

ASSIGNMENT 2

60% weightage

Here is a brief transcript of an interview with a 45-year-old man from a tier 1 city in India. The interview was conducted as part of a research that focused on capturing the narratives of single fathers and some aspect of their relationship with their children. The transcript is only for assignment purpose and not for circulation. It has been suitably anonymized and modified to ensure it is not a direct excerpt.

Interviewer: Losing a partner is a very difficult experience - and losing your wife must have been hard for you and your daughter. Could you share what it was like for you when your wife passed away?

Respondent: It was shocking for me, despite knowing that she was sick, and that she could leave any day. For the first year and a half after her death, I didn't work. I left work. I was with my daughter. I only spent time with her. We were still trying to process it. My daughter was in the ninth standard at that time, and she cried a lot when this happened.

Interviewer: How did you deal with the loss? What helped you deal with it?

Respondent: Firstly, my wife would insist I get married again after she died, because I wasn't so old. She said I would face only difficulties if I left it off too long. My parents told me the same. The evening after my wife died, I started getting offers for marriage. I said my wife has just passed, and I cannot think of it right now. I didn't want to get married for at least a year, because we have to do rituals also. I wasn't working, but I spent time with my daughter. But how long could this go on? Spending wise, my daughter studies in a good school. At home, we have everything, but no one to take care of her. So I thought of having a second marriage, but my daughter was against it. She had heard negative things from friends about second mothers, so I said that till she doesn't become comfortable with it, I will not marry.

Interviewer: How did losing her mother impact your daughter?

Respondent: My daughter's reaction was not negative because my wife had been sick since 4 months after she was born. So while growing up, she saw her mother in this sick state. She was more attached to me than her mother since I was the one who helped her in all her

activities. People thought that after the death of my wife—which was in February—my daughter would be disturbed, and unable to give her exams, which were in March. But my daughter gave the exams, and got a score of 90%. She has always been good in school. In 10th standard, she had 96%. So, my daughter was shocked, but she was not disturbed, she was prepared mentally that her mother can leave us any time and go. No one can fill a mother's place. She feels that loss. But she wasn't depressed or disturbed. In the beginning she was quiet for around a month. But I also have a more jolly nature, and was with her the entire time—even taking time off work. I didn't let her feel her mother's absence. She was prepared, so the first month she was silent, but after that she started going back to her normal life with me.

Interviewer: Can you tell me how it affected her psychologically and emotionally?

Respondent: Sometimes she becomes sad, when she misses her mother or there is a special occasion. The three of us used to celebrate these occasions together, all of us at home, cutting cake. It was a tradition. We continued it after my wife's death. We celebrate her birthday. We celebrate our anniversary. We celebrate her death anniversary also. We give something to poor people and children. We have had this system from the beginning. On my wife's death anniversary, we distribute things to poor people. On our birthdays, we cut cake and celebrate or have a small party. She left. We have this loss. But she will not come back. So if we stay sad, and think only negatively. But we didn't want to think of negativity. We knew we had to think positively. We have to live after this. Then when my daughter was in the 11th standard, she decided she wanted to be a doctor. We focused there, at future goals, and not past sadness. If we stay stuck in the past then we become sad and only have negativity in life.

Interviewer: After your wife passed away, were there changes in the relationship you shared with your daughter?

Respondent: I said before that my daughter's involvement with me was more than that with her mother from the beginning. My wife's illness came soon after my daughter was born, after just 4 months. After my wife's death, our relationship has become stronger and more friendly. We have loved each other from the start, and now that love and care has only increased. We have become more open with each other also.

Interviewer: Are there any other things that would have helped her with coping?

Respondent: She herself has a very jolly nature. We live in a joint family, and she also has a good relationship with her grandparents, her aunts, uncles, and cousins. But she is the only daughter in the family, and the eldest of the cousins too, so she is luckily very loved and cared for by all. This helped my daughter a lot. It was a plus point, because of which it was fine for the daughter after her mother passed away. She had support throughout, from friends and family both.

Based on the transcript given above:

- a) Identify and label codes for the entire transcript (minimum of 15 codes). (15 marks)
- b) Mention the types of codes you have used with examples. (5 marks)
- c) Identify emergent themes and create a basic thematic framework. (15 marks)
- d) Create a brief write up on the themes you have identified using verbatims. (15 marks)