Rokowati Davule

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PS 402

PS402 TRANSCRIBING INTERVIEW

**Interviewer:** Rokowati Davule (S11095827)

**Interviewee**: Mrs. Rashika Gounder

**Date of interview**: 16/09/2023

**Mode of communication**: Zoom Meeting

**Duration:** 1hr 15mins

Start:

**Interviewer:** Bula Vinaka Ms. Rashika, ahh…. thank you for availing yourself to attend our interview on cultural beliefs, cultural knowledge and different cultural skills. Thank you very much for availing yourself this evening aaahh… I understand you have tight schedules. Before we begin, could you kindly introduce yourself?...please be reminded that this interview session is confidential… I am not hear to judge but to listen to you and the different cultural background that we were brought up with…..so once again thank you very much…

**Interviewee**: thank you Ms. Rokowati…sooo my name is Rashika Gounder….I am a pharmacists by profession …aahhh…I graduated from Fiji School of Medicine in 2007….I have worked in both private sector and public but I was mostly based at public sector…especially CWM..ahh now I’m more into academia. Now I am a lecturer by profession to pharmacist students. I am 39 years of age. Aaahh im married aahh I do not have a kid at the moment… I’m originally from Labasa and was living in Suva since 2004.ahhhh (internet not responding well)

**Interviewer**: Ms. Rashika were you born and raised in Labasa?

**Interviewee:** Yes!! I was born in Labasa hospital, I was raised there and finished my education till high school…and I moved to Suva when I started my University ahh education and this was in 2004.aaahh I a child of a divorced family, so my parents divorced and I lived with my mother and maternal grandmother for most of my life….So when I moved to Suva in 2004,my grandmother and mother stayed back at our home in Labasa.

**Interviewer**: so, you moved to Suva because of tertiary education?

**Interviewee:** yes I moved for my tertiary education and my grandma had a house in Laucala Beach…sooo it was actual a little bit easier for me to just stay home and go to university..sooo when I moved my mother and grandmother decided to move with me..soo they move to Suva too at that time.(pause) so currently Im still in Laucala Beach.. (giggle)

**Interviewer**: aww okk… so currently you still live with your mother and grandmother in Laucala Beach? (internet issue) (pause)

**Interviewee**: ahhhh my mother passed away in 2007 and my grandma received a PR from Australia…but when I started working she decide to go because she missed being around her other two kids.She is in Australia right now( smile)ahh when we moved from Labasa I actually have my great grandmother with me.. so it was like 3 ladies moving to Suva with me.. then my great grandmother passed away in 2006…

**Interviewer**: Mehnn you are so blessed to be raised among your great grandmother, your grandmother…

**Interviewee:** after grandma left, I lived alone in Laucala Beach ummm…I lived with a workmate from work for 1year… than my partner moved in and now my husband (smile)

**Interviewer**: thanks you very much for sharing with me your upbringing….as to start with our conversation, I would like start with gender roles within your household..uuhmm.. what are the different duties your family members played in your family? (pause)

**Interviewee**: Right now is just me and my husband, and both of us work..and are full time working..so we both share the household duties and other responsibility that comes with it. I guess my husband is more responsible for the outdoor duties (laugh) because he was into gardening and I do all the things inside uhhmmm the cooking and stuff but…sometimes when I worked on a Saturday, our role is a bit reverse, as my husband cooked as I finished work around 8 o’clock.. So I guess its balance between the two of us… (pause)

**Interviewer:** Mehnn thank very much for sharing on the balance of role in your household, and very crucial that our husband understand us.

**Interviewee**: yes true!.. this is very important within a household and helps building strong foundation between us.. (pause)

**Interviewer**: thank you for differentiating well on how duties are carried out in your family.. my next question is, how is decision made in your family? and what are the process?

**Interviewee:** uhmmm...I guess it depends on the time and some of the decision in depended on different situations but more on personal base..among us we always look at both side and talk it over… because we make a confirmed decision before moving forward.. as I usually believed that communication is very important…

**Interviewer:** yes that is true, as you have mentioned that you both shared roles and duties at home, my next question is who is responsible for providing, protecting and taking care of all your family members?

**Interviewee:** I guess right now is just the two of us …sooo uhmm we look out for each other and provide for each other….but in the future if kids are come into place..i guess (short pause) it might be the change but I can’t say much..because right now is just two of us at home... (smile) at the moment is a little easier when it’s just the two of us yeahh..

**Interviewer:** yes very true it will be different if you have a kid on the way… (pause)

**Interviewee:** (giggle) not yet..!! please after our traditional wedding (smile)

**Interviewer:** (smile) okay uhmm..are there different in expectation between a male and a female in your culture?

**Interviewee:** pause..uhmm..i guess sometimes yes.!! Even though we shared balance role..

(paused due to poor internet from my end) (ask if she could hear me?!..)

**Interviewer**: sorry my internet is very poor…!! Ms. Rashika can you hear me?!

**Interviewee**: yes I can hear!!

**Interviewer**: my apologies, as you were saying the sharing of roles…

**Interviewee**: yess even though we share..maybe sometimes from my side..i do expect more from him (husband)uhmm not always but sometimes (pause) and I guess uuhmm if looking from the view of other family members it might be different…for now!uhmm (pause) ocassionally the expectation change on what to provide, but now I feel that we know what we are capable of providing..so we able to understand each other…

(Both interviewer and interviewee pause)

**Interviewer**: thank for addressing that very crucial point. Uhmmm you have mentioned a bit on the view of other family members, is it from your side or your husband side?

**Interviewee:** I guess from the Other side … (pause) (both giggle)

**Interviewer**: wouldn’t you mind to share your family expectation in this interview?

**Interviewee**: yesssss…… uhmmm I guess it’s a bit of a challenge.. because I have been living alone for a quiet number of years..soo..pause.. now that I am a member of a new family..i guess I have a little bit of challenge of opening up..because previously it was just me and uhhmm most of my family are in overseas… since my dad has also remarried and having a stepmom ..since they lived in Nadi sometimes I go and visit them but still I always living on my own here in Suva…uuuhmm I guess because of the different situation happening before with family, past relationship and so forth I think insecurities comes up sometimes because of past experiences… sometimes is still a bit of a challenge (pause)

**Interviewer**: thank you for sharing your personal relationship leading up in starting your own family..uhmmm..would like to relate on the challenges that you have overcome in past years…as you were saying that most of your journey you have been living on your on own and we really do face challenges in some instance..especially when we are single and not committed yet..as to relate of your point on challenges we faced on our past relationship and challenges we went through in past years.. pause..can we move on to our next questions? May I asked on where you spend most of your childhood years?

**Interviewee**: ohh yeahh.. as I have mentioned I grew up mostly from my maternal side of my family..in childhood years I spend it with my family in Labasa..(pause)

(Short pause)

**Interviewer**: mm mm…as we started with our interview, you have mentioned that right after high school, you moved to Suva because of your tertiary education.. right uhhm… did you feel lonely, or homesick after living your family?

**Interviewee**: ohhh ummm my mother , grandmother and great grandmother also moved in Suva that same year… pause.. I moved in Laucala beach in January and they moved in with me in June of the same year.

**Interviewer**: thank you….. may we moved to our next question?.. where are you originally from? (pause)

**Interviewee:** yeahh thank you for that question.. I am originally from India..listening to stories from my great grandmother..uhmm my gret great grandmother came in the ship that came from India.. but most of my family members was born in Fiji and raised in Fiji and we have called Fiji our home (smile) sorry im not fully aware of our family history (laugh)

(both interviewer and interviewee pause)

**Interviewer**: yeas that is true… may I asked of the main traditional practices conducted in your family? (pause)

**Interviewee**: thank you…as for me and my husband our most traditianl practices that we do is prayer ceremony , Diwali uhmmm we don’t often attend other family traditions unless we are invited to attend eg.. wedding and birthday celebration..pause..yeah

**Interviewer:** thank you …net question is what time of the year do you spend the most time with your family?

**Interviewee**: uhmmm ..we haven’t had any get together at the moment..i think the recent one ..we attended a friend birthday celebration and I think that was the latest get together at home.. (pause) but mostly with friend and not often with our families..but my husband visited his family in the West and stayed there in this long weekend (giggle) ohhh also we attended a wedding with our family from my side…yeahh

(both pause)

**Interviewer:** ohh thank you..our next question ..do both of your belief match from your husband side and your side?

**Interviewee**: uhmmm I think I still find it as imbalance and I guess uhmmm I don’t maybe this was due to my independent lifestyle..ummmm..but..yes..I can see that there is a bit of imbalance in certain things..yeahh (pause) but it is not to do with traditional things but with situation we faced..yeahh (pause)

(both pause)

**Interviewer:** thank you..is there a thing you woul like to change in your family traditions and practices?

**Interviewee**: uhmmm..i gues in my situation most of the time I do things on my own.. so most of the decision was made by me..umm so…I don’t think I wont change anything and I taught to respect my culture and and tradition and I think that has contributed a lot in my decion making and so forth..

(Both pause)

**Interviewer:** yes that is true…our tradition and culture is part of us..our next question is living with other culture in your community?

**Interviewee**: ahh..i wasn’t a very easy childhood as I can say (pause) I undergo a lot of trauma while growing up…I actual could not recall some of that childhood..i think I face a bit of that as my mother was very sickly and not properly diagnose …also there was no father figure in the house.. and my grandmother was a breadwinner in the family and she did her very best in raising me up and was very important since my parents separated when I was only 3 to 4 years of age.

(both pause)

**Interviewer:** ummm that is very strong statement..and thank you very much for sharing it with me in our today’s interview..uhmm reflecting on our different culture and how we were brought up..i have seen that your grandmother raised you well….next question, were you raised with different culture as well in your community?

**Interviewee**: yes..in Labasa most of my neighbor are I-Taukei families…even when I was a young girl an I-Taukei woman used to raised me up and they usually support my family as well because there was no male in my family his sons usually help us with some heavy work and I was very attached to this I-Taukei woman..I still cherished those moment and help me to be humble till now.

**Interviewer:** is your community close to town?

**Interviewee:** yes..it was just 7-10 minutes’ walk to town. But my grandmother was from a rural settlement and my mother was raised in that rural settlement but I was raised in Nadamu which closed to Labasa town. Also that settlement has mixed culture of I-Taukei, Rabi and with different religious background as well…we had a mosque and a church…yeah

**Interviewer:** thank you…do you feel welcome from your neighbor?

**Interviewee**: uhmm yes..i guess it was a bit different with people in Labasa and in Suva…but I easily mingle with other races and those around me..(pause) (Internet issue again)

**Interviewer:** thank you Ms. Rashika…also get to know today that an I-Taukei also helped in your upbringing as well…as seen that you interacted well as you were exposed to different culture and beliefs as a very young age..next question what are some of the activities you love doing with your grandparents and mother while growing up?

**Interviewee**: ahh. I guess we usually do gardening but when I came to Suva I became busy with studies..as we moved to Suva it was just shopping and chilling at home… when I started working I became more busy but I make sure I call her or we go out for shopping and keep in touch with her till now even though we are in different countries (pause)

**Interviewer:** thank you for sharing that with me Ms. Rashika…our next question is on discrimination. Have you ever been treated poorly because of your believes, ethnicity or race?

**Interviewee**: uhmmm…in terms of believes yes I have met some people where our believes does not match we do disagree of certain things with my in-laws but it’s just a matter of different believes…According to race and ethnicity I don’t think so I have been treated poorly. Let me share a scenario I faced while travelling to Australia… there was an air hostess in one of the popular air flight in Australia she was saying goodbye to other passengers but when it comes to me she did not say a thing to me and I just say thank you for your service.. but I feel that she was rude in a way as we don’t face that kind of treatment in Fiji…

**Interviewer:** ohh so from that incident what are some of the way you felt different?

**Interviewee:** I found it rude and I feel it was just a dot in a big white sheet I can say (giggle) in that incident I felt not welcome. It shows a little bit of a negative side of Australia..yeahh

**Interviewer:** Thank you for sharing that Ms. Rashika… in our last question on discrimination...what are some wrong assumption people made to you or your family that has cause problems?

**Interviewee**: ummm…pause..ohh one thing..my dad has his own business in Nadi..soo my husband his kind of I guess I bit more or come from a well off side, so I have some issues on that with my in-laws because of the status we are from …I mean as I am not a direct part of the family or to get along well but so yeahh… so that was one assumption as I am not rich like them but I am not disappointed with them as I earn everything as well too for myself and my grandmother was always there with me. (both pause)

**Interviewer:** thank you for sharing that...i understand that will be a challenge now but you may overcome it or discuss through it in upcoming future… I can see that status still exist in our families but as you’ve mentioned you have earn things to all through your life and still have a lot of support on your side..(both pause)

**Interviewer:** thank you for sharing that… umm our next question in on mental health? … where do you or your family get help or support when family member is having a hard time?

**Interviewee**: pause… I am not very sure of where my husband get that help.. laugh..but I am sure and believe that he is more stronger than me..uhmm and able to take pressure..i think I don’t.. but I do have my time..but if I get frustrated I just shared with someone I trust..yeahh..and Im like an open book and even though I don’t go and see a counselor..i have some friends and family members who I confined with..soo I open up to them..yeahh..and sometimes when I sharing my challenges I tend to pick up and review some of my falls and weakness too.. (pause)

(Both pause)

**Interviewer:** ohh okay that it true...uhmmm…whenever there is a trouble or in need at home or within your family, what do you do when someone at home need your attention?

**Interviewee:** uhmmm…I just let that person know that I am there for them..and if they want to open up or share something’s…and when I see that sometimes my friend need someone to share their challenges with..i have the tendency to talk or message them and hoping they are okay..sometimes I get the reply sometimes they don’t..yeahh

**Interviewer:** yes okay…what is mental health therapy or counselling meant to you?

**Interviewee:** (pause)..ummm I guess for me mental health therapy is a place we open up our mind your thoughts..uhmm… it allows you..uhh to talks about things that in your mind and able to analyze uncertainties that are in our mind..yeah when we are unrevealing our changes and make our burden lighter..yeah

**Interviewer:** yes that is true..especially when they listen through our stories and understand us…and it is a relieve..

**Interviewee:** yess we need more good listeners nowadays.. and that is important.. (pause)

**Interviewer:** yess.. having someone to talk to and understand us is very important.. thank you for sharing that ..our next question is , what is your culture view of mental health? (pause)

**Interviewee:** ummm in my culture we always pray if we go through challenges moments in our life..for me personally I think one of my favorite remedies is unveiling everything while praying (pause)

**Interviewer:** yes as we were taught more on holistic approach when we were young and it have become a very important part of our life… especially in directing our path..ummm what I have seen during our session today I have seen some similarities but some prctices are slightly different in terms of our ritual and traditional practices..okay yeahh.. next question is (pause) who is the main person you go to when you need help or talk about something important?

**Interviewee:** ummm it depends on the situation and the time (laugh) I share with my husband everything.. also I have a cousin I go to as well..

**Interviewer:** thank you for sharing that…who is your strength during challenges situation?

**Interviewee:** uhh I think God…and sometimes when I feel down it is my mother and my stepmother…my stepmother has become a good friend and feel comfortable in sharing my challenges and also my grandmother is a strong women and she raised me as well to be a strong independent women..(both giggle)

**Interviewer:** thank you for sharing that…ummm Ms. Rashika but now we come to the concluding part of our interview today. Thank you for sharing your upbringing, the challenges you faced while growing up and with your current family. It was an honor conducting this interview with you. I hope you won’t mind of me sharing this information in my PS 402 course?

**Interviewee:** No worries

**Interviewer:** Do you have any question for me or do you want to share anything else with me?

**Interviewee:** I want to thank you for our session today… I tend to enjoy our interview and also learned as we goes with all the question. Vinaka

**Interviewer:** I think there is more question. But once again thank you for your time. Vinaka Vakalevu…(both laugh and say goodbye)

………...ENDS…….