|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Themes** | **Sub-Themes** |
| **Vocational Personality** | Career-related interests  Career-related abilities |
| **Career Adaptability** | Belief in the pursuit of goals |
| **Perceived Self-Efficacy** | Self-belief in academic success  Perceived problem-solving efficacy  Perceived public speaking self-efficacy  Perceived technical self-efficacy |
| **Self-Construction** | Self-awareness  Self-identity  Self-efficacy  Self as an expert |
| **Life Themes** | Past memories  Present experiences  Future aspirations |
| **Resilience** | Internal and external support  Hope and optimism |

1. *CIP Part 1*

Hope mentioned that his mother holds an N5 certificate in Early Childhood Education, but she is currently employed as a domestic worker. His late father, on the other hand, left school during the fifth grade and used to work in Johannesburg, although the specific nature of his job there remained uncertain to Hope. He mentioned that his family encouraged him take History and Geography at school so that he will be eligible to study social work or become a pastor. He mentioned that his family encouraged him to take history and geography at school so that he will be eligible to study social work or become a pastor. Hope explained that his family recommended those particular career trajectories for him based on his inclination for helping others and his evident passion for church activities, along with his skill in preaching and motivating people. Hope indicated Economics, Accounting Science, and Business Studies as his favourites subjects, with isiXhosa, Mathematics and Life Orientation and Life Orientation as his least favourite subjects.

1. *CIP Part 2*

In this section, the career choice categories have been organised into two distinct groups: preferences and dislikes. These categories are then arranged in order of preference, with Hope’s career choices and the rationale behind them ranked from the most preferred (1) to the least preferred (5).

**Table 4.3**

*Hope’s Career Choice Preferences*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Career Choice | Motivation |
| 1 | Accountant | “Because I am interested on how business operates, either it is making a profit or a loss” |
| 2 | Teacher | “Because I would like to see the coming generation learn and gain knowledge from me” |
| 3 | Police officer | “Because I would like to end crime by myself” |
| 4 | Designer (structural and fashion) | “I like new beautiful things and I can make them by self” |
| 5 | Engineering | “I am interested in fixing cars and coming up with new things” |

Hope’s career choice dislikes were ranked as follows – from most disliked (1) to (3) least disliked as shown in Table 4.4.

**Table 4.4**

*Hope’s Career Choice Dislikes*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Career Choice** | **Motivation** |
| 1 | Medical doctor | “I like saving peoples’ lives, but I am scared of blood…” (2;22;225) “... I want to save them only through prayer and the power of God” (2;22;230). |
| 2 | Military soldier | “I also like to save the nation, but I also don't like to shed blood” (2;22;31). |
| 3 | Fire fighter | “I like to be a firefighter, but I do no like doing the job that puts me at risks” (2;22;34). |

1. *CIP Part 3*

Hope's preferred career categories in part 3 of the CIP aligns with his preferred career choices in part 2. He indicated that his first preferred career category was the mathematics and/or accountancy industry and indicated marketing category as his second preferred. Hope expressed his desire to become an accountant due to his keen interest in assessing whether a business is generating profit or incurring losses, along with his enthusiasm for offering solutions to address associated challenges. Furthermore, his teachers have encouraged him to pursue a career in accounting based on his outstanding performance in the subject.

For his third choice of a preferred career category, Hope opted for the practical-technical category, which aligns with his fourth and fifth career preferences. Hope mentioned that he excels in technical tasks and is creative when it comes to generating new ideas. His fourth career category is word artistry, as he revealed his talent for writing poems and motivating others, particularly when they are feeling low. His fourth career category is word artistry, as he revealed his talent for writing poems and motivating others, particularly when they are feeling low. His fifth choice is office-based activities, while his sixth is in the field of information and communication technology.

1. *CIP Part 4: Career-Story Narratives*

Part 4 of the CIP covers career stories or narratives. In response to the first question that sought to understand how I could be of help to him, he responded that he wanted me as the researcher to assist him in terms of determining the advantages and the disadvantages of his preferred career choices, and also to give him strength to prove his dreams and motivation. He mentioned that he is interested in science more than commerce, however, people in his community discouraged him saying that he must not go to the science stream at school because he is going to fail because science is very difficult

Hope indicated his strength as reading, motivating, fixing technical things, counting money, using the internet, writing poems and designing clothes. His perceived strength aligns with his preferred career categories as well as career choices. Hope indicated that people perceived him as someone who is capable of bringing change, especially the people in his community. They also see him as a child who is unique from other children and also smart.   
Hope expressed a passion for engaging in activities that are enriching and future-oriented such as uplifting others through motivational support and reassurance that things will be better with time. He also mentioned a strong interest in conducting interviews and expanding his knowledge. He made it clear that he is not fond of being associated with individuals who exhibit bullying behaviour because he knows how it feels to be bullied.

When asked about his values, Hope expressed a strong appreciation for respect, love, integrity, time, courage, independence, culture, family, and education. He also believed he possessed exceptional talents in offering advice, retaining information, emotional intelligence, writing poetry, and delivering speeches.

Regarding his admiration for three individuals since he was young, he first mentioned his current accounting teacher, praising her inspirational teaching style and expressing a desire to emulate her when he grows up. He also expressed admiration for Mr Nkosi (pseudonym), a fashion designer who he commended for his impeccable dress sense and tireless efforts to improve his community. Lastly, he cited Nelson Mandela as his third role model, lauding Mandela's dedication to the welfare of his people and his unwavering commitment to their liberation.

Regarding the question about the key influences in his life, Hope identified several key sources of influence in his life, including his family, childhood friends, church community, role models, his late father's colleagues, challenges that he went through, and high school teachers. He mentioned that these individuals played a crucial role in supporting him during his most challenging times, offering both direct and indirect motivation to persevere. He also acknowledged that there were individuals who had a negative impact on his life, serving as bad influences. Despite this, he found that the lessons he learned from these experiences significantly influenced his perspective and behaviour, ultimately shaping how he perceives the world and interacts with it.

Hope held the following leadership position in his life. He was elected as a class representative when he was doing Grade 10 for the second time. He also took on the role of coaching a community soccer team, even though he was not a soccer player himself. Currently, he serves as a youth and choir leader at his church. Furthermore, he expressed a desire to be an authoritative leader, aspiring to lead by empowering and guiding his people. Other questions asked and their associated answers were as follows:

* My three favourite mottos or quotations are …? “If you are tired of starting over, stop quitting…. If you want to lift yourself, lift someone else…. I am because were, since we are, therefore I am”
* My favourite TV programme is …? “***Skeem Saam***, because it is very educational and addresses current issues”
* My favourite website is…? “**Go study**: very informative, they post about bursaries, study skills and jobs”
* My favourite app/pages on social media is/are….? “**Twitter,** I get to learn a lot about what is happening around me”

When prompted to reflect on his three most significant life achievements, Hope pointed out that one of his notable successes was having a Facebook page with a huge following. He explained that this accomplishment fulfilled a childhood aspiration of having a Facebook page with a large and engaged audience.

Additionally, he recognised two other major accomplishments: the presence of strong and supportive friendships as well as a family that consistently encouraged him to prioritise his education.

In response to the question about failures, Hope candidly shared his experiences with three endeavours that did not yield the desired outcomes. He attempted to establish himself as a local artist, ventured into entrepreneurship by opening a business, and pursued a soccer career, but he did not succeed in joining any school or community teams for soccer. Other questions asked included:

* People usually ask for help with the following three issues...? “School work, seeking advice on how to save money, asking me to assist them fix their technical stuff”
* If I were to write my life story, the following would be:

1. **Title of a book**: “Evolution of life”
2. **Chapters**: “How I started to see life” …. “The kind of mistakes that helped me become a better person” ……. “How I met my purely and decent life”

When asked about the challenges he faced in his youth, Hope shared that he endured a series of difficult experiences. These included being a target of bullying during his childhood, the loss of his father, being associated with negative peer influences, and enduring emotional and physical abuse. He also mentioned that he repeated a grade in school.

Hope has undoubtedly faced substantial challenges from a young age, and some of the difficulties continue to be a part of his life. He revealed that he was a target of bullying during his childhood and had been influenced by negative peer associations. As a result of these experiences, Hope has developed a strong aversion to being associated with individuals who engage in bullying behaviour or participate in actions that he deems unethical or wrong.