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| **Themes** | **Sub-Themes** |
| **Vocational Personality** |  |
| **Perceived Self-Efficacy** |  |
| **Rural Disadvantages** | Inadequate service delivery  Exposure to danger |
| **Lived Adolescence Stage Experiences** | Identity formation  Exposure to risky behaviours  Negative peer influence |
| **Resilience** | Dealing with trauma  Courage and perseverance  Personal agency |
| **Traditional Values** | Family  Cultural context  Community and reputation  Responsibility |
| **Life Themes** | Past memories  Future aspirations |

1. ***Earliest Recollection 1****:* *Innocent Youth Devastated by False Rape Accusation*

This is what Hope could recall from his early days when he was growing up as a child: I did not go to school that day. My aunt was at the clinic at that time. A white police van stopped by the gate at home (3;36;106) [...] It was a very serious case and it was attended by the police captain. The captain asked if where my next of kin was, and I told him that she was not around she was at the clinic (3;36;110). [...] Then he left his number and asked me to tell my aunt to call him when she comes back, and we must visit the police station the following day at 8 o’clock. The next morning, we woke up and went to the police station, when I arrived the captain and detective were waiting for me with papers and asking questions left right and centre (3;36;113).Hope went on to explain that he was accused of raping a child who lives next to his home.I was very young at that time. I even ended up crying. After that we were told to go home. As soon as we got home, my aunt received a call from the captain, and he said that he was sorry. They confused me with someone else (3;33;115). Hope explained that memory as being the hardest moment of his life:

I remember at one point, we called the victim and she was asked if she recognised the voice, and she said yes that voice was of the person who raped her she remembers it very clear (3;37;136). [...] I did not hold any grudges against her because I felt like she was trying very hard to build the case and she wanted the suspect to be arrested immediately. I am glad that they managed to find the right suspect fast (3;37;138). [...] Otherwise, that thing could have ruined my future because cases do not just disappear. At this point maybe I would be arrested since I am old now (3;37;141). [...] That’s one part I am grateful for because it could have ruined my life and my reputation. Imagine there are so many people who knows me, and I am very involved in church. Teachers at school knows me as a very respectful child. It could have really destroyed me (3;37;161). [...] But God Planned otherwise (3;37;164). [...] I am just a trusted child in the family, aunt was confused but she also believed me that I did not do it” (3;38;175). [...] That incident made me think of another thing we were taught about in another workshop at the library. It was said that the people in the villages especially boys do not understand sexual assault. It was said that some also slept with animals. Things happen here I was so uncomfortable to hear all of that (3:38;190).

Hope and I jointly constructed the following heading for this recollection: “Innocent youth devastated by false rape accusation”. The following key life theme became clear from this story: Firstly, exposure to early childhood trauma. From the earliest memories, it is clear that Hope faced substantial adversity during childhood, primarily resulting from false accusations of rape.

***B. Earliest Recollection 2****: Courageous Youth’s Heroic Act Rescues Family Livestock*

What happened was that the cows at home were missing (3;39;210). [...] when I was supposed to be the one herding them (3;39;210). [...] It had rained the day before and all the rivers were full, so it was almost impossible to the other side (3;39;113). Hope further explained that his mother warned him not to cross the river because it was full, however, he chose to go against his mother’s order and chose to take a shorter route:

As I was approaching the river, I saw the cows on the other from the I decided to cross the river (3;39;215). [...] I am used to crossing the river because even when I go to school, I cross because using the road takes longer (3;39;216). Hope further elaborated that when he attempted to place his first foot into the river, he found that he couldn't reach the riverbed. Undeterred, he continued and put his second foot in. Before he realised it, he was adrift in the river, a wave of shock and fear sweeping over him. Desperately, he tried to swim, but the water's force was overwhelmingly strong:

The only way for me to survive was to swim down to the base of the river. I swam I till I touched the rocks (3;39;221). [...] That is how I managed to swim to the other side of the river (3;39;223). [...] Another thing that helped me survive is that I am a boy and I am used to swimming since I live in the village, and it was not the first time of being exposed to such situation (3;40;272). [...] That how it feels like to grow up in a rural area. There is a lot of dangerous situations that one has been exposed to (3;39;237).

Hope went on to explain that upon returning home, he chose to keep the incidents to himself. He was well aware that if he confided in his mother, he would likely face punishment for not following her instructions. In his own description, he admitted to being rather indolent when it came to household traditional chores, preferring activities that did not demand too much of his energy.

Hope and I jointly constructed the following heading for this recollection: “Courageous youth’s heroic act rescues family livestock”. The following key life themes became clear from this story: Firstly, the particularly challenging situations of rural disadva

***C.******Earliest Recollection 3****:* *Transforming the Consequences of Inappropriate Attempt to Fit in into Positive Growth*

Hope narrated that when he turned 12 years old, he made a decision to go and make friends, because he did not have any and he spent most of his time with his mother. He explained that making friends has been one of the most challenging tasks for him because he felt different from the other children his age. Then he met two boys who lived next to his home who eventually became his friends:One of these two boys had elder brothers who smoked cannabis, one day he came with an idea that they must steal his brother’s cannabis so that we can find out what is it that they enjoy about smoking (3;43;366). […] When his brother went out, we used that opportunity to steal his cigarettes (3;44;390).

Hope explained that they smoked for three months without being caught. When he was asked where he got the money from to buy cannabis, he answered that by that time he was still his mother’s baby, therefore it was easy to get money from his mother. During school holidays they would go to the farms to seek piece jobs during the planting and harvesting season. The money that they earned through this work was used to buy cannabis. When asked why he continued to smoke for so long, he responded as follows:There is that moment after smoking where you just feel like you are floating on the air (3;44;392). [...] Smoking makes you just relax and forget about many things. Even if you just want to think about things deeply, that is the part I enjoyed the most about smoking (3;44;395).

Hope explained that he got into trouble for smoking, leading to a severe reprimand from the family elders. As a consequence, he was sent to live with his maternal uncles in a different village. Interestingly, he viewed this change as a stroke of luck because he believed that had he remained in his previous environment, he might not have been able to quit smoking. His former friends who stayed behind continue to smoke to this day. Upon relocating to the new village, Hope encountered the challenge of rebuilding his social circle and making new friends all over again.

Hope and I jointly constructed the following heading for this recollection: “Transforming the consequences of inappropriate attempt to fit in into positive growth”. The following key life themes became clear from this story: Firstly, the lived adolescence stage experiences were noted. Hope's lived experience offers valuable insights into the challenges and dynamics of adolescent friendships, peer influence, and risky behaviour.

In Hope's case, the decision to experiment with cannabis was likely influenced by his desire to bond with his newfound friends and fit into their group, reflecting the concept of peer conformity and the impact of peer networks on substance use.

Secondly, the protective role played by family and the community during the adolescence stage was important. Hope's journey, including his reprimand and subsequent relocation, exemplifies the pivotal role of family and community intervention in addressing adolescent risky behaviour.