**Interview Details**

**Name of interviewee: Jayshree Patel**

**Project: Growing Old Gracefully - SubCo**

**Date of interview: 19/07/2018**

**Language: English**

**Venue: SubCo**

**Name of interviewer: Francis Ball**

**Length of interview: 00:23:57**

**Transcribed by: Francis Ball**

**Archive Reference: 2018\_esch\_GrOG\_10**

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*Interviewer*

Interviewee

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**[00:00:00]**

*Erm, could I ask where you were born as well, please?*

I was born in India.

*What part of India?*

Gujarat.

*Presumably that’s where your family lived at the time.*

Yes. This town is Nadiad, N-A-D-I-A-D.

*Mmmhmm.*

Yeah.

*And what did your family…*

My family lived there and I born in there as well.

*What did your parents do when you were growing up?*

Er, when my parents is, er, coming for studying, my dad is coming for study in England. 1952, he’s coming here to study.

*Yeah.*

When I born, he’s not there. He’s here.

*Ahh. What was he studying?*

Is engineering.

*So then did he come back to India, or…?*

Yeah.

*And how long did he stay there before… presumably you…*

Four, five years.

*And then you all moved…*

Mmm.

*… over here. It must’ve been…*

No, we didn’t move to here. He’s come back there and lived whole life there. But I come in here… My husband come from London, India, for reading.

*Ahh.*

1979 I come here, married, and come here in London.

*What was it like when you first moved to London? It must’ve been really different.*

Yeah. It was terrible.

*Terrible?*

Yeah, I don’t like it, ‘cos my whole family there, and I’m only myself and my… I don’t know my husband that long. He just come in for one two weeks, and married, and come here. And I living in six month up to marry. Then when I come here I don’t know him much. Then it’s very terrible. I don’t like it here. Every day I’m sad and things. And then slowly my family grow, ‘cos I got daughter first. Then I like it. Then up to I come in SubCo. It’s like my family. I’m working twenty-five years here.

*Wow! So since the beginning then.*

Mmm. Since the beginning. Some boss not here. Taskin not there.

*Wow! So can you tell me a little bit about how you first found out about SubCo?*

Because opposite here is school. I, er, send my son there, going everyday there, and here work going on. And I come here in SubCo. And before this there was another, er, people there. And I ask if they need any volunteers, something. My time pass. And they said, ‘Yes, you can come’, and I volunteer. And then they ask me too, ‘If you want little work’, and I say, ‘Alright’. Before is not that they are people another, another people there. And then slowly slowly, meals on wheels start, then I worked there in meals on wheels, and upto Taskin and everybody coming. Starting meals on wheels and then slowly is grow up, SubCo: day care centre start… Before is day care centre is no buses, anything. We just go home everybody house and pick wheelchair ourself and bring there.

*Wow.*

Then slowly is bus. We hire bus, buy bus and everything. Then XXXX [03:39] now.

*So what was the volunteering work you did in the early days? Was it lots of meals on wheels or was it other things as well?*

No, no, no meals and wheels after start, just before here coming here just a few people. East Asian elders coming. They’re some people don’t know English. And people they don’t know Gujarati. Because I’m Gujarati. Then we talking and make them happy, talking and everything, you know? They come in here for enjoyment. Some people are by themselves, home. No family. Some coming with family. There’s, er…

*So just to give them a bit of friendship and social life.*

Yeah, yeah, social. Then slowly we doing meals and wheels and I’m working in kitchen. Twenty years I’m working in kitchen, meals and wheels.

*Wow. Is cooking something you enjoy?*

Cooking, yes. Seventy people we’re cooking, five, six item. Nearly one, two of us.

*Sounds like t must be hard work sometimes.*

Very hard work!

*Yeah.*

[Laughs] I enjoy it anyway. And now is everyone like staff, downstairs the elders, like family. One two weeks we don’t see them we phone, ‘Why you don’t come? We miss you!’ and things like that, because… And if I’m not coming there, they miss me as well.

*Yeah, absolutely.*

Like family. Then I, slowly slowly, I starting I miss my family and cry and things like that. After start working here, then I slowly [Laughs] enjoy London. Before starting it was very terrible.XXX That’s why I think how could we go there, and that time there is no money that much every year to go to India, now I go every year sometime two times. Starting is hard, if you’re not working and things like that.

*Oh yeah, I suppose if you don’t really know anyone in that area you can feel lonely can’t you.*

Lonely, then my family grew up and children and everything then you settle down.

*So what were the, who was working at Subco when you first started yourself?*

Mr Romerster (??) big person, chairperson. And another staff up to their XXXX

*Was everyone here really friendly?*

Very friendly, like family. They treat is very good. Anything that would happen in your social line up XXX they said don’t worry they were very good like that as well.

*At that time did Asian elders have problems that they needed to go to Subco about?*

Yeah

*What sort of things? Was it mainly not being able to sort of get around?*

They’ve got no problem like home because they’re lonely and when they’ve got family because the family need some time with them as well to go shopping and things like that. They’re coming here the time pass home is very lonely, if you just sit down, if you go out you’re talking with people and you feel very relaxed that’s why they come in. XXX

*Do you know roughly how many elders used to come when Subco first started because it’s really big now? Presumably there weren’t that many people in the beginning.*

Before there were not that many people, 10/15 people coming

*10/15. A day?*

Yeah, before a long time ago 20 years ago. Not many but now it’s very big.

*How has Subco changed over the years that you’ve been here?*

Every year’s changing.

*Yeah*

Yeah

*What sort of things like?*

Like we’ve got some many projects going on

*Have you got any favourite projects that you’ve been involved in?*

Because XXXX outside we don’t know much

*Because obviously lots of people have gone through Subco you must have met some characters, are there any people you made very good friends with? Or who stand out in your memory of it all?*

Elders, yeah so many and nurses like that, you know XXX there is working long time 22/24 years ago Manalia (??) came in 24 years ago. XXX working voluntary as well, he’s doing everything helping in Subco all project and everything. Many peoples is like that

*So is it quite common that the staff will be involved in lots of the projects? So you’ve already mentioned meals on wheels, what other projects have you helped out in?*

I don’t know because I’ve been working downstairs most of the projects are outside

*Oh yeah because they’ve got the new centre just down the road I think haven’t they?*

Some project going on

*So have you just been based here all the time?*

Yeah just downstairs all the time, that’s it

*Do you have any favourite memories of Subco? Any moments that just make you really happy?*

Yeah we’re involved in parties and things dancing and everything now is we’re practicing XXX doing

(11:03)

**The End**

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