

Participant 5

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

P5: You are welcome

I: Who lives in the family/household?

I have one daughter ,B, but she is married and my third grandchild is on its way. Then we adopted B and J and D. Form D I also have a grand child. But who physically lives in the house are B and J. k and J, they are two sisters. W and N they are brother and sister. A and J are only child from their different families.

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: The fact is where a group of girls are together you must keep a close eye. Girls can quickly become difficult. It was bad on the one side that you are in each others space the whole day everyday. So you as a parent must make it work somehow. You have to get ways to keep the children busy, because they could not have gone out. They weren't even able to just go and walk in the street. You needed to get ways to keep them out of each others hair. On the other side, the best quality family time in our life. By this I mean we spent so much time together. We played games, made our own games and really enjoyed each other's time. We learned to communicate better and how to spend quality time with each other. So there was bad time, but also some really good times. That time when we were able to go out to walk, everyone woke up early, and everyone went to take a walk outside together. Taking a walk is something we still try to do together as a family.

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

P: we always have a lot of food in the house, because of all the children, there is always food, but now you need something, for example dishwashing soap, and then you needed to go and stand in a very very very long que.

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: for the first time in history, for three months no one is going to school, no one is going to work, for three months we are all together. So I think you learn very quickly a different type of routine. So you don't stand up

and get ready for school. And one must be careful, some of the children want to sleep very late. I had no problem if the children slept late, but I had to make sure that they don't sleep the whole day. B for example. If you leave him, he will stand up at 12 only. But yes, we needed to make sure that you keep some kind of routine. So my rule was we are going to stand up, get cleaned and dress neatly. Even if you go nowhere you are going to be neat and clean.

I: was it needed to be more strict with the children to keep that routine?

P: not necessarily stricter, but we needed to keep a close eye on the children that they actually get cleaned and get dressed.

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

P: This was a time I actually enjoyed. To have a three month holiday, remember it is the first time in history that mital came to a stop, I was able to close my laptop and put it away. That was... wow. There was literally no work to be done. It could not even go onto you emails ad chat to someone. Everything stopped.

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

P: Definitely my wife, R.

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

P: we used skype quite often, we have a large family and friends, buut kept close only to a few. But mostly it was telephonic contact.

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

P: I think the children enjoyed it. Really remember I don't go to school, I don't have to do home work. Mom and dad give us a lot of attention. We played a lot of games, and did a lot of nice things. We braai a lot and spent a lot of time together.

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

P: it was easier for the younger children to talk to the older children. With us as parents as well. But they would prefer to talk to the older children.

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: I think it was more difficult for us as parents. Because we needed to make sure that the homework stays up to date. The children 14 and smaller really enjoyed it. They thought it was a massive circus.

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: for my wife it was very difficult. She had a rule that till grade 7 I will help you study. In grade 8 you need to go on by yourself. But this was difficult, as by that time the majority of children was still in primary school, and needed a lot of help.

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: maybe. School is not necessary the nicest thing for a child, but there they have a lot of friends. So I do think they have missed their friends a lot. Although they are on their phones a lot, they still want to touch each other,

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

P: no, not really.

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

P: yes. I do think they get more difficult to deal with. They got more irritated more quickly with each other. That is why I am saying we had a big job to keep the children busy, and to make sure they stay out of each others hair. For example the smaller ones was not allowed to go to the older children all the time, as they are teenagers and got irritated with the smaller ones more frequently.

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

P: It stayed the same. Maybe a little bit worse. For example, my salary was cut with 45%, but they tried to help us. So what they did, was they stopped our contribution towards our pension fund, and the part they usually paid towards the fund, they paid directly to us. That meant that my salary stayed almost the same. Although there is now a gap in the pension fund, we were okay for that few months. And then we received a lot of donations before covid, and all our donations stopped during this time.

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 biggest impact was donations that was stopped.

I: What did you struggle with in terms of resources

P: just the donations. The biggest struggle was to go to the shops and get hold of products.

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: no.

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

Since Covid started we isolated my wife, she had an immune disease,. She went nowhere and so did not go outside. When the children came from school, they immediately went to go shower and wash their clothes. It was a big process to isolate her. This is because she was diagnosed with blood cancer. She had chemo in a tablet form. Our biggest concern was that she can die. Because we were still in contact with the world. But if I think back, and think she was more worried about us if she dies. The children I think was very reckless, they did not understand the impact that it can have. And then when it did happen, it was a reality. My wife died.

We had all our resources that was needed to survive.

We did not struggle with any medical resources .

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

P: I think they were in denial the whole time, they felt like it can not happen. I don't think they understand the impact.

1. Please describe the employment situation of yourself and the rest of your household during the COVID-19 pandemic

P: it was the nicest time. I did not have anything to do. I did not need to go into work, and I did not needed to work from home. +-

2. 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

Discussed above.