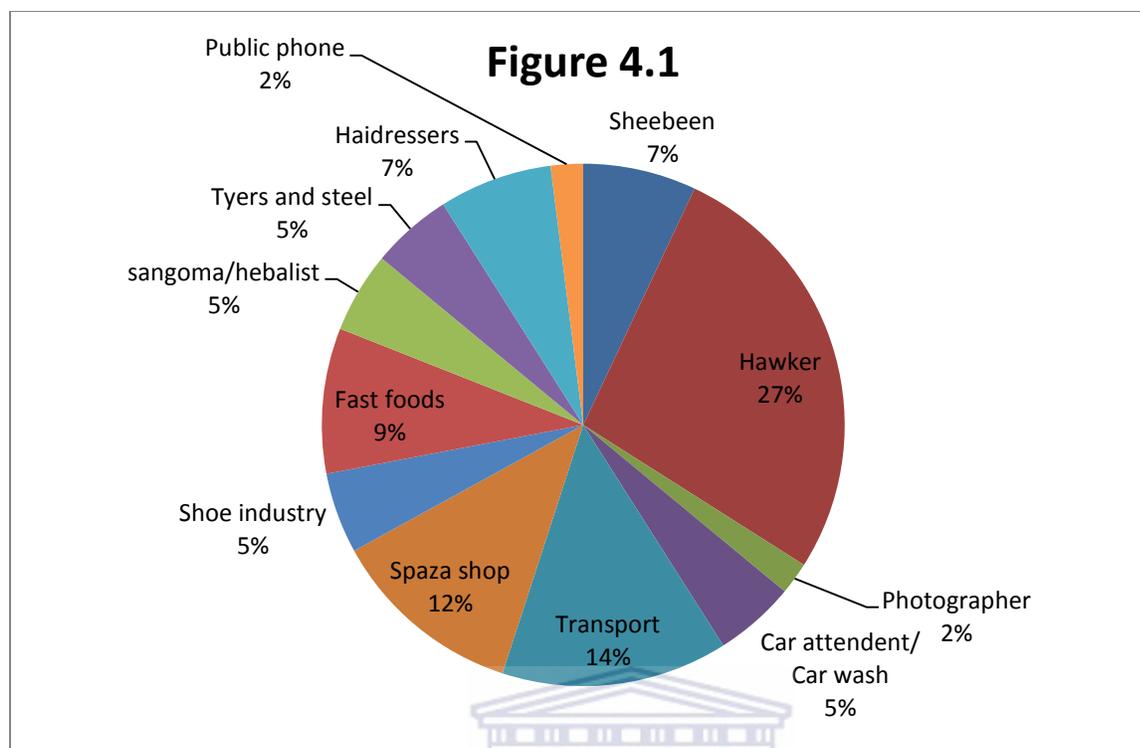
Informal hairdressing is fast growing globally. Even though it is largely practiced in the developing world it is not uncommon in the developed countries also. For a large number of people, especially women, it is a means of making a living and earning an income. In a study

by Fluitman and Momo (2001) in Cameroon in a city called Yaoundé 1937222 females work in the informal sector, which makes 45.8% of the whole population in Cameroon. In the survey by the researchers out of 682 participants working in the informal sector 170 were women and out of the 170 women 64 of them were hairdressers.

According to Mohapatra (2012) in India the number of females in the informal sector is more pronounced, about 96% of female employment is in the informal sector. And according to this research scholar a large number of women are employed as beauticians, and most of the beauty salons fall under the unorganized sector and are characterized by informal employment.

“According to the IDP an estimated 48% of men and 52% of women are in the informal employment. In addition many of the services received by local people actually come from the informal sector such as burial societies and traditional healers” (African Institute for Community-Driven Development, 2005: 3). According to this study hairdressing makes up 7% of the informal sector of Mangaung, as represented in the pie chart below.





**Figure 1: Informal sector** (*African Institute for Community-Driven Development, 2005: 3*).

## 2.5 Characteristics of informal hairdressers

### 2.5.1 Demographic characteristics:

According to a study done in Cameroon in the city of Yaoundé by Mohapatra (2012); the average age of female hairdressers in the informal sector ranges from 27 years. 87% of female hairdressers are under the age of 32 years; it appears that hairdressing is typically taken by young women not only Yaoundé but elsewhere (Mohapatra, 2012). Judging from the results of Mohapatra's study, where in the sample 74 were in hairdressing and 64 out of the 74 were females, it is clear that informal hairdressing is dominated by women. "One in four of all entrepreneurs in the sample (170 out of 682) were women, almost all of them occupied in four of the sample activities, namely, hairdressing for women, operating a restaurant, women's dress making, and offering secretarial and internet services" (Mohapatra, 2012: 10).

According to Randenberg (1993) majority of recent female migrants that work are young and single, married women appear to have a lesser need to work but do work by choice just to add to the family income, but not because they have to. Narayan *et al* (2000) argues that the most prominent group of female in the informal trade are those who are unmarried, widowed, divorced, or if married husband is unemployed.

### **2.5.2 Socio-economic characteristics:**

“It appears that, together with gender, the type and level of one’s education are key determinants in choosing -or otherwise ending up in- a particular economic activity. As a group the entrepreneurs in the sample had had an average of eleven years of formal schooling” (Mohapatra, 2012: 13). In this case to this scholar informal entrepreneurs at least do have high school education.

According to Randenberg (1993) migrant women who migrate solely for survival purposes have relatively little or no education, which is why they tend to secure work only in the informal sector. And those who migrate to improve their own level of living and those of their families have slightly higher levels of education and are primarily pulled by better opportunities. Muzvidziwa (2007) who argues that informal trade was a way for the poor to climb out of poverty, which means that women who are on the informal sector were coming from poor backgrounds.

## **2.6 Conceptual framework**

Looking at some of the theories and previous studies on female migration, entrepreneurship and motherhood, I found that little has been done to explain the link between migrant female

entrepreneurship and motherhood and the tension that arise from being a mother and a migrant entrepreneur.

The theory of emancipation and subordination can help explain what is brought about by female migration and entrepreneurship and the tensions that arise within their families and marriages because women are self-employed. But this theory does not explain the relationship between self-employment and motherhood and the tensions that arise from the two. One can therefore seek whether being self-employed has the same impact on the children as it does on the entire family or the husband and if the tensions that arise between motherhood and entrepreneurship are the same as the ones that occur with family, and also if children are the reason for the female migrants choosing employment in the informal sector. I therefore argue that female migrants open businesses in the informal sector for both emancipation and providing a living for their children. And also that being self-employed can bring tension in the family and mothers will have little or no time for their children.

The theory by Erel (2002) of migrant females leaving their children behind when migrating and the long working hours of the migrant mothers separating them from their children, can help explain the decisions that migrant mothers have to face when they have to migrate and the impact of migrant informal work on the mothers and children. This theory does not, however, show how these migrant mothers deal with the challenge of finding a balance between being self-employed, working long hours and being mothers, and also how they deal with the tasks that arise from being entrepreneurs and having domestic relationships.

## CHAPTER THREE:

### 3 Research design and methods

#### 3.1 Introduction

Looking at work done previously around the area of female migration, entrepreneurship, and motherhood, seen in the previous chapter (chapter 2). This study strives to elaborate the difficulties of being female migrant entrepreneur and motherhood using informal hairdressers in Cape Town South Africa as a case study. This chapter describes the methods and technique of tracing the above.

#### 3.2 Research design

A research design is an approach of studying the research problem and it is a logical model of causal inference; this is to guide the investigator throughout the research process. Thus the research design necessitates an overall framework of implementation. This study is qualitative with a mix of quantitative methods; the design used in this study is the cross-sectional design. Because this study is based on immigrant female hairdressers who are mothers, with their children in SA and those with children left in the COB (Congolese are of interest but a few number from other African countries was included), and the tension that arises from motherhood, entrepreneurship. Also because it is difficult to study all these females and there is no sampling frame for them, it is only appropriate to use the cross-sectional design.

In this study random sampling could not be used because there was no sampling frame for the study units. In this case convenience sampling was used. Which means; the respondents (sampling units) were chosen subjectively by the researcher on the sites of observation based on

the researcher's knowledge. The snowballing technique was also used when the respondents directed the researcher to potential respondents who were part of the sampling unit of interest.

### **3.3 Population of study**

The population of study in this research study is that of Congolese female immigrants and also females from a few other African countries were considered. The sampling units were chosen irrespective of age, marital status, and socio-economic background. The population of study was chosen by the researcher because they make up a significant number of hairdressers in the informal industry and by the suggestion of the supervisor. And also because of the researcher's interest on African female immigrants.

### **3.4 Study site**

The study was based on three urban sites in Cape Town, Western Cape. The sample was drawn from three locations namely; Bellville, Parow, And Cape Town CBD. These locations were chosen because they have large numbers of informal hairdressers, according to the researcher's observations. Access to the site was gained by approaching the potential participants on their place of work, introducing myself and explaining the study and its purpose to them.

### **3.5 Instrument**

This study is based on a survey conducted by the student herself to get primary data and site observations. A semi-structured questionnaire was used to gather data. The questionnaire was made up of close-ended questions for the quantitative side of the study and also open-ended questions for the qualitative to get the narratives on the background of the participants. The semi-structured interviews were used because they allow for in-depth probing of the participants answers. The questionnaire is divided into seven sections to represent some of the major aspects

that are of importance in the study. The sections are as follows: personal details, educational background, place of residence, hairdressing, motherhood, problems arising from working in hairdressing and motherhood, intention to migrate, and remittance.

**Table 1: Variables of the questionnaire**

Components	Variables
Personal details	Demographic characteristics: age, country of birth, marital status, date of arrival, status in SA, number of children, home language, English proficiency, place of birth of children, weekly salary, career in country of birth, reason for migrating.
Education	Highest qualification in country of birth, field of study, qualification obtained in SA, type of qualification.
Place of residence	Suburb of residence on arrival in SA, Various suburbs of residence with corresponding duration, main reason of change, and main activity.
Accommodation	Number of rooms in dwelling, Number of people in dwelling, sharing with co-nationals and reasons.
Informal hairdressing	Start year, source of starting capital, operation suburb, operation area, reason for

	starting business, business running skills acquisition, training for hairdressing, specialties, number of workers, family employees, payment of employees, training of employees, ownership of the business, operating hours, operating days, reason for choosing hairdressing, how was the business started.
Informal hairdressing and family	While at work who looks after children, who looks after children after school, feelings family or partner about time spent at work, dependence on family, role change after working, position in decision making, general life changes.
Remittance	Is there any assistance sent to home country, type of assistance sent to home country
Remigration	Intentions to re-migrate and reasons
General feelings	Feeling about number of hours spent at work, change of confidence levels, feeling as part of the SA population or not and reasons.
General problems	General problems encountered as a female

	foreigner and a mother.
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### 3.6 Data collection

The data collection process took place from the 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2014 to the 07<sup>th</sup> of August 2014 during that period a total amount of 53 questionnaires were administered in the three conveniently selected cities. A total of 25 questionnaires were predicted, but before the start of the interviews the researcher decided to increase the number of questionnaires envisaged to 50. The number of 50 questionnaires was reached with an extra of three which made a total of 53 questionnaires. The questionnaires administered can be divided as follows:

**Table 2: Distribution of questionnaires by suburb**

Suburb	Number of questionnaires
Bellville	19
Cape Town CBD	17
Parow	17
TOTAL	53

The administration of questionnaires took the form of face to face interviews with the respondents, which demanded time and patience as it was done at the respondent's place of activity.

#### 3.6.1 Sampling

The sampling method used in the study is convenience sampling. Access to the study site was gained through direct and indirect contact. In direct access the researcher introduced herself to the potential participant and introduce to them the study and its purpose, if they have interest they fill out the questionnaire. Indirect access was when the researcher got introduced by those who are already participating in the study to other potential participants that they know; which is the snowballing technique.

### **3.6.2 Difficulties in the field**

During the field work I experienced a number of difficulties and obstacles. The first difficulty was the language barrier. As my research focuses on female immigrants from some parts of Africa mainly Congo, where the home language was mainly French it was very difficult to communicate with the participants as it was difficult for most to understand English. Participants who have been in the country for a short while it was hard to communicate with them as their English proficiency was very poor, in some cases I had other participants translate for me those participants.

The second difficulty I encountered was gaining trust of the participants. Some of the participants were not so trusting of me seeing that I am a South African they would often think I am working with the Department of Home Affairs or other governmental department or institutions sent to spy on them. In some instances I had to provide my university student card to prove and convince them that I am just a university student.

The third difficulty I came across was weather related. Since the field work took place during the winter season, which is a rainy season in the Western Cape. The rainy days posed as an obstacle

because on rainy days I could not do interviews and on some days I had to stop early when the rain starts with maybe just one participant for that day.

Another difficulty was the attitude of some of the participants. Because I am a South African some participants had an attitude towards me because of some prejudices they have for South African citizens. They would, at time, bring up statements that “you South Africans do not want us in your country and you call us names but you want our help”, in those cases I had to explain that I am not a xenophobic South African and that I do not have any prejudice or discriminations against foreigners. And some females would refuse to participate saying I should go ask South African hairdressers.

Another difficulty came from the logistics side. The researcher used her limited resources for transportation, feeding, making phone calls and other expenses related to the field work. This had negative effect on the time in which data was collected, it resulted in it being longer than expected to administer the questionnaires.

### **3.7 Method of analysis**

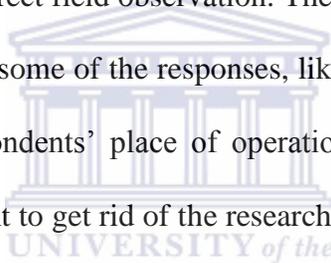
In order to answer the research questions and prove/disprove the hypotheses, the following technique was used in the data. Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS version 22 & 23) was used to analyze the data and the data analysis was descriptive because inferential statistics could not be used due to the lack of viable data on the study population as a whole. Hence, external validity of the instrument cannot be determined.

The quality of the data can be said to be good as the non-response rate was 1.06% judging from the fact that 50 questionnaires were initially printed out for the field work and the questionnaires that were answered at the end of the field work were 53. Also, very few questions were not

answered by the respondents excluding question that were not answered because they did not apply to the respondent.

The information from the questionnaires was firstly coded and entered into SPSS to develop a data base to this effect. During this process the open-ended questions were categorized following the responses from the field. To cover all the responses acquired from the field care was taken. Age was captured as an absolute figures and arrival date was captured as absolute years. In the analysis of the data descriptive statistics were used to show the frequencies.

The researcher depended on the respondents for truthful information. However, some of the information could be verified by direct field observation. The season in which the field work was conducted could have an effect on some of the responses, like average weekly salary. Collection of the data happened at the respondents' place of operation, where at times some responses would be given without any thought to get rid of the researcher so that they can continue to work as they attract customers by calling them as they walk past their operating site.



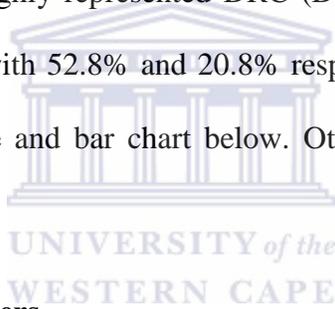
## CHAPTER FOUR:

### 4 Results

#### 4.1 General characteristics of the sample

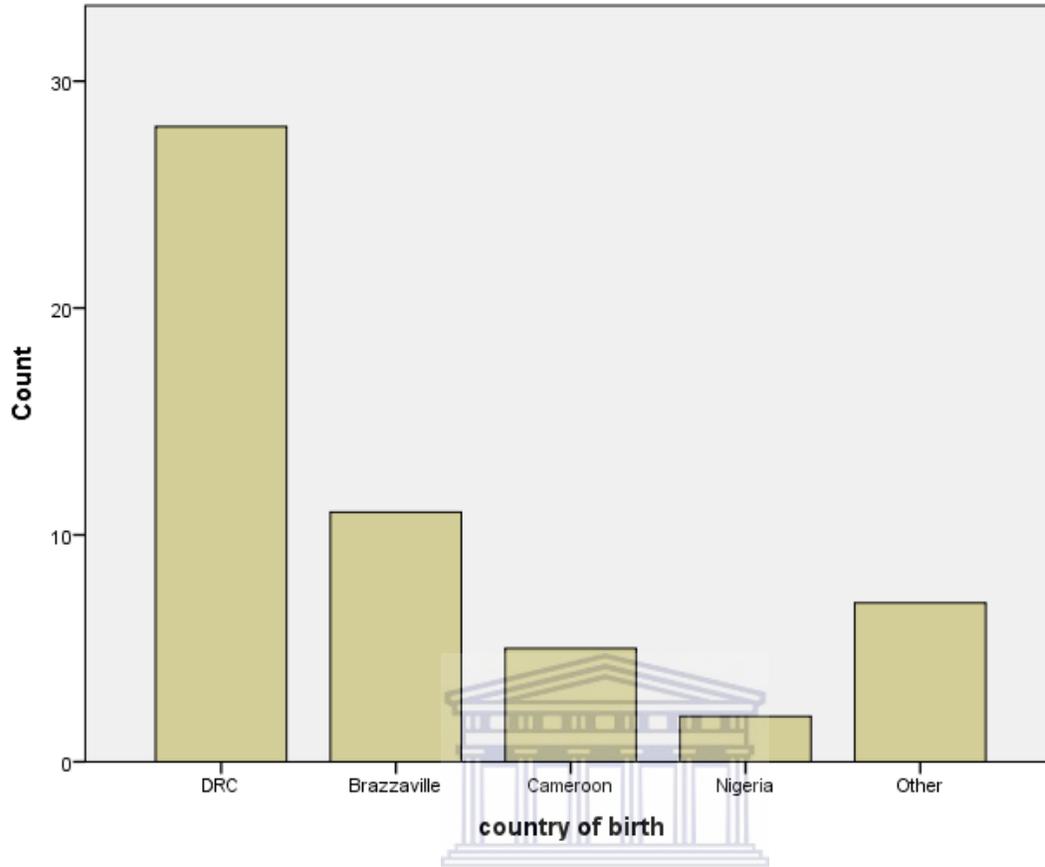
##### 4.1.1 Nationality of hairdressers

In this study the researcher had initially set out to study the population of Congolese female migrants in the informal hairdressing industry, but in the course of the study several other African female migrants from some of the African countries were included in the study during the survey for several reasons. With that said, there are eight (8) countries are represented in the study with two countries being highly represented DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo) and Brazzaville (Congo Brazzaville) with 52.8% and 20.8% respectively of the sample of informal hairdressers displayed in the table and bar chart below. Other includes countries that are not strongly represented in the sample.



**Table 3: Nationality of Hairdressers**

Country	Frequency	Percent
DRC	28	52.8
Brazzaville	11	20.8
Cameroon	5	9.4
Zimbabwe	4	7.6
Nigeria	2	3.8
Burundi	1	1.9
Malawi	1	1.9
Swaziland	1	1.9
Total	53	100



**Figure 2: Country of birth of hairdressers**

#### 4.1.2 Age

The age of informal hairdressers ranges from 18-44 years with a mean score of about 30 years and a variance of 36. More than half of the informal hairdressers are between the ages of 25-34 years. About 52% of the informal hairdressers are 30 years and above and about 47% of the informal hairdressers are 29 years and younger. This means that the ages of the informal hairdressers are normally distributed and that the migration process is age selective involving mostly young people between the ages of 25-34 years. Randenberg (1993) argues that female migrants are young, which agrees with the point I raised of migration involving mostly young people.

**Table 4: Statistics on age of informal Hairdressers**

N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Variance
53	18	44	30	36.970

**Table 5: Age distribution of informal hairdressers**

	Frequency	Percent
Valid 18	1	1.9
19	1	1.9
22	1	1.9
23	1	1.9
24	2	3.8
25	6	11.3
26	4	7.5
27	3	5.7
28	3	5.7
29	3	5.7
30	2	3.8
31	2	3.8
32	6	11.3
33	4	7.5
34	1	1.9
36	4	7.5
38	4	7.5
39	1	1.9
42	1	1.9
43	2	3.8
44	1	1.9
Total	53	100.0



### 4.1.3 Marital status of informal hairdressers

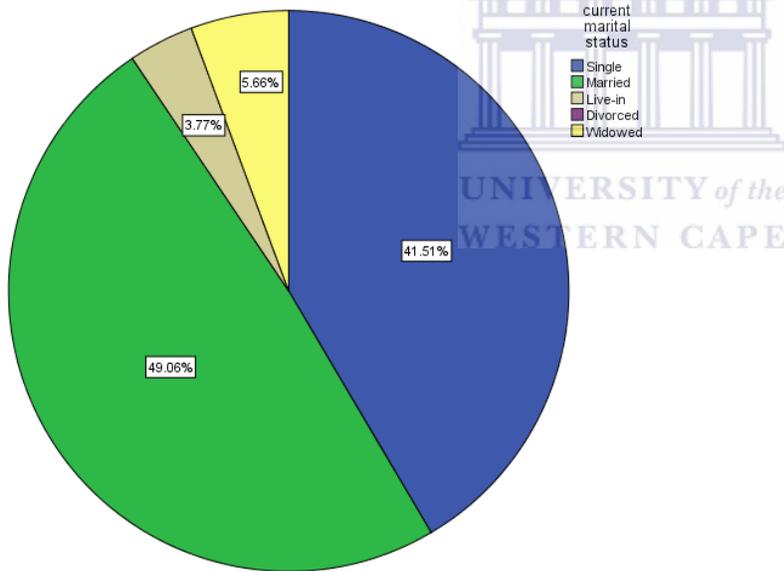
There seems to be more married informal hairdressers; constituting 49.1% of the sample against 41.5% of singles informal hairdressers. However, the number of single female migrants is relatively high and this agrees with what has been said by most authors; that more and more females are migrating independently without depending on their male counterparts. With 3.8% of live-in cases who are living with their boyfriends, making up 52.9% of females living together with their partners. There is only 5.7% of widowed informal hairdressers and 0% of divorced

informal hairdressers. This contrast the view by Narayan *et al* (2000) that the most prominent group of females in the informal trade are those who are not married, widowed or divorced. This can be also because of the age of the females since most of them are still in their youth.

**Table 6: Marital status of informal hairdressers**

	Frequency	Percent
Single	22	41.5
Married	26	49.1
Live-in	2	3.8
Widowed	3	5.7
Divorced	0	0
Total	53	100.0

**Figure 3: Current marital status of informal hairdressers**



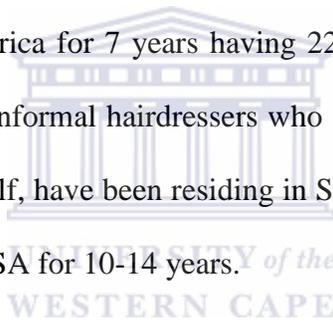
Out of those married and in partnership 92.9% are currently living with their partners in South Africa and 7.1% of them are not living with their partners. This might be explained by the fact that some female migrants move living their husbands behind and some of the husbands are overseas due to work related reasons living their partners in South Africa. See table below:

**Table 7: If married or in partnership are you living with partner**

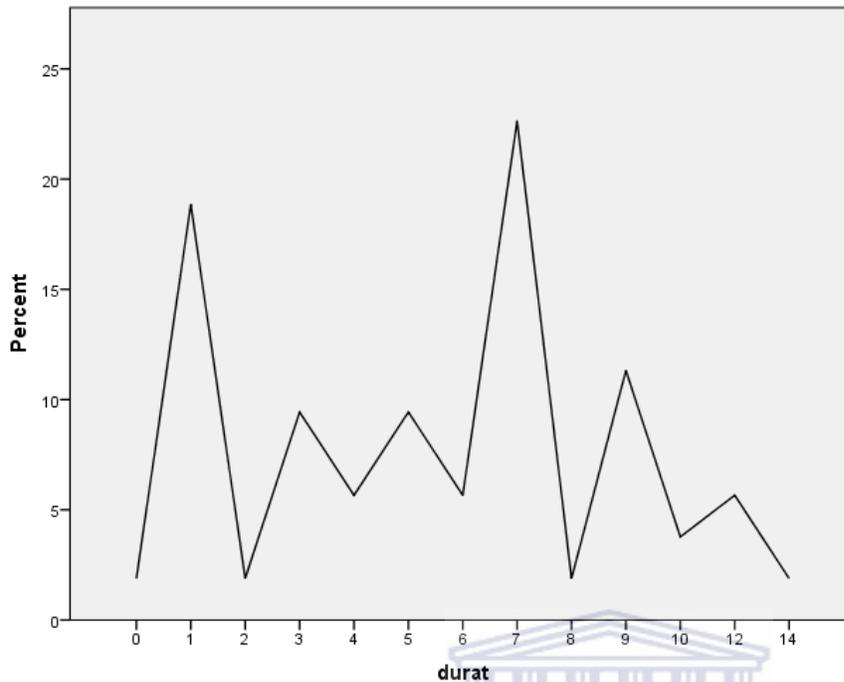
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	26	92.9
No	2	7.1
Total	28	100.0

#### **4.1.4 Duration of residence in SA**

The minimum duration of residence in SA is 0 years; meaning those who have lived in SA for less than a year, the maximum duration of residence is 14 years. The mean score is 5.62% and a variance of 12.124%. Half of the informal hairdressers have been residing in South Africa for about 5-9 years which makes 50.9% of the sample, which consist mostly of informal hairdressers who have been living in South Africa for 7 years having 22.6% informal hairdresser migrants. This is followed by 37.8% of the informal hairdressers who are residing in South Africa for 0-4 years, 18% of which, more than half, have been residing in SA for 1 year. Only 11% of informal hairdressers have been residing in SA for 10-14 years.



**Figure 4: Duration of stay in SA**



This can be explained as the result of the fall of the apartheid regime and the rise of a more democratic SA with less strict laws around immigration into the country, which has led to the rise of immigrants entering the country for a better living than that in the country of origin. The number of migrants coming to South Africa, particularly those coming from, the African continent, has increased since the early 1990s, and even more increase has been seen after the first democratic elections of 1994 (Kok, Gelderblom, Oucho & Van Zyl, 2006). Since 1994 it has also been visible that the migration of independent females is on the rise.

**Table 8: Statistics on duration of residence in SA of informal hairdressers**

N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Variance
53	0	14	5.62	12.124

**Table 9: Duration of residence in SA**

	Frequency	Percent
Valid 0	1	1.9
1	10	18.9
2	1	1.9
3	5	9.4
4	3	5.7
5	5	9.4
6	3	5.7
7	12	22.6
8	1	1.9
9	6	11.3
10	2	3.8
12	3	5.7
14	1	1.9
Total	53	100.0

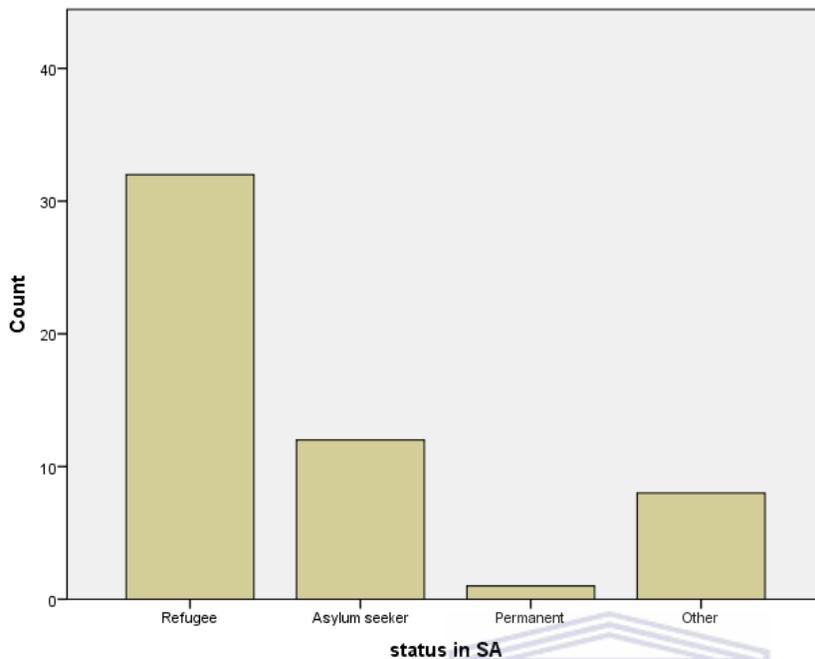
#### 4.1.5 Status in SA

More than half of the sample of informal hairdressers has refugee status, which is 60.4%, followed by 22.6% of the sample having asylum seeker status. With only 1.9% of the sample having the permanent status and 15.1% constitutes other, which represents those with study permit status, temporary status and no status.

**Table 10: Status in SA of informal hairdressers**

	Frequency	Percent
Valid Refugee	32	60.4
Asylum seeker	12	22.6
Permanent	1	1.9
Other	8	15.1
Total	53	100.0

**Figure 5: Status in SA**



#### 4.1.6 Family in SA

About 62% of the sample has family members in South Africa and only about 37% do not have family members in S.A. this can be the results of social networking, where these migrants get the opportunity to immigrate to SA through their family members, that can be why a large number of these female migrants have family member in the country.

**Table 11: Family members in SA**

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	33	62.3
	No	20	37.7
Total		53	100.0

#### 4.1.7 Main language

The most prominent main language for the sample was French, where 58.5% of the participants spoke French as their main language, followed by 15.1% who spoke Lingala as their first language. The inconspicuous languages were Pigin and Swahili where both had 3.8% each of

participants speaking them as their main language. And other stands for the poorly represented main languages in the sample.

**Table 12: Main language of informal hairdressers**

	Frequency	Percent
French	31	58.5
Lingala	8	15.1
Pigin	2	3.8
Swahili	2	3.8
Other	10	18.9
Total	53	100.0

#### 4.1.8 English proficiency

Majority of the informal hairdresser have a good English proficiency which constitute 52.8% of the sample, about 17% who have a fair English proficiency, only 6% are excellent in English and 2% have poor English. This could be because English is the medium language in SA, and they have to learn it to communicate with their customers.

**Table 13: English proficiency of informal hairdressers**

	Frequency	Percent
Excellent	6	11.3
Good	28	52.8
Fair	17	32.1
Poor	2	3.8
Total	53	100.0

#### 4.1.9 Other languages

Only 17% of the participants speak SA languages; the most prominent SA languages that they speak are IsiXhosa and IsiZulu, and another 17% speak French as the other language. Majority 28.3% speak Lingala as their other language, 11.3% speak Swahili. 13.2% fell in the category of

other which included all the languages that were not strongly represented in the sample and another 13.2% had no other languages.

**Table 14: Other languages spoken by informal hairdressers**

	Frequency	Percent
SA languages	9	17.0
Lingala	15	28.3
French	9	17.0
Swahili	6	11.3
Other	7	13.2
None	7	13.2
Total	53	100.0

#### 4.1.10 Place of residence

The informal hairdressers in this study are very much scattered amongst twenty one (21) suburbs in terms of the place they reside in. The study was looking at informal hairdressing businesses in three (3) suburbs; Bellville, Cape Town CBD, and Parow. The place of residence with the most informal hairdressers residing in is Parow; with 32.1% of the participants living in this suburb, followed by Bellville with 17% of the participants residing in it, and Woodstock has 5.7% of participants residing in it. Belhar, Elsies River, Gugulethu, Joe Slovo, Vasco, and Wesbank all have 3.8% of informal hairdressers residing in them. All the rest of the suburbs only had 1.9% each of participants residing in the, see table below:

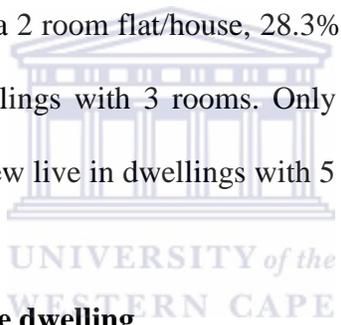
**Table 15: Place of residence of the informal hairdressers**

	Frequency	Percent
Belhar	2	3.8
Bellville	9	17.0
Brakenfel	1	1.9
Brooklyn	1	1.9
Cape Town	1	1.9
Eerste river	1	1.9
Elsies river	2	3.8
Gugulethu	2	3.8
Joe Slovo	2	3.8

Kensington	1	1.9
Khayelitsha	1	1.9
Kuils river	1	1.9
Langa	1	1.9
Maitland	1	1.9
Parow	17	32.1
Philipi	1	1.9
Salt River	1	1.9
Summergreens	1	1.9
Vasco	2	3.8
Wesbank	2	3.8
Woodstock	3	5.7
Total	53	100.0

#### 4.1.11 Number of rooms in a dwelling

The number of rooms that these informal hairdressers have in their dwellings range from 1 room to 6 rooms. 35.8% of them live in a 2 room flat/house, 28.3% of them live in a 1 room dwelling, whereas 22.6% are living in dwellings with 3 rooms. Only 9.4% of these participants live in dwellings with 4 rooms and very few live in dwellings with 5 to 6 rooms, which consists of 1.9% of participants each.



**Table 16: Number of rooms in the dwelling**

	Frequency	Percent
1	15	28.3
2	19	35.8
3	12	22.6
4	5	9.4
5	1	1.9
6	1	1.9
Total	53	100.0

Most of these female migrants in the informal hairdressing industry are sharing their dwellings. And the minimum number of people they share with is 1 person and the maximum is 8 people. Informal hairdressers sharing with 1 person make up 1.9% of the sample, whereas those sharing with 2 or 4 people make up 24.5% of the sample each. Those sharing with 3 or 5 people make up

15.1% and 17% of the sample respectively. 9.4% of them share with 6 people in their dwellings and 5.7% share their dwellings with 7 people. And only 1.9% shares a dwelling with 8 people.

**Table 17: Number of people in a dwelling**

	Frequency	Percent
1	1	1.9
2	13	24.5
3	8	15.1
4	13	24.5
5	9	17.0
6	5	9.4
7	3	5.7
8	1	1.9
Total	53	100.0

#### 4.1.12 Sharing with co-nationals

Most of informal hairdressers do not share their dwellings with co-nationals, because out of the sample only about 28% of them share with co-nationals and the rest which is about 71% do not share with co-nationals. Below I discuss details on reasons why some share with co-nationals and why some do not.

**Table 18: Sharing with co-nationals**

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	15	28.3
No	38	71.7
Total	53	100.0

##### 4.1.12.1 Sharing with co-nationals and reasons for sharing with co-national:

40% of the informal hairdressers sharing with co-nationals their reason for sharing with co-nationals is because they do not have enough money to rent their own place, another 40% of them share with co-nationals because they want to save money, and 6.7% find it difficult to find a place to rent on their own; most of this group are those who have just arrived or have not been

in SA for a long time. Where 13.3% did not state their reasons on why they are sharing with co-nationals.

**Table 19: Statistics of informal hairdressers sharing with co-nationals**

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	15	100.0

**Table 20: Reason for sharing with co-nationals**

	Frequency	Percent
No money to rent my own	6	40.0
difficulty finding my own	1	6.7
to save money	6	40.0
not stated	2	13.3
Total	15	100.0

#### 4.1.12.2 Not sharing with co-nationals and reasons for not sharing:

34% of the informal hairdressers not sharing with co-nationals their reason is that they are living with their families, 23.7% of them say they do not share with co nationals because they living with their husbands, where 15% is sharing with people from other countries, 13% claim that the dwelling is too small and another 13% did not state their reasons for not sharing with co-nationals.

**Table 21: Statistics of informal hairdressers not sharing with co-national**

	Frequency	Percent
No	38	100.0

**Table 22: Reason for not sharing with co-nationals**

	Frequency	Percent
Living with husband	9	23.7
Living with family	13	34.2
Sharing with people from other countries	6	15.8
Dwelling small	5	13.2

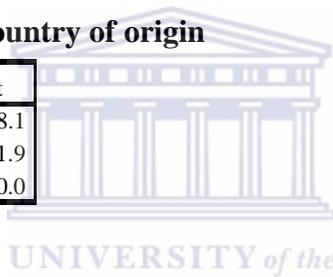
Not stated	5	13.2
Total	38	100.0

#### 4.1.13 Education in country of origin

About 98% of informal hairdressers attended school in the country of origin and only less than 2% did not attend school in the country of origin. More than half of those who attended school reached grade 12, those who achieved their grade 12 make up 45.3% of the sample, 22.6% achieved diplomas and 18.9% have degrees. And only about 13% informal hairdressers achieved levels below grade 12 in their countries of origin. This goes into agreement with the view that informal entrepreneurs do have high school education Mohapatra (2012).

**Table 23: School attendance in country of origin**

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	52	98.1
No	1	1.9
Total	53	100.0



**Table 24: Highest level of qualification at country of origin**

	Frequency	Percent
Degree	10	18.9
Diploma	12	22.6
Grade12	24	45.3
Below grade12	7	13.2
Total	53	100.0

#### 4.1.14 Education in SA

Only 34% of the informal hairdressers furthered their education in SA and the rest, 66%, did not study further in SA. Out of the 34%; 5.7% achieved a degree in SA, 7.5% achieved a diploma, only about 1% achieved below grade 12 and none did grade 12 in SA. The most of them which is 18.9% achieved short course certificates.

**Table 25: School attendance in SA**

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	18	34.0
No	35	66.0
Total	53	100.0

**Table 26: Highest level of qualification achieved in SA**

	Frequency	Percent
Degree	3	5.7
Diploma	4	7.5
Below grade12	1	1.9
Short course certificate	10	18.9
Total	18	34.0
Missing System	35	66.0
Total	53	100.0

And for those who did not study further they provided different reasons as to why they did not study further in SA. 45% of the informal hairdressers claim to not have enough money to study further, 9.4% say it is in their future plans to study further in SA, whereas 7.5% say they could not receive a study permit and 3.8% are not interested in studying further in SA. See table below:

**Table 27: Reason for not studying further in SA**

	Frequency	Percent
No money	24	45.3
Future plan	5	9.4
Cannot get study permit	4	7.5
No interest	2	3.8
Total	35	66.0
Missing System	18	34.0
Total	53	100.0

#### 4.1.15 Children

The informal hairdressers who have children make up 83% of the sample and only 17% do not have children. Out of those with children 28.3% have only one child, 34% have two children, whereas 15% have three children and only about 5% have 4 children.

**Table 28: Do you have children**

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	44	83.0
No	9	17.0
Total	53	100.0

**Table 29: Number of children**

	Frequency	Percent
1	15	28.3
2	18	34.0
3	8	15.1
4	3	5.7
Total	44	83.0
Missing System	9	17.0
Total	53	100.0

**Table 30: Place of birth of children**

	Frequency	Percent
SA	44	50.6
Mother's COB	43	49.4
Total	87	100



More than half of these children are born in SA and only about 49% are born in the mother's country of birth. This could be the result of these female migrants when they get to SA they get married or that because they come over to join their husbands.

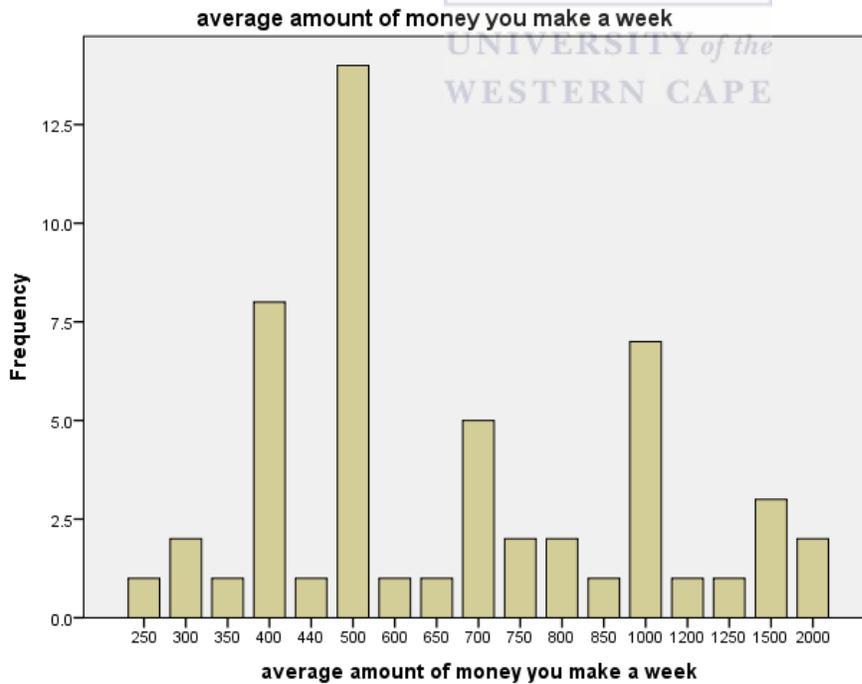
#### 4.1.16 Average weekly salary

The minimum average weekly salary of the informal hairdressers is R500 and the maximum they get is R2000. A large number of the informal hairdressers are earning R500 a week, those making that R500 a week on average make up 26% of the sample. Only 13.3% of the informal hairdressers earn an average salary of R1200 – R2000 a week respectively. About 24% of the sample is earning less than R500 a week on average, with 13% earning an average R1000 weekly.

**Table 31: Average weekly salary of informal hairdressers**

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	250	1	1.9
	300	2	3.8
	350	1	1.9
	400	8	15.1
	440	1	1.9
	500	14	26.4
	600	1	1.9
	650	1	1.9
	700	5	9.4
	750	2	3.8
	800	2	3.8
	850	1	1.9
	1000	7	13.2
	1200	1	1.9
	1250	1	1.9
	1500	3	5.7
	2000	2	3.8
	Total	53	100.0

**Figure 6: Average weekly salary of informal hairdressers**



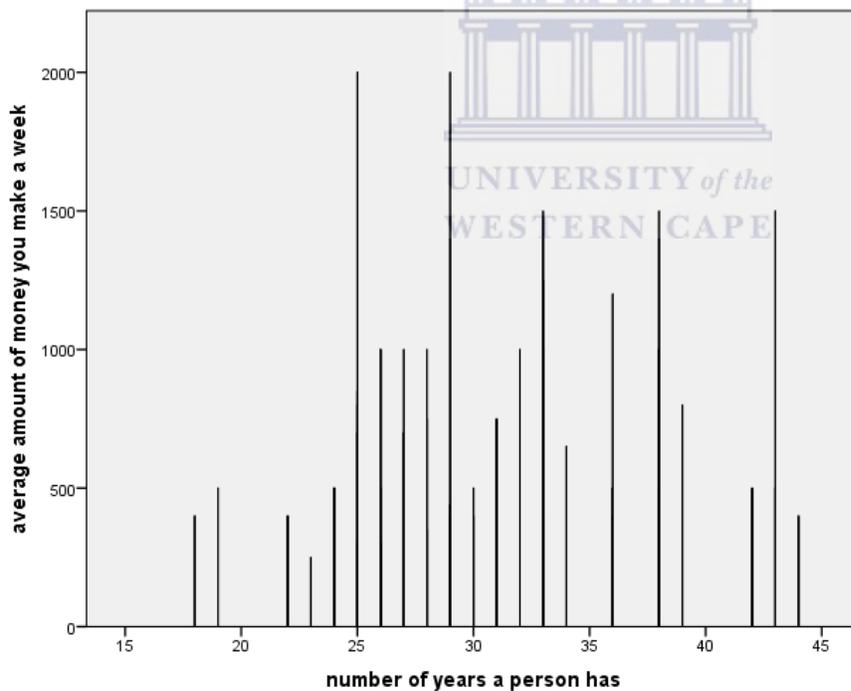
There are a number of factors that determine the average salary the informal hairdressers make weekly; like the time of the month, for instance during pay date and/or around pay dates they get

a large number of customers therefore making a lot more than they usually make. For this study I will look at the relationship between the average weekly salary and age, marital status, employment status (self-employed or employed), ownership of the business, place of operation, and suburb of operation.

#### 4.1.16.1 Average weekly salary and age

Age to an extent does have an effect on the average weekly salary the informal hairdressers make. Informal hairdressers in the age group of 25-30 years of age are making more money weekly and there is a small drop in the average weekly salary in the age group of 40-44. The informal hairdressers below the age of 25 years are the ones making very little weekly.

**Figure 7: Average weekly salary and age**



#### 4.1.16.2 Average weekly salary and marital status

From the data it clearly shows that marital status does have an impact on the average weekly salary of informal hairdressers make. From the sample married women make more money on

average weekly, followed by single women who earn close to those married. Windowed and live-in informal hairdressers make a lot less weekly. This can be explained by the fact that married women have a support system at home and that make them more likely to take risky decisions to grow the business to make more money. Divorced and live-in hairdressers could be making less because they do not have a support system therefore, they might have to reduce the hours they work to be with their children.



## 4.2 Informal hairdressing business

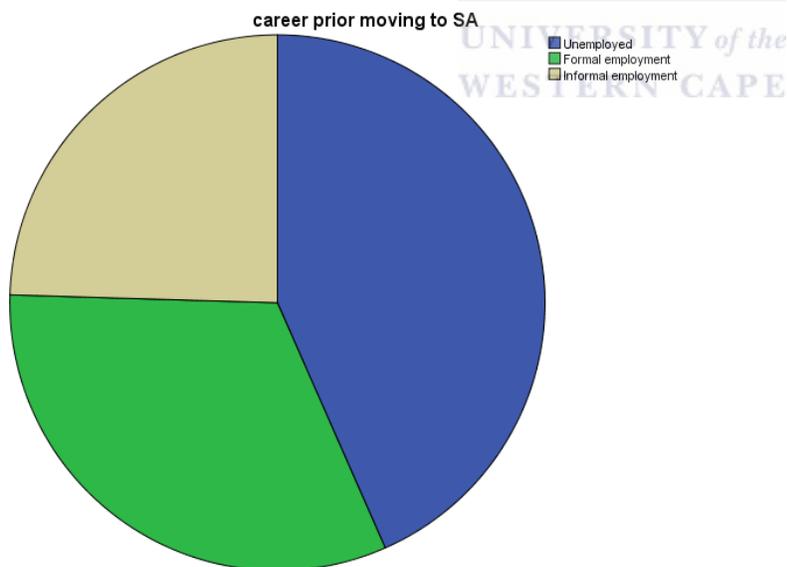
### 4.2.1 Career prior moving

A large number of the informal hairdressers were unemployed in the country of origin, as from the 53 participants in the study about 43% of the participant were unemployed before leaving the country of origin. Whereas 32% held formal employment positions and only about 24% occupied the informal industry. This can be explained as the reason for the females to migrate their country of origin, so that they can find a better living.

**Table 32: Career prior moving to SA**

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Unemployed	23	43.4
	Formal employment	17	32.1
	Informal employment	13	24.5
	Total	53	100.0

**Figure 8: Career prior moving to SA**



### 4.2.2 Reason for migrating to SA

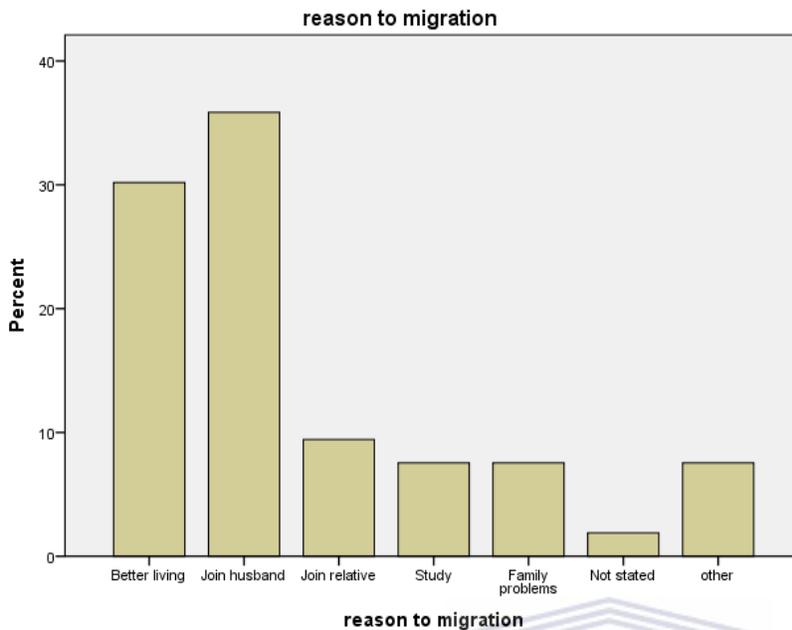
Most of the informal hairdressers moved either to join their husband or to make a better living, as they made up about 35% and 30% respectively. This is what has divided the literature; as some

authors, like Sharma (2011), still believe that women mostly move with or to join their families, while other authors, like Moser and Peake (1996), maintain that female migration has evolved thus they move for economic gain also. Out of the sampled population, 9.4% moved to join their relatives. Very small percentage state their reason for moving as to study which is only 7.5%; even though a large percentage say they move because they want to acquire a better living. Another 7.5% of the sample claim to have migrated because they have family problems; meaning they were having fights or not in good terms with their family. For example, one of the female hairdressers stated that they migrated because “My father only had daughters and as the eldest daughter I had to take the role of a hire, and for me to do that I have to go through female circumcision. When I did not agree with my father about this I was kicked out of my home”. This is one example of many problems the sample stated that they had with their families.

**Table 33: Reason to migrate**

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Better living	16	30.2
	Join husband	19	35.8
	Join relative	5	9.4
	Study	4	7.5
	Family problems	4	7.5
	Not stated	1	1.9
	Other	4	7.5
	Total	53	100.0

**Figure 9: Reason for migrating to SA**



**4.2.3 Career prior informal business**

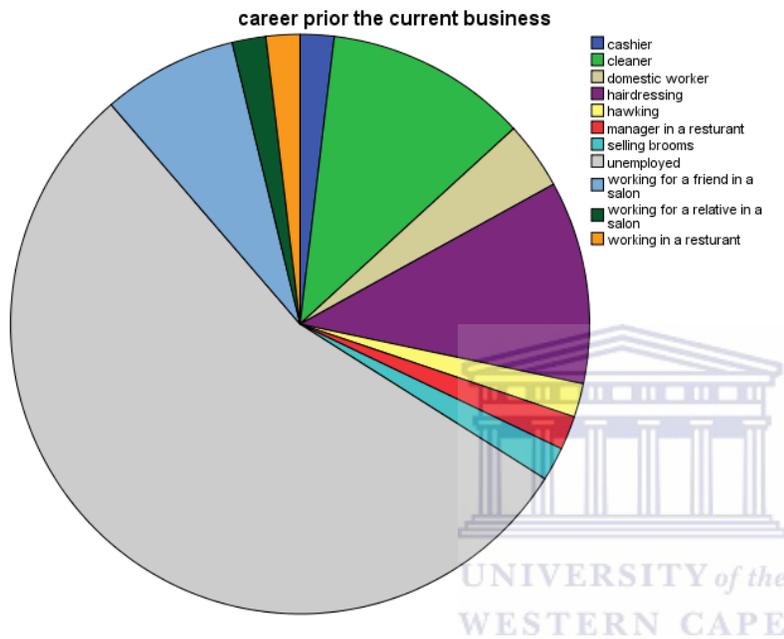
Many of the informal hairdressers did not get into informal hairdressing immediately after their arrival. A large number were unemployed, making up 54.7% of the sample. Whereas, a small percentage were in other forms of informal businesses, such Hawking which made up 1.9% of the sample and selling brooms which is also 1.9% of the sample. Not so many were in informal hairdressing working for someone else, a friend or a relative; which made up 11.3%, 7.5% and 1.9% of the sample respectively. Even fewer of these females held positions in the formal industry; where 1.9% was cashier, another 1.9% was managing a restaurant, and 1.9% as general worker at a restaurant.

**Table 34: Career prior the current business**

	Frequency	Percent
Valid Cashier	1	1.9
Cleaner	6	11.3
domestic worker	2	3.8
Hairdressing	6	11.3
Hawking	1	1.9
manager in a restaurant	1	1.9

selling brooms	1	1.9
Unemployed	29	54.7
working for a friend in a salon	4	7.5
working for a relative in a salon	1	1.9
working in a restaurant	1	1.9
Total	53	100.0

**Figure 10: Career prior the current business**



#### 4.2.4 Start year of informal business

The start year of the informal hairdressing business is as early as 2005 and as recent as 2014, with a range of 9 years and 2013 is the year which most of the informal hairdressing business started.

**Table 35: Statistics; in which year did you start the business**

Valid	53
Missing	0

Mode	2013
Range	9
Minimum	2005
Maximum	2014

As seen from the statistics above most of the informal hairdressing businesses were started in 2013, where 30.2% of businesses were opened or started in this year alone. And 2005 had the lowest percentage, where only one business in the sample was started in the year. 2009 also saw a large percentage of informal hairdressing businesses being started which were 18.9% out of the sample. Followed by 2014 where 17% of hairdressing businesses were started. The rise of informal hairdressing businesses being formed can be explained by the fall of apartheid government in SA. Because after the apartheid era SA laws involving foreigners was not so rigid and allowing for African migrants to get in the country and be able to make a living.

**Table 36: In which year did you start the business**

	Frequency	Percent
Valid 2005	1	1.9
2007	3	5.7
2009	10	18.9
2010	7	13.2
2011	4	7.5
2012	3	5.7
2013	16	30.2
2014	9	17.0
Total	53	100.0

#### 4.2.5 Funding to start business

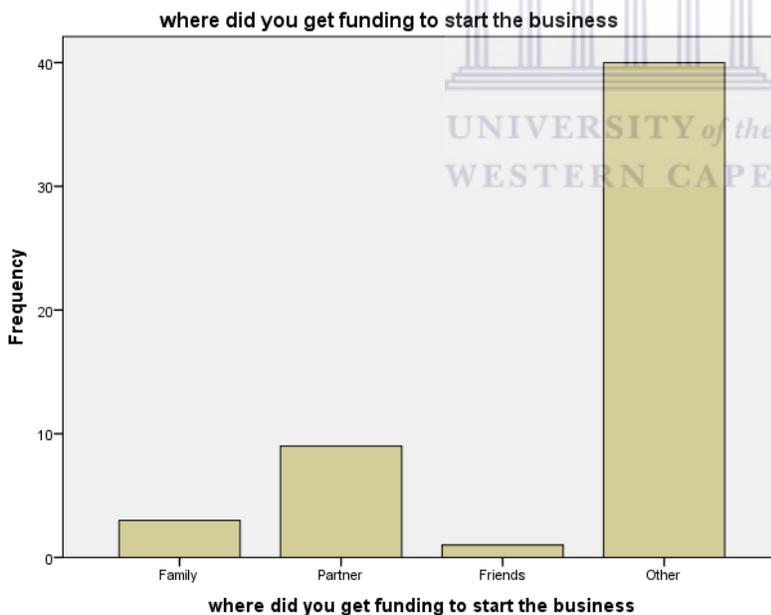
Most of the females in the sample got funding to start their businesses from other sources, which include savings from previous employment, getting customers to hair dress on the streets or at

home and saving the money, and selling other goods such as sweets, snacks, and brooms to save up money. This is followed by those who were financed by their partners which made up 17% of the sample. A very small amount of the female migrants in the sample got funding to start their businesses from their family or friends, which made up 5.7% and 1.9% respectively. Other includes those who got funding from their savings, financial schemes.

**Table 37: Source of funding to start the business**

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Family	3	5.7
	Partner	9	17.0
	Friends	1	1.9
	Other	40	75.5
	Total	53	100.0

**Figure 11: Source of funding to start the business**



#### 4.2.6 Place of business operation (operation area)

The areas where the informal hairdressers operate are either at home or on the streets or renting a shop or other (which includes those operating in caravans or containers). A large number of the

sample were renting shops, making 43.4% out of the sample, but out of these only a few are renting a shop where the whole space is theirs; they mostly rent Somalian/Indian shops where they share the space and they are at the back of a shop selling clothing or electronic goods. The second largest group is that of those operating on the street, making 30.2% of the sample. This group of females operating on the street is found in Bellville on the Golden Arrow bus terminals; here they build small temporary tents to work under. Other makes up 22.6% of the sample; these are the informal hairdressers who are in Cape Town CBD mostly operating in the containers on top of the Metro station building. A very small number out of the sample operates from home; this is largely due to the sampling technique used in this study.

**Table 38: Operation area of informal hairdressers**

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	At home	2	3.8
	On the street	16	30.2
	Renting a shop	23	43.4
	Other	12	22.6
	Total	53	100.0

**Figure 12: Operation area of informal hairdressers**

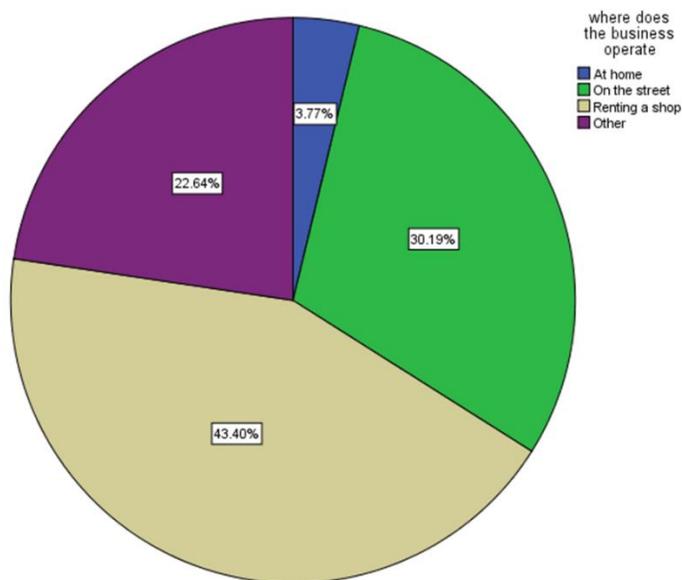


Figure 13: Hair salon in Bellville



Figure 14: Hair salon operating in wholesale shop (Bellville)



**Figure 15: Hair salon operating at the back of an electric/cellphone store (Parow)**



**Figure 16: Hair salon in Bellville bus terminal**



**Figure 17: Hair salon (Parow)**



#### **4.2.7 Reason to start an informal hairdressing business**

As much as the informal hairdressers get into hairdressing for different reasons, the sample's reasons for getting into the business are not that dispersed or too different. As seen in the table below, 58% of the informal hairdressers got in the industry because they could not find alternative employment. This is mostly because most do not have a work permit because of the fact that most have asylum status. And 20% of the sample joined the industry because they wanted to earn more money; most that gave this reason are married and have a working partner and they wanted to add to the family income. A few of the informal hairdressers got into the informal hairdressing industry because they wanted to work for themselves and did not enjoy working for someone else, and those who are in the industry because they feel they are good in running an informal hairdressing business.

**Table 39: Reasons for starting an informal hairdressing business**

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	I could not find employment	31	58.5
	I did not enjoy working for someone else	6	11.3
	I wanted to earn more money	11	20.8
	I am good at running the business	5	9.4
	Total	53	100.0

#### **4.2.8 Skills to run a business**

Every business to run smoothly and be successful needs a skilled entrepreneur. The sample was asked where they had acquired skills to run a business. Out of the sample 26% got their skills on the current job, meaning they did not have any form of skills to run a business. Another 26% of the sample got their skills from other sources; which include having a mentor or training from college. 20% got their skills from a family business, where 18% got their skills from school; this is the group who studied business or entrepreneurship related courses at tertiary. Only 7.5% acquired their skills of running a business from previous employers. A large number of the sample does not have formal training to run a business. This can be explained by the reasons in which these females chose to be in the informal hairdressing industry.

**Table 40: Acquisition of skills to run a business**

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Former employer	4	7.5
	On this job	14	26.4
	From school	10	18.9
	Family business	11	20.8
	Other	14	26.4
	Total	53	100.0

#### 4.2.9 Training for hairdressing

The female migrants have learned hairdressing from different sources. A large number of the informal hairdressers learned hairdressing from school; they constitute 41.5% of the sample, followed by a 17% who learned from their mothers and 13% who learned from a family business. Those who were taught by their sisters make 7.5% of the sample. And those who are self-taught or learned from their colleagues make up 5.7% of the sample each respectively. This goes to show that hairdressing in most African countries is a way in which women can be entrepreneurs and make a living for themselves; because of countries like DRC or Brazzaville where most of the participants from these countries went to beauty schools to learn hairdressing and more.

**Table 41: Training for hairdressing**

	Frequency	Percent
Valid		
a friend taught me	1	1.9
a relative taught me	1	1.9
family business	7	13.2
from an apprenticeship	1	1.9
my colleagues	3	5.7
my mother taught me	9	17.0
my sister taught me	4	7.5
never got any training	1	1.9
previous job	1	1.9
School	22	41.5
self-taught	3	5.7
Total	53	100.0

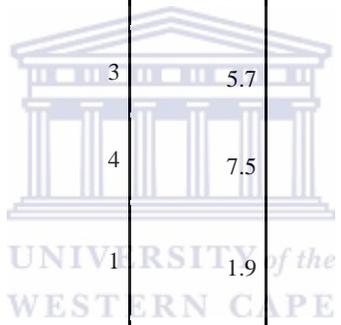
#### 4.2.10 Business specialties

The things that were found to be specialties in the informal hairdressing businesses were; hairdressing, manicure, pedicure, selling hair extensions, selling hair care products, and selling beauty products. Almost all of the sampled hairdressers did have hairdressing as a speciality, and 34% of the sample specialised only on hairdressing, whereas the other informal hairdressers had

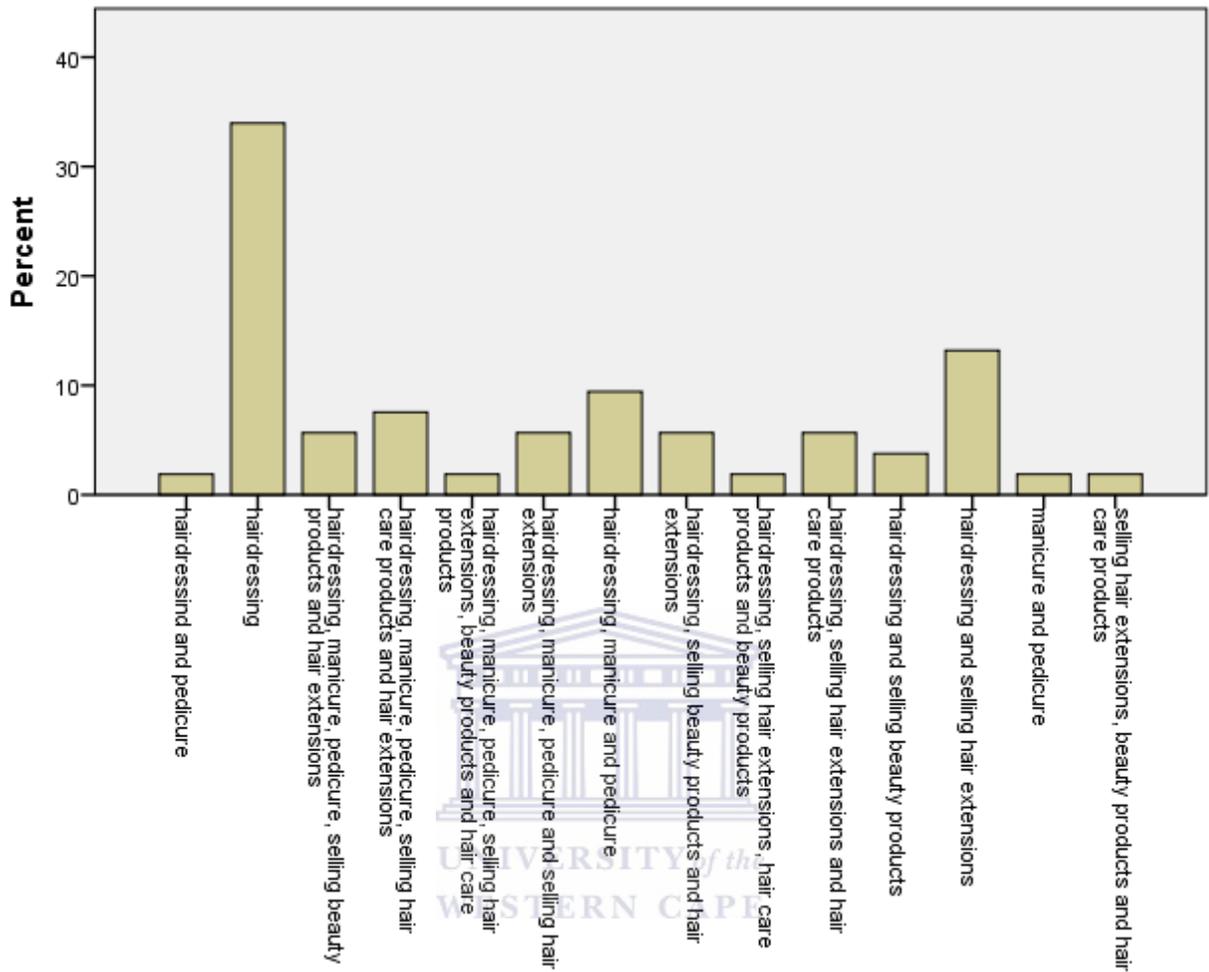
a mix of the above specialities differently. This is a way of making more money to get customers for different services and this is why there were disparities in the average weekly salary.

**Table 42: Business specialities**

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	hairdressing and pedicure	1	1.9
	Hairdressing	18	34.0
	hairdressing and selling beauty products	2	3.8
	hairdressing and selling hair extensions	7	13.2
	hairdressing, manicure and pedicure	5	9.4
	hairdressing, manicure, pedicure and selling hair extensions	3	5.7
	hairdressing, manicure, pedicure, selling beauty products and hair extensions	3	5.7
	hairdressing, manicure, pedicure, selling hair care products and hair extensions	4	7.5
	hairdressing, manicure, pedicure, selling hair extensions, beauty products and hair care products	1	1.9
	hairdressing, selling beauty products and hair extensions	3	5.7
	hairdressing, selling hair extensions and hair care products	3	5.7
	hairdressing, selling hair extensions, hair care products and beauty products	1	1.9
	manicure and pedicure	1	1.9
	selling hair extensions, beauty products and hair care products	1	1.9
	Total	53	100.0



**Figure 18: Business specialties**



#### 4.2.11 Employment status

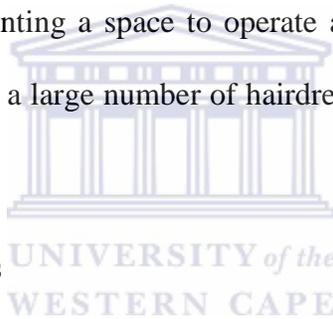
In the sample of female hairdressers 52% of them are self-employed whereas 47% are employed or working for someone else. This is another factor that influences the amount of salary weekly. Most of the informal hairdressers who earned a consistent amount of R500 per week were those who are employed. The trend of employment in the informal hairdressing industry is; in most cases a male who owns a shop or space buys all equipment needed to run a hairdressing business

and then employs women to work for him and pay them a salary weekly or monthly. And for those who are self-employed there are few that take on employees.

**Table 43: Employment status**

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	28	52.8
	No	25	47.2
	Total	53	100.0

Only a few number of hairdressers who are self-employed get employees in their business, these make up 30% of the sample. This is because almost all of the informal hairdressers operating on the streets or caravans are only renting a space to operate and this is where you find in most cases one space being occupied by a large number of hairdressers who pay a percentage of their earnings to the space owner.



**Table 44: Do you have employees**

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	16	30.2
	No	37	69.8
	Total	53	100.0

#### **4.2.12 Business ownership**

The female informal hairdressers were asked to define the ownership of the business in which they work. 47.2% defined it as being owned by someone else and 35% defined it as being owned by themselves, a few of those who defined the business as being owned by someone else said the owner was their husband/partner in some sense this was a way of protecting themselves. A few, which is 5.7% are in joint ownership with someone else. And 11.3% fell in the other category;

whereas they do not own a business or work for someone else but renting space in someone else's business.

**Table 45: Ownership of the business**

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Own it myself	19	35.8
	Working for someone else	25	47.2
	Jointly own it with somebody	3	5.7
	Other	6	11.3
	Total	53	100.0

#### 4.2.13 Number of hours spent at work

The number of hours the informal hairdressers spent at work are a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 14 hours and a mode of 10 hours per day. The number of hours most informal hairdressers spend at work per day are around 8 to 10 hours per day; where 26.4% of the sample spend 10 hours per day at work, 24.5% spend 9 hours per day at work and 22.6% of the sample spend up to 8 hours per day at work. Only 1.9% spends as much as 13 to 14 hours per day at work and also the same for those who spend as little as 2 to 6 hours per day at work. The informal hairdressers who work long hours start early in the morning in hopes of getting more clients a day and work till late in hopes of getting those coming to do their hair after work.

**Table 46: Number of hours spent at work**

N	Valid	53
	Missing	0
Mode		10
Minimum		2
Maximum		14

**Table 47: Number of hours spent at work**

	Frequency	Percent
Valid 2	1	1.9
6	1	1.9
7	3	5.7
8	12	22.6
9	13	24.5
10	14	26.4
11	4	7.5
12	3	5.7
13	1	1.9
14	1	1.9
Total	53	100.0

**4.2.14 Number of working days per week**

A large number of the informal hairdressers work 5 to 6 days a week, making up to 71.7% of the sample, and those who work throughout the week, 7 days a week, make 24.5% of the sample. Most of these females depend only on the income they make from the business which is why most of them work 5 to 7 days a week in order to ensure an income. Those working 1-4 days a week make 3.8% of the sample, the informal hairdressers working 1 to 4 days a week are those who are studying and those who have just been introduced in the industry. One of which, during an interview in Bellville, claimed to work 3 days because she had just got to the country and needed a ways to keep busy while the husband is at work during the day.

**Table 48: Number of working days per week**

	Frequency	Percent
Valid 1-2	1	1.9
3-4	1	1.9
5-6	38	71.7
7	13	24.5
Total	53	100.0

#### 4.2.15 Childcare for kids who are not in school

20.8% of the informal hairdressers have children who are below the schooling age and as working mothers they have to come up with ways to look after these children while at work. In the sample 9.4% reported that they take them with to work, during the observation phase this was observed where you find mother of young children working with their child on their back or laying them down somewhere where they work and on weekend you find even those who are schooling during the week they go with mom to work. Only 1.9% leaves the child with the family while at work, where as 3.8% leave them with friends and another 3.8% hire a nanny for their young children.

**Table 49: While at work who looks after the kids who are not in school**

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Take them with to work	5	9.4
	Leave them with family	1	1.9
	Leave them with friends	2	3.8
	Hired a nanny	2	3.8
	leave them with a neighbor	1	1.9
	Total	11	20.8
Missing	System	42	79.2
Total		53	100.0

#### 4.2.16 Childcare for kids who are in school after school

Even informal hairdressers with children who are in school still have to worry about who looks after these children after school. 5.7% say their husband is there by the time the children get home from school, 11.3% say that they are in aftercare at school and they fetch them from there after work, whereas 13.2% report that their children are old enough to be on their own at home until they get home, 11.3% have the kids come to their work place or fetch them from school to have them at the work place and they go together at home after the mother has finished working,

and another 5.7% say that a lady that they share their dwelling with looks after the kids until they get home from work.

**Table 50: After school hours who looks after the children**

	Frequency	Percent
Valid	25	47.2
a friend	1	1.9
aftercare at school	6	11.3
my husband	3	5.7
my mother	1	1.9
they are alone or sometimes with my husband if he is working a night shift	1	1.9
they are alone until i get home	7	13.2
they come to my work	6	11.3
they stay with the lady i am renting with	3	5.7
Total	53	100.0

#### 4.2.17 Informal hairdressers' feelings on the number of hours spent at work

A large number of informal hairdressers reported being unhappy with the number of hours they spend at work, which is 32.1% of the sample. Most say this is because they have little or no time to spend with their children or family. Whereas 18.9% say they feel just fine about the number of hours they spend at work, they are not thrilled and they are also not unhappy with the hours. A much smaller number of the informal hairdressers, 13.2% of the sample, report being happy with the number of hours as long as they have customers; which means they are only unhappy with the hours when the business has been quiet for the day. Whereas 28% feel that they are happy with the number of hours they spend at work.

**Table 51: Informal hairdressers' feeling on the number of hours spent at work**

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	I am fine with the hours	10	18.9
	I am happy with them as long as I have customers	7	13.2
	I am happy because I decide on the hours I spend at work	1	1.9
	I am happy with the hours	15	28.3
	I am not happy with the hours	17	32.1
	mixed feelings sometimes i am not happy and sometimes i am happy	1	1.9
	not stated	2	3.8
	Total	53	100.0

**4.2.18 Family or partner’s feeling about the number of hours spent at work**

In this part informal hairdressers were asked how they think their partners or family members feel about the number of hours the hairdressers spend at work. And very different answers were given. The answers that were most prominent are; 7.5% of which feel that their partners or family are happy as long as the hairdresser bring home income, another 7.5% of the sample think that the family is not happy with the number of hours the participant spends at work; because they do not have time for them, and 5.7% feel that their family or partner are not happy with the hours, these informal hairdressers are those that feel that their families or partners would prefer it if they would stay home and mind the kids and household instead of working. And 30% of the hairdressers feels that their family or partner are understanding of their situation; that they need to work to add on the family income and also 20.8% claim that their family or partner do not have a problem with the number of hours the hairdresser spends at work.

**Table 52: Family/partner feelings on the hours spent at work**

	Frequency	Percent
Valid		
happy as long as I am making money	4	7.5
I do not have family here	1	1.9
I only live with my child	1	1.9
not happy because I do not have time for them	4	7.5
not happy when I get home late because it is dangerous	1	1.9
not happy when I work late and not bring money home	1	1.9
not happy with the hours	3	5.7
not stated	6	11.3
Nothing	3	5.7
they are not happy when I get home late because it is dangerous	1	1.9
they do not have a problem with the hour	1	1.9
they do not have a problem with the hours	11	20.8
understanding of my situation	16	30.2
Total	53	100.0

#### 4.2.19 Family or partner feelings on financial contribution made by the hairdresser

According to the literature reviewed, such as Randenberg (1993), female financial contribution can cause a lot of problems within the family; such as threatening the role of the male in the family and giving the female autonomy and authority. But on the sample of hairdressers surveyed 71.7% reported that their partner or family feel happy with their financial contribution in the family and only 1.9% reported that their family or partner does not want them to contribute towards anything in the household with the income they make from hairdressing. Whereas 1.9% and 5.7% stated that their family or partner does not feel happy because the hairdresser's income is not stable and not happy because the income is very little. Some of the 15% of informal hairdressers who did not state the feelings of the family or partner are those who are single and are not living with their families. And only 3.8% of the participants say that they do not

contribute to the family income with their incomes. One hairdresser who said she does not contribute said:

*“...I do not contribute to the house with my income, me and my husband we feel that I should use my income for whatever I need; thing like doing my hair, buying toiletries, a new outfit or jewellery for myself”* (Clotil\* informal hairdresser in Bellville).

**Table 53: Family or partner feelings on financial contribution made by the hairdresser**

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	happy with the contribution	38	71.7
	i am not contributing	2	3.8
	not happy because it is not stable	1	1.9
	not happy because it is very little	3	5.7
	not stated	8	15.1
	they do not want me to contribute	1	1.9
	Total	53	100.0

#### 4.2.20 Starting hairdressing

In this section the participants were asked how they got into the business of hairdressing and as shown on the table below most of them started by working from home and then as their customer base grew and household chores got in the way of their business they moved and got a space to run the business in. whereas 17% say they were introduced by a friend who already had the business, these hairdressers say that the friend would start by bringing them along to work and then give them a customer when the business is busy until they also gained some customers, same as the 13.2% who claim they were introduced by a relative and also the same as the 1.9%

who began by helping a relative. And 7.5% say they started by working on the street, Ani\* a hairdresser in Parow explains:

*“I started by working on the streets, every time I had a chance I would go and sit by the street in front of my flat and ask ladies if they wanted to do their hair and try to attract them with pictures and low prices. Whenever I got a customer I would take them to my flat this happened until my husband leased this shop for me”.*

**Table 54: How did you start hairdressing?**

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	a friend introduced me	9	17.0
	a relative introduced me	7	13.2
	i came to the shop looking for employment	5	9.4
	i knew the owner of the shop	6	11.3
	i share a flat with the owner	1	1.9
	i started by working from home	12	22.6
	i started by working on family members and friends	1	1.9
	i started by working on the streets	4	7.5
	i started from helping a relative	1	1.9
	i was friends with my co-owner	1	1.9
	my boyfriend helped me to start	1	1.9
	my former employer found me a place to rent	1	1.9
	not stated	4	7.5
	Total	53	100.0

#### **4.2.21 Changes caused by owning a business on the hairdresser’s dependence on family or partner**

More than half of the informal hairdresser, 52.9% of the sample, felt that owning the informal business has brought about positive change in the levels of their dependence. Out of the 52.9% of the sample, 1.9% feels that they are no longer just a dependant to the family; but they can contribute to the household financially. Where 3.8% feel that they are in a position to take care

of themselves and their children without depending on anyone, and 13.2% say they are no longer always depending on their husbands as well as 11.3% who say they are no longer always depending on their families. These informal hairdressers feel that they only depend on family and/or husband on fewer occasions than they normally would. And 22.7% of the informal hairdressers sampled say that they are no longer depending on their families, these hairdressers claim that since starting the business they have not at all depended on their families financially.

*“Owning the business has brought a lot of changes in my life, some good some bad, which one of them is gaining independence – I can do the smallest things like making sure that my kids have lunch at school every day – and it is the best feeling to have as a parent”.* Mary\* (CBD)

On the other hand another group of informal hairdresser making up almost half of the sample feel that owning the informal hairdressing business has not change their dependence. 11.3% of these informal hairdressers say that they are still depending on their families, as well as 5.7% who say that they are still depending on their husbands and 3.8% who say that they are still depending on their partners. All these informal migrants feel that the money they earn from the business is very little and unstable to sustain their lives. A smaller group of the sample feel differently from both these discussed above; 1.9% say they still depend on the husband because it is the husband who is supposed to provide for them, where as another 1.9% say nothing has changed because even before they started working they were not depending on anyone for financial support.

**Table 55: Changes caused by owning a business on the hairdresser’s dependence on family or partner**

	Frequency	Percent
Valid i am able to take care of myself and my children	2	3.8
i am no longer a dependant who does not contribute	1	1.9
i am no longer always depending on my husband	7	13.2
i am no longer dependent on my family	12	22.7
i am not always depending on my family	6	11.3
i am still depending on my family	6	11.3
i am still depending on my husband	3	5.7
i never depended on anyone for money	1	1.9
i still depend on my husband because he is supposed to provide for us	1	1.9
i still depend on my partner because my salary is not stable	2	3.8
it changed a little bit	1	1.9
not stated	5	9.4
when the business is not making money i depend on my husband	6	11.3
Total	53	100.0

#### 4.2.22 Role change

Most of the informal hairdressers feel like owning a business has brought change in the role they play in the household. 52.8% say since they started working they have become the sole providers in their households. Whereas 1.9% feels that they have become providers and more; which is an equal to their partner whose voice is heard when it comes to decision making in the household. 3.8% say they have become providers and independent women who can stand on their own and 1.9% says owning a business made them independent. On the other hand 9.7%, 15.9%, and 5.7% of the sample say that owning the informal hairdressing business did not the role they play in the house hold for different reasons respectively as seen on the table below.

**Table 56: Role change**

	Frequency	Percent
Valid		
i became the sole provider	28	52.8
i became a provider and an equal to my partner	1	1.9
i became a provider and an independent woman	2	3.8
i became an independent person	1	1.9
i cannot change my role i am only a woman	5	9.4
my role did not change	8	15.1
my role did not change i am only a wife and a mother	3	5.7
not stated	5	9.4
Total	53	100.0

**4.2.23 Changes in confidence levels**

More than half of the sample, 60.4% feel that their confidence has improved since owning the informal hairdressing business; some stated, while being interviewed, that their confidence had increased a lot while some say it increased a little bit. They explain this by the fact that they have managed to start and keep the business running and are making money. Whereas 30.2% feel their confidence levels did not change at all; some say it is because the business has not changed much in the quality of their live, while others claim to have been confident even before the business.

**Table 57: Changes in confidence levels**

	Frequency	Percent
Valid		
i am more confident than before	32	60.4
my confidence levels did not change	16	30.2
not stated	5	9.4
Total	53	100.0

#### 4.2.24 Informal hairdressers' position in decision making

Most of the informal hairdressers feel that their position in decision making has changed positively since starting the business. 15% of the informal hairdressers say that after starting the business they are able to make decisions with their partners/husbands, unlike before where they were not in a position of making decisions in the household. Similar with 13.2% of the hairdressers who say they are able to on their own without having to consult anyone for approval. And 24.6% say now they make all decisions on their own without asking their families or partners for approval. On the other hand 5.7% and 11.3% say they have always made their own decisions or they have always made decisions together with their partners/husbands respectively. And 9.4% of the hairdressers say they still are unable to make decisions because they are making very little money so their positions has not changed, as well as 11.3% who say that their husbands/partners still make all the decisions in the household.

**Table 58: Informal hairdressers' position in decision making**

	Frequency	Percent
Valid		
i am able to make decisions with my husband/partner	8	15.1
i am now able to make some decisions	7	13.2
i am still unable to make decisions	5	9.4
i have always made decisions together with my husband/partner	6	11.3
i have always made my own decisions	3	5.7
I now make decisions on my own	13	24.6
my husband/partner still makes all the decisions	6	11.3
not stated	5	9.4
Total	53	100.0

#### 4.2.25 Remittance

Remittance is the act of sending money or goods to COB as means of support. The role of remittance to these female migrants is being able to take care of their children and families from far. Going to a foreign country and leaving you family and children behind sometimes mean that you have to take care of them financially from far. 43.4% of the informal hairdressers say that there is nothing they send back to the COB. The following hairdressers give different reasons as to why:

*“I live with my children, so all the money I make I have to spend it taking care of their needs, and thereafter there is none left to send to my family back home”.*

Lucille\* (CBD).

*“I do not make enough money; the money I make is only enough for rent, food and transport”.* Anwuli\* (Bellville).

*“....my family is now my children, that is all the family I need I live with them there is no one to send my money to back home”.* Shiela\* (Bellville).

**Table 59: Remittance**

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	i buy things and send them to my country	2	3.8
	i do not send	23	43.4
	i do not send i receive money from them sometimes	1	1.9
	i do send money not regularly	3	5.7
	i do send money regularly	20	37.7
	not stated	4	7.5
	Total	53	100.0

#### 4.2.26 Intentions to migrate to other countries

Out of the sample, 56.6% hairdressers intend to migrate to other countries and only 37.7% had no interest in migrating to other countries. Below the reasons as to why some intend to go back and some do not intend to go back are discussed.

**Table 60: Intentions to migrate to other countries**

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	30	56.6
	No	20	37.7
	Total	50	94.3
Missing	System	3	5.7
Total		53	100.0

##### 4.2.26.1 Reason for wanting or not wanting to migrate to other countries

30% of the sample wants to migrate to other countries because they want a better living or opportunities. Whereas 7.5% of hairdressers who do not intend to migrate to other countries say they do not have money to travel and another 7.5% of hairdressers they have no intentions of migrating to other countries because their husbands do not like to travel. The informal hairdressers who say they do not have money to travel say it is because travelling is expensive because you need money for a ticket, for rent, and to sustain a living until you find employment. Whereas 5.7% say they want to migrate to other countries to study further. All the hairdressers intend to travel to countries overseas and not to other African countries.

**Table 61: Reasons for wanting or not wanting to migrate to other countries**

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	do not have money to travel	4	7.5
	for a better living/opportunities	18	30.0
	i am comfortable here	2	3.8

i am not ready to move again	1	1.9
i do not like it here	1	1.9
i do not like moving around	1	1.9
i want to see the world	2	3.8
it is not easy to be a foreigner in a foreign country	1	1.9
living in SA is difficult	1	1.9
my husband does not like moving	4	7.6
not stated	11	20.8
SA citizens do not like us they giving us names	1	1.9
to further my studies	3	5.7
Missing System	3	5.7
Total	53	100.0

#### 4.2.27 Intentions to return to COB

Informal hairdressers who have intentions to return to COB make up 62.3% of the sample and only 32.1% does not intend to return to COB. This shows that most of the immigrant hairdressers do not come to SA with intentions of becoming permanent resident, whereas it is the direct opposite for a small number of the immigrant hairdressers. Below we look at the reasons why the hairdressers intend or do not intend to return to COB.

**Table 62: Intentions to return to COB**

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	33	62.3
	No	17	32.1
	Total	50	94.3
Missing	System	3	5.7
Total		53	100.0

#### 4.2.27.1 Reason for wanting or not wanting to return to COB

A large number, 26.4% of the sample say they intend to go back to the COB because it is their home and their families/children are still there, although 17% of the hairdressers say they do not want go back to stay but just to visit their families/children. 7.6% say they want to go back

because life is difficult and expensive in SA, similar to the 1.9% who says they want to go back because life is tough in SA and finding a job is even harder. And 3.8% who say they want to go back after finishing their studies to practice. On the other hand 3.8% say they do not intend to go back to COB there is war and another 3.8% say they do not intend to go back because of family issues that led them to move to SA. 9.4% say they have nothing left in their countries because their whole families are in SA so they do not see a reason to go back. And 5.7% say they would not go back unless if the things that led them to leave change and another 5.7% say they do not intend to go back to their countries because life is difficult.

**Table 63: Reason for wanting or not wanting to return to COB**

	Frequency	Percent
Valid	1	1.9
after i finished my studies, to go practice what i have learned here	2	3.8
because there is war in my country	2	3.8
family problems	2	3.8
i am struggling and my husband is no longer alive anymore	1	1.9
To just visit my children/family	9	17
i do not have anything left there my whole family is here	5	9.4
i do not have enough money to move back	1	1.9
i do not like the place and my life is now here	1	1.9
if things can change in my country I would go back	3	5.7
in SA life is difficult and expensive	4	7.6
it is home and my family/children are still there	14	26.4
life is tough in SA and getting a job is even harder	1	1.9
life is tough back home	3	5.7
my husband does not want to go back	1	1.9
not stated	3	5.7
Total	53	100.0

## CHAPTER FIVE: PART I

### 5 DISCUSSION

#### 5.1 Introduction

The study investigated the challenges and conflicts which arise when female migrants who are mothers enter the informal hairdressing industry, using informal hairdressers in Cape Town as a case study. The concepts emancipation, subordination, and social networking were central in the explanation of challenges and conflicts which arise from informal entrepreneurship, motherhood and sometimes family relations. These concepts helped explain what type of challenges female migrants in the sector faced and what conflicts arise from those challenges, and also the way in which they enter the country and the informal hairdressing sector.

This study was based on fifty-three female immigrant hairdressers from Congo and a few other African countries, in three suburbs of Cape Town (Bellyville, Cape Town CBD, and Parow). The data that was collected through the survey was analysed using SPSS (version 22&23). Facets explored included general characteristics such as; country of birth, age, marital status, duration of stay in SA, status in SA, family members in SA, language, education, children, and average weekly salary. Results from the survey showed that average weekly salary is influenced by a couple of things and the amount of money made weekly had both positive and negative influence in the hairdressers' lives.

This chapter is divided into two parts; part one looks to discuss the results including the general characteristics and part two concludes the study by trying to locate the study in a broader context.

## 5.2 General characteristics of informal hairdressers

From the data analysis done, eight countries were represented in the survey conducted. Out of the eight countries, two countries were dominantly represented; DRC and Congo Brazzaville. This can be explained by the fact that the study was initially set out to look at Congolese female migrant, and the other countries were added for interest purposes and comparisons. Another explanation to this can be the strength of social networks of female migrants from DRC and Congo Brazzaville. It was also found that the age of the informal hairdressers ranged from 18 years to 44 years of age, but the mean was around 30 years. This means that the informal hairdressers are young. This both agrees with what Mohapatra (2012) says, which is that females in the informal hairdressing business age ranges from 27 years and that almost all of the females are under the age of 32 years. Both married and unmarried informal hairdressers were almost equally represented, which means it cannot be said that the industry is dominated by married females or is dominated by unmarried females. This is in contrast with Narayan *et al* (2000) who says that the most prominent group in the informal trade is that of unmarried, widowed, and divorced females. When in the analysis the group of widowed and divorced females was almost non-existing.

The duration of stay in SA of the informal hairdressers ranges from 0 to 14 years and the most prominent duration of stay is 7 years and 1 year. Both the prominent durations of stay are well within the time of a democratic SA and none of the durations of stays of the informal hairdressers is more than or older than the democratic SA. This means all the informal hairdressers arrived in SA after the apartheid regime. This goes to prove what most authors and researchers in the migration field have been saying, that the increase of immigration into SA was seen after 1994 and it continues to increase and that female migration is a newly growing

concept. The informal hairdressers are largely dominated by female immigrants with refugee or asylum status. This can be associated with the means of entry into the country and the duration of stay. It can also be explained by the systems and processes the Department Home Affairs in SA uses to process the foreigners' application for visas.

More than half of the informal hairdressers have families in SA, this shows the type of social networks that are used to enter the country. Languages that are largely spoken by the informal hairdressers are French and Lingala. This is because a large number of the informal hairdressers are from DRC and Congo Brazzaville; where in both countries French and Lingala are languages largely uses, because French is the language of the colonisers that colonised these countries and Lingala is an indigenous language. Also more than half of the informal hairdressers can speak English and their English proficiency is good or fair at times. This can be explained by the fact that the hairdressers have to communicate using English with their potential customers and customers, since English is vernacular in SA. And a quarter of the informal hairdresser can speak SA indigenous languages; this is because they have mixed themselves with SA citizens in their places of residence, and most of these are those who have stayed in Cape Town townships.

More than 90% of informal hairdressers have formal education background. About half of which have grade 12 and almost a quarter has diplomas. Only a few hairdressers have below grade 12 and degrees. This disagrees with the view of Randenberg (1993) who argues that female migrants have relatively little or no education which is why they tend to secure jobs in the informal sector. Only a quarter of informal hairdressers studied further in SA, where most of them did short courses. This is explained by the lack of finances, the difficulty getting a study permit and the fact that most of the hairdressers have refugee or asylum statuses.

Only a quarter of informal hairdressers do not have children the rest of them do. This can be explained by the fact that all of the informal hairdressers are of mature and reproductive age and have partners or husbands. The numbers of children the hairdressers have ranges from 1 to 4, where most have 1 or 2 children. This is because most of the informal hairdressers are still young and most of those married are newly married. Slightly more than half of the children are born in SA, whereas slightly less than half are born in the informal hairdressers' COB. This can be explained by that most of the informal hairdressers found partners in SA and got married in SA. The ones who had children in their COB are most likely to be those who arrived recently in SA and those who are around the age of 28 upwards. There are notable disparities in the average weekly salary of the informal hairdressers; where the salary ranges from R250 to R2000 per week on average. The prominent average weekly salary is that of R500 per week followed by R400, then R1000, and R700 weekly. Age proves to be an influencing factor where the informal hairdressers who make more money are around the ages of 25 to 30 years and there is a visible decrease in salary around the ages of 40 to 44 years.

### **5.3 Female migration, entrepreneurship and motherhood**

A quarter of the hairdresser were informally employed in the prior moving to SA, whereas slightly less than half were unemployed and slightly more than a quarter were formally employed. A large number of the informal hairdressers' reason to migrate was to join their husbands followed by those who wanted a better living. This explains the large number of female migrants who left their formal employment to come to SA. After moving for all these different reasons more than half of the migrants were unemployed before getting into informal hairdressing.

From the analysis the years in which the hairdressers started the informal business range from 2005 to 2014 and about a quarter of the businesses were started in 2013. This can be explained by the fact that about half of the informal hairdressers moved to SA just to join their husbands. This is in agreement with some authors who still believe that female migrants do not migrate independently. On the other hand half of the more than half of the informal hairdresser started the business because they could not find employment and a quarter started the business because they wanted to earn money. This goes to show that for most hairdressers getting in the informal hairdressing industry was not their first choice. Only half of the hairdressers are self-employed, where the other half is working for someone else. This can be explained that most hairdressers joined the informal industry recently. Out of those who are self-employed only a small number have joint ownership of the business.

The number of days informal hairdressers spend at work range from 1 to 7 days a week and a third work for 5 to 6 days a week. This is because hairdressing is their only source of income and it is their full time job. And the minimum number of hours worked a day are 2 hours with a maximum of 14 hours a day. A third of the hairdresser work 8 to 10 hours a day. A quarter of the female hairdressers have young children who are not going to school; where half of them take the children with them to work. This is to save them the trouble of looking for someone to look after the children and to also save money. And for those with children who are going to school they make ways to take care of them after school; where some put their children in the aftercare program at school, others have them stay alone at home till they get there after work, and some have the children come to their place of work.

A large number of the informal hairdressers are not happy with the number of hours they spend at work, this is because it takes them away from their kids and families; where some leave home

before the kids wake up and come back when they are sleeping so they never get to see them during working days. But on the other hand some are content with the number of hours they spend at work; this is because they feel they are making money to take care of their children and families. About half of the hairdressers report that their families or partners do not have a problem with the number of hours they spend at work; they feel that they understand that they have to work to help out in the household. Only a very small number of hairdressers have families or partners with a problem with the number of hours they spend at work. This can be explained by the fact that some of the partners or families feel that the hairdressers do not have time for them and their children.

The informal hairdressers reported improvements in the role they play in the household and on decision making; they feel they have become providers who are included in the decision making in the household. This seems to be the same with dependence and confidence levels; where they say they are no longer much depending on family and partners for every single thing, and being able to provide, be included in decision making and the new found dependence has boosted half more than half of the hairdressers' confidence level. This is in agreement of Randenberg's (1993) view that employment for female migrants brings about emancipation. Close to half of the hairdressers do not remit. This is because they do not make enough money and some all of their family members are in SA, and also family problems that caused the hairdressers to leave their home country. The quarter of hairdressers who remit most of them send money back home regularly. This is the group of hairdressers with children back in the home country.

Female migration is a relatively new concept; especially females who migrate independently. With this said; half of the informal hairdressers' migration is self-initiated, with only about a quarter their decision to migrate was taken by their partners. This goes to show that female

migration is self-initiated and it continues to grow to be the way in which females migrate. Female migration is a way in which females can accumulate assets. The informal business the females have is one of their biggest assets accumulated and when the business continues to grow and make more money it puts them in a position to accumulate more assets.

In conclusion female migration is a way in which female migrants can self-emancipate. Through migration females have the opportunity of participating in the informal sector in order to make money and better their lives. The female migrants in this study found a way to better their lives through informal hairdressing which, through their own admission, brought about independence, confidence, and opportunity to make their own decisions, ability to provide for their children and families, and autonomy – all this is self-emancipation. One would think that female migration would give rise to stronger bonds among female migrants of the same ethnic background. But it appears to be a more individualistic project; because the hairdressers in their entry into the country, finding a place to stay, and accessing the informal hairdressing industry tend to do it alone or with the help of their spouses or family member or on their own. And when females migrate and enter the informal sector they are more emancipated and when it comes to their reproductive roles and family relations they take charge, this is because of the newly acquired autonomy and self-confidence through participating in the informal sector.

#### **5.4 Accommodation and residential mobility**

The hairdressers' places of residence are scattered over twenty one suburbs, and the suburbs with most concentration of hairdressers are Parow and Bellville. This can be explained by; firstly, the hairdressers want to stay close by to work so that they do not have to use a lot of money on transport and because the hairdressers sampled were working in Bellville Parow and Cape Town CBD so the hairdressers operating in these suburbs are from close vicinity. A third of the

hairdressers stay in dwellings with 1 to 3 rooms and a quarter of them are sharing with co-national; this is a way of keeping social networks strong and it is also because some have not been in the country for a very long time. But in the reasons the hairdressers gave for sharing with co-nationals, they were sharing more for financial reasons rather than keeping social networks. The hairdressers share with one and up to eight people in a dwelling, but a quarter of them share with just one person and about three quarters share with three to five people.

### **5.5 Acquisition of space, capital and experience**

A third of the hairdressers got funding from their saving from previous activity and financial scheme groups and almost half were funded by their partners. And half of the hairdressers are operating in a shop they rent; of which most of the shops were at the back or side of an electronic shop and clothing shops. A quarter operated on the streets; the hairdressers operating on the streets some are the owners of the space in which they operating in and some are renting to the owner of the space. Those who rent to the owner of the space when they require a space they negotiate with the owner and come to a decision of the percentage they have to pay. About half of the hairdressers do not have formal training in entrepreneurship; most got training in the current job while others got skills from family business. But more than half of the hairdressers went to school to study hairdressing and other beauty services and a quarter were taught by family members.

### **5.6 Specialisation**

Almost all the hairdressers specialise in hairdressing, and they mix it with other beauty services and selling beauty products. Mixing hairdressing with other beauty services and cosmetics help increase the average weekly salary; because at times where they do not get customers for

hairdressing they can get customers for manicures or pedicures or customers buying cosmetic products.

### **5.7 Prospects of return**

Half of the informal hairdressers intend to migrate to other countries; and most of these intend to migrate to countries overseas and not to other African countries, this is because they think getting a better living in countries overseas is easier than countries in Africa because all African countries are still under developed and some still developing, like SA. And these hairdressers who want to move to other countries it is because they want a better living. And those who do not want to migrate to other countries; it is because of finance and family/partners who do not want to migrate. More than half of the hairdressers intend to go back to COB; some just to visit from time to time while other want to move back permanently because their lives SA is not what they expected. Most of those intending to move back home is because they have children and family still back in COB and still feel it is their home. The ones who do not intend to go back it is because of war that is going on in their countries, or because of family issues that drove them away, or because all their family members are in SA.

From the female migrants studies it could be learned that they have the drive to put themselves in situations that make them able to provide for themselves and their families. They do not depend on someone else to provide for them and better their livelihoods; from this South Africans can learn a lot to be less dependent on the government. These female migrants are not here to take away from the South African national but provide job opportunities.

## PART TWO: CONCLUSION

The study set out to answer questions that were formulated in the beginning and also to prove or disprove the hypotheses that were set out as a consequence. In conclusion I look at whether the hypotheses formulated were proved or not. The hypotheses that were formulated are as follows:

Hypotheses:

1. Entering the informal hairdressing industry is relatively easy for female migrants.
2. Starting their own informal hairdressing business is more advantageous in the sense that they do not go through all the screening they would go through if they were looking for employment.
3. The long hours put in the business negatively affect parenting and domestic relations.
4. To a large extent the gender of the migrants play a big role to the choice of economic activity.
5. Owning a business has positive effects on the livelihood of the migrants.
6. Congolese females rely on family, friends, and other Congolese migrants for economical support and experience needed to start their businesses.

It can be said that entry into the informal hairdressing industry is relatively easy for female migrants. This is because when most could not find employment turned to the informal hairdressing, because they already have the skills required to be a hairdresser because of their educational background in hairdressing and learning experiences from their mothers, sisters and friends. The female immigrants have either refugee or asylum status; this means that they cannot secure formal employment. So starting an informal business works in their advantage because

they do not go through the screening that takes place when looking for a job and they earn money on a daily basis.

The long hours and number of days spent at work to an extent have a negative effect on the parenting of the informal hairdressers; because they do not have quality time to spend parenting their kids because most of their time is spent trying to provide for the children. But when it comes to domestic relations the long hours do not necessarily affect these relations; because even the families or partners are busy working trying to make ends meet in the household, so they all understand their positions. But rather the families and partners are happy that the hairdressers can contribute financially to the household.

The tension that arise from being a mother and an entrepreneur include; the informal hairdressers do not have time to spend quality time with their children, this is due to the long hours of work and working almost seven days a week. Also the long working hours and 6 to 7 days a week spent at work hinders them from maintaining a strong link with their children and culture, because their lives have become modernized as working mothers and women. The multiple roles the female migrants have to play; being a mother, an entrepreneur, a provider, and wife, is also a tension as these female try to figure out how to settle in these roles and the responsibilities that come with them. And lastly; the issue of feeling guilty that the female migrants do, because they are not spending enough time with their families.

To a large extent gender plays a role in the choosing of economic activities. This is because the industry of informal hairdressing is dominated by female migrants; with almost no existing male informal hairdresser. Hairdressing is largely viewed as a female career; this view also exists in the informal sector. Owning and working has brought positive effects on the role, dependence,

confidence and decision making of the hairdressers. Where there was large number of hairdressers reporting positive change in all these aspects of their live. This is true for every female in every industry; be it immigrant or citizen, gaining financial independence bring about positive effects on the livelihood of females.

Social networks to an extent play a role in the migration and entry of females in the informal sector. This is the same for getting funding to start the business. But this does not say there are no females who migrated, entered the informal hairdressing industry independently. Because there are cases of females who left COB on their own came to SA not knowing anyone and managed to start their own business without the help of social networks. But this is not to say they did not acquire help from anyone.

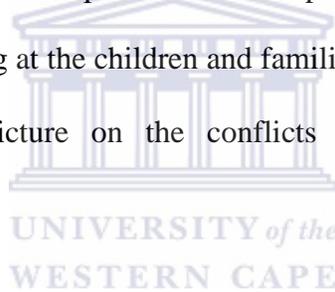
**Policy implications:** From the observations it was found that the city of Cape Town municipality has done a lot for informal traders; in terms of providing space for informal traders to operate in. which they operate. However, basic recommendations can be made in order to improve on the sector, for particularly the women in the informal hairdressing industry.

- The number of female hairdressers is rapidly growing in the informal sector of the Western Cape and that of South Africa as a whole, municipalities and stakeholders that are part of the city management need to make provision for more space to accommodate the growing population of the informal sector.
- To make informal hairdressing more viable municipalities need to create projects directed to women in the informal sector that will provide them with skills needed to run successful informal hairdressing businesses, and also help them raise funds or loan them funds to start a business.

- Encourage South African females to get involved in the informal hairdressing industry to help them be independent and less dependent on the government. This would go a long way in creating bonds between immigrant and national females.

### **Recommendations for future research**

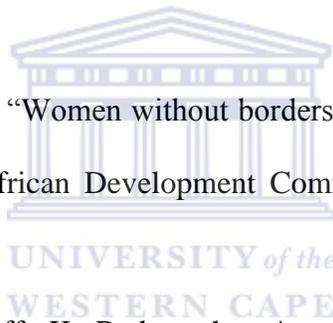
- This study was done in only three cities of the Western Cape Province, a study of other towns in the country would give a good picture of female informal hairdressers of the country as a whole and their challenges, and also look at females in other operation of the informal sector.
- A study that would look at the impact female entrepreneurship has on the children of the female migrants; by looking at the children and families of the female entrepreneurs. This would give a holistic picture on the conflicts raised by female migration and entrepreneurship.



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