

Participant 4

Participant 4

**I: on record you give me permission to record you?**

P4: Yes.

**I: Who lives in the family/household?**

P: My family... I'm a single parent. But my family is my family and extended family members in terms of needs and taking care of. I have a big family. Because it includes the aunts, the uncles my sisters, my sisters children.

**I: Can you share with me what you feel were some of the biggest changes that you had to deal with during the COVID-19 pandemic?**

P: During covid 19... Because it was hard, the changes we needed to make was the issue of culture, because you remember during that time it was difficult to do the funerals. It was difficult because we are also use to visit extended families when there is a funeral and we were not allowed to. But there was definitely a need to change the way of living, because of the things that we are used to do needed to stop. But I think it also helped a lot, because financially these things are so costly, but what happened during covid 19, it forced us to change the way of life.

**I: How did the adults care for the children needs during this time?**

P: I can say my family, in my family I am the bread winner. So, we do help each other, so if there is a need somewhere I can go and help, especially on my sisters side, my sister is not working, and her children is like my children.

**I: was there family members that needed to work from home?**

P: No

**I: Can you tell me how you and your family cared for the children in the household during the COVID-19 pandemic**

**I: Please tell me how routines and responsibilities changed**

P: Their routines definitely changed. A girl child of 12 years normally in my family she will help clean the house, and help to cook, but now it needed to change, because we did not know how safe it is for her, We will not know if the person who ate from the dishes have covid.

**I: so the duties in the household changed?**

P: yes, it changed.

**I: How did you feel about all the changes in the caring of the children?**

P: to me, the changes has an impact, whereby you are trying to give children their own responsibilities, but with this covid thing now, our children started to become lazy and their responsibilities became less

**I: Who did you ask or go to for help and/or who offered help to you during the COVID-19 pandemic?**

P: Honestly, I did not go anywhere for support system, but I only prayed, my support system was my religion

**I: How did you keep in touch with extended family, friends, neighbours, church, or religious support?**

P: We made a lot of phone calls. It was the best way to communicate.

**I: How did your children understand COVID-19? (What did it mean to them? How did they make sense of it?)**

P: Children, they took I as something that is going to pass, because even during that hard lockdown, you will say please don't do this, and they would never even listen to you. It is just a myth to them.

**I: Who did your children speak to about their feelings during COVID?**

P: I think the children was just talking amongst themselves. And there peers and friends. Because even when we watched TV we would tell them and say you hear they say we should not do this and that, they will just say they will go and do whatever they want, as normal.

**I: One of the biggest things that changed for children, was when they had to school from home. Can you share how your child may have experienced this? (What was challenging? What did they enjoy about this? Were they able to keep up with the work?) Please motivate your answer.**

P: During covid 19, the issue of school, it did impacted our children, especially the children who was always upsetting the class, I think for them it was just the happiest time ever, and the impact of covid 19 on school, the rates of school drop outs was very high, they rates of HIV the rates of criminal activities especially the abuse of alcohol and other stuff was very very high. Because the children did not have something to entertain them. So they had time to think about such things, like substance abuse did evolve. It was worse for the children

**I: How did you and the family cope with having to monitor and supervise the children's schooling during this time? (What was challenging? What worked well? How did you have to adapt your household to accommodate schooling and working from home?)**

P: It was very hard, Because most of the studies was online. And it was difficult because you will call the child to say come lets sit here and do this, but the child will say the teacher did not gave me anything to do. So why?

**I: Do you think your child missed out on anything during the COVID-19 pandemic? Can you please explain further? (Aspects such as not being able to play with friends; extramural/cultural activities, not being able to see extended family, such as grandparents and/or cousins could be included)**

P: yes, they did miss out a lot. Because the children did not wok at home, and when they got back to school they missed a lot and don't know anything. The children did not passed their grades, and the ones that did passed is not able to tell you anything of the previous school year academics. They did not gain knowlegde

**I: Were they able to keep in touch with their friends from school and how were they able to do so?**

P: Yeah, they run around all over the place. Even the police will tell them to go home and not do this and that, but they still was all over

**I: Did the behaviour of the child or children change during the COVID-19 pandemic? If so, please explain.**

P: The behaviour of children definitely changes a lot. For example the rate of substance abuse as mentioned earlier. The children was looking for something to do, and looking for ways for their friends to give them attention,

**I: Please describe your family's financial position during the COVID-19 pandemic**

P: I did not experience any problems with finances. Because I was receiving my salary. And the children was still receiving their grants. So our income was the same.

**I: Please elaborate on how the COVID-19 pandemic may have impacted your family's financial position (such as financial difficulties; how and where you coped and/or found support) and how these may have impacted the child/children and caring for them.**

P: the family was not impacted negatively financially

**I: What did you struggle with in terms of resources?**

P: yes, I wanted to go and visit my father with my younger sister. But we could not cross the border. And that time we needed to get vaccinated, and till this day I did not get vaccinated I don't believe in this

**I: If there were difficulties, what were the main things that were lacking (such as enough food and necessities; technology for the children's learning or entertainment; resources that the children usually received at school such as school feeding)**

P: yes, like our health systems was overloaded, and you could not get your usual medications, usually it was not available.

**I: What were your worries or concerns about these difficulties, especially in relation to the children?**

P: My main concern was that the children who needed to bury their parent will not have the opportunity to heal, because in our culture the children need to see the body, and by that time they were not even aloud to open the coffin.

**I: How did the children feel about or cope with these difficulties**

P: I think this issue of covid left the children emotionally thorned appart. When you walk around you will see the ones who experienced that deaths, and they did not even had the chance to display their grieve, these children are very angry. They need answers that no one can give them.

**I: Please describe the employment situation of yourself and the rest of your household during the COVID-19 pandemic**

It stayed the same. I needed to go to work

**I: Do you think the caring for children was better or worse?**

P: I think it was worse during covid. The safety concern was big, children missed out on school, they experienced a lot of deaths and parents that needed to go to work could not take care of the children at home.

**I: Please elaborate on changes, difficulties, or positive factors (such as loss of work, working from home, changes in working hours) and how these may have impacted the child/children and caring for them**

