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**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE**

**DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE**

ACCESSIBILITY OF HEALTH INFORMATION AMONG RURAL WOMEN IN  
DALUKA WARD ( LUPANE DISTRICT) MATABELELAND NORTH

BY

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DATE	ACCESSION	CLASS No
06/03/19	SC 19/1079	

A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE  
REQUIREMENTS OF THE MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE

IN

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

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**BULAWAYO, ZIMBABWE**



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**YEAR: 2018**

## ABSTRACT

Health information is a pillar to empowerment because with the information women can be able to make informed decisions which improve their livelihoods, that of their families and ultimately, the nation. However, this accessibility was not there as the Researcher observed an increase of home deliveries in Daluka ward (Lupane District), Matabeleland North despite the presence of Village Health Workers (VHWs) operating in the area disseminating information on health issues. Hence the study sought to evaluate the extent of accessibility of health information by rural women in Daluka ward in Lupane district, Matabeleland North. The study adopted the interpretivist research philosophy and a qualitative research design was adopted. The study made use of the case study research design. Convenience, purposive and snowballing techniques were employed in the study. The instruments used for collecting data were in-depth interviews and focus group discussions. Use of in-depth interviews, triangulation, and pre-testing of the data collection tools were used to ensure validity and reliability. Data was analysed using qualitative statements. The main findings showed that a majority of rural women were aware of the availability of health information and they put in a lot of effort in accessing health information; that VHWs, friends and family were the main sources of health information. Acceptability of health information was affected by the women's understanding of what was communicated to them and their trust on the source of health information. The major recommendations were that cultural leaders were supposed to be educated about health information. VHWs in conjunction with the hospital could use the cultural leaders to distribute pamphlets since women trust them.