

ADDENDUM 4

TRANSCRIBED FOCUS GROUP INTERVIEW

NB: The researcher serves as an interviewer and facilitator. The dialogue will be more among the interviewees but the researcher poses questions. Respondents refers to any one of the interviewees.

RESEARCHER : Boys and girls, I am going to ask you quite a number of questions relating to morality. Please feel free to share your views or understanding of morality.
What is morality all about?
What is morality for you?

RESPONDENT 1: Hm! Morality, I think morality refers to the ability to know what is wrong and right.

RESPONDENT 3: I ...eh personally think, morality refers to a good way of living.

RESPONDENT 2: Well, perhaps to add to what has been said, I think morality is not necessarily the ability, but the knowledge of wrong and right of situation o...r, I don't know!

RESEARCHER: It seems some still have something to say about this. Can you tell more about morality?

RESPONDENT 4: Umm... it seems morality has something to do with norms and values of a way of life as perceived by society. This means that if the norms and values of society condemn a behavior, then acting accordingly means one is acting on good morals.

RESEARCHER: It sounds to me that you understand morality to be entailing some key areas, tell me more about them.

RESPONDENT 5: Eh...h morality can be seen in our lives in key areas. Morality can be seen in terms of environment, conduct, mmm what else ?

RESPONDENT 1: Let me take it further, safety and security is another key area where we can see morality.

RESEARCHER : Is there anything you want to tell concerning these key areas?

RESPONDENT 1: Oh yes! Quite a number but I think we should be specific and systematic. I think we can look at how we view morality first in terms of conduct.

RESPONDENT 2: Yes, that's right. I personally view morality in terms of my conduct as meaning that I should conduct myself in a way that satisfies me and where necessary others. For example, when I face a situation which has the potential to endanger my life, I don't see it morally bad if I tell lies to save my skin.

RESPONDENT 3: I fully agree guys, because indeed we always don't want our parents to know certain behaviors like smoking and therefore resort to lying.

RESPONDENT 4: Well to lie is really not morally good thing but when you are really in trouble, facing death, you simply weigh the two options, which is telling a lie and be safe, or not telling a lie and die.

RESPONDENT 5: Mm... just to add some more idea, in order to show that the issue of morality of conduct is complicated, I would like to give an example. If a Mandela shirt style is on fashion, and I decide to tuck my shirt to conform to the standard of the day, my parents teacher s may feel like I'm disrespectful.
To me, I'm morally not sick.

RESEARCHER: Do you mean that all fashions are acceptable, or mm...

RESPONDENT1: Not really.

RESEARCHER: Uuh Mm!

RESPONDENT2: But e.... eh, many of fashions are acceptable by the majority of the society and few parents and some schools are not.

RESEARCHER: I see you really perceive fashion, positively, can you tell more about it.

RESPONDENT 3: Mm... I mean there is morally wrong with new inventions of clothing. For example, if it is time for stomach out fashion, let none criticize for no reason

RESPONDENT 4: I think you're quite right, because man is naturally comfortable with conformity to the general way of doing things. This then means that I have to do what I understand to be good for me and done by my equals. I sort of e...h have to keep abreast of changes.

RESPONDENT 1: You know mam, conduct as an issue of morality entails many things like telling a lie, cheating, stealing, substance abuse, etc. I think it is clear to everyone that it is morally wrong for example, using substances, to steal, to cheat and so on.

RESPONDENT 2: " Jis laaik" there are many things that come to my mind right now. Uu... h it's quite interesting. To add to what my man said, I think over speeding also, has something to do with morality. Again, just going to school late or not doing the housework that you know is your is your responsibility, is morally wrong.

RESPONDENT3: Mm... I don't think I view house chores exactly that way because there are men's roles and women's roles.

RESPONDENT4: Can I clarify you just there? You know roles between men and women, boys and girls are long differed. To me it is selfishness to it is selfishness to let everyone do everything for you at home and you just eat and sleep.

RESEARCHER: You said something about substance abuse. Can you tell me more about it?

RESPONDENT1: Sh... ...ii

RESEARCHER: Mn.....!

RESPONDENT2: S...substance use is different from substance abuse. I think it is morally wrong to abuse substances. For example, taking a cigarette with low nicotine is not problematic.

RESPONDENT3: But at the same time, it depends on age. If you are still a teenager it is also morally wrong to smoke cigarettes or drink liquor. Even the law indicates the none under 16 is allowed to buy cigarettes or liquor.

RESPONDENT4: Yes, it does depend on age.

RESEARCHER: Mm...

RESPONDENT5: No... man, it depends how you grew up at home. If your parents are drunkards and smokers, it is easy for one not see anything morally wrong with using substances. I mean my own view of substance use at my age is totally acceptable even by our authorities like parents and school teachers. Some of us are just doing it as a response to peer pressure, more especially at school.

RESPONDENT 2: Mam, you see, there are reasons why we young people use substances. We have to be viewed well by others, and sometimes you just do it for the sake of curiosity.

RESEARCHER: You tell me about reasons for using certain substances, can you tell me about that.

RESPONDENT 3: Like it has been indicated earlier on, parenting styles are some of the factors of reasons for certain behavior pattern. For example, a parent who doesn't have love for pets and other environmental, natural things, will raise up a child who will also not respect environment at large.

RESPONDENT 4: Mam, there are many other habits which prevail more especially in black communities, which are morally wrong. Littering in town is one example, which is prevalent around Indian shops. Again making loud noise without considering the neighborhood, is typical young men, blacks and white.

RESPONDENT 5: Buteh ... you know, I think there are other ways of polluting the environment. I personally don't like the way most boys dress. They like unkept clothes, very big trousers, dirty dread-logs and this immoral appearance pollutes the environment.

RESEARCHER: It sounds like you don't like certain styles of clothing and styles of life. Can you tell me more about it.

RESPONDENT 1: Well eh Mam, sometimes it sounds like one is selfish. For example, I don't really dwell much on dread-logs, but the problem is being dirty. What I find to be an immoral life style is homosexuality, prostitution, and a practice of abortion.

RESEARCHER: Can you discuss one at a time?

RESPONDENT2: Yes. Homosexuality is an abomination to God. It is unnatural. Prostitution is another unacceptable thing though those who practice it, do it out of despair.

RESPONDENT3: you indicated that abortion is an immoral act. I partly agree because there can be very good reasons for doing that. I think good reasons out weigh bad ones, so it may not be as immoral as we think it is.

RESEARCHER: Uuh...mm. You talked at length about morality. What can be done to help us not to do things that are not morally good?

RESPONDENT: I think our parents, our schools and community at large must receive what I call moral education. Morality should be part of the curriculum.

RESEARCHER: Thank you for having shared much together. I hope you enjoyed the session.