

TOPICS FOR A LIFE STORY

FAMILY BACKGROUND:

Interviewee: When and where born.

Parents: when and where they were born. Origins of the family (in the case of migration from another place); their occupations.

Siblings: How many, where interviewee placed in the family;

Other relatives: in the case of living in a joint / extended family, grandparents, their origins.

EARLY CHILDHOOD:

Home: Description of family home in childhood; layout and use of different rooms; furnishings; decorations; garden/yard; neighbourhood; neighbours.

School life: type of school; description; earliest memories; language of education; subjects; teachers; fellow pupils; school discipline and approach to education; other activities; games; trips; interviewee's own performance; family's attitude towards education; particular incidents remembered.

Home life: relationships with parents and siblings; responsibilities/ chores at home; daily routine; meal times; food; socialising with friends and extended family; leisure activities; games; other interests; religious life; festivals; holidays; special occasions.

GROWING UP:

Teenage years; further education; leisure activities; friends, socialising; going out; restrictions on behaviour, if any and their response; other interests; work.

ADULTHOOD:

Education: University life; qualifications; interests.

Work: first job; employer; conditions at work; colleagues; other jobs; typical working day; reasons for changing; career progression; ambitions; promotions.

Marriage: relationships; meeting partner; decision to get married; parental consent; if arranged marriage – views on it; dowry; engagement, wedding ceremonies; feelings on the day; setting up home; relationships with in-laws; relationship with spouse.

Children: birth of first child; other children; bringing up children; hopes and ambitions for children.

Leisure: friends, socialising; religious activities; family relationships;

OLDER AGE:

Age at retirement; changes in circumstances; feelings; responsibilities; grandchildren; health; interests; reflections.