

Nigerian Women Interview

Joy Elkanah

Note: Elkanah is her father's name. She is involved with the Mashiah Foundation, which is a ministry to women who are HIV positive. The ministry teaches the women how to sew and then sells the quilting products that they make. Joy has been with Mashiah Foundation for 3 to 4 years. "I was sick and I needed a place to stay because my grandparents refused to open their house to me because I have HIV. One white lady by brought me here. I stayed in the house on Mashiah for 6 months before I got my own apartment and moved out." Joy grew up in Jos.

Demographics

1. Age: 21
2. Age at which married: I was 17 when I got married. We are divorced.
3. Age at which had first child: 15 years
4. Children: Her son, James, was 6 years old when he died this year on 5 March
5. Education: She was about to write her secondary school exams to complete secondary school when she got married.

Behavior

B1. Daily Schedule:

- A. *What is your daily schedule?* If I have things to do, I wake up around 5. If not, I wake up around 7. Like this our work, I will do it, so if I want to cook, I will cook early if I have washing then I will wash. After work sometimes I cook then I eat then I start my work, sometimes I will not cook I will just start my work then I sleep.
- B. *What activities do you spend the **most time** on each day?* Sewing.

B2. Non-Daily Routines

- A. *What are the activities that you regularly do, but not everyday?* Like um... Washing, and fetching of water.

B3. Responsibilities around the house

- A. *In your household, what duties are you responsible for?* Washing of the toilet, washing of the bathroom, sweeping the compound.

B4. Holidays

- A. *How do you celebrate festivals?* I celebrate Christmas, New Year, my birthday and sons's birthday although he is late, Easter, my younger ones [siblings] and my parents birthdays. My parents, they don't know their birthday but I know so I surprise them. For New Years, I wake up in the morning, I bath, after bath I eat then I go to church, come back from church, I will go to my friend's house and visit them. From there, there is a festival, we go to the king's compound and dance there. After I come home, I bath, I eat, then I stay home.
- B. *For major holiday celebrations, what role do you have in the ceremonies?* All those ceremonies like in the new year time there is this things we do in our church called my angel. So you pick somebody's name and buy a gift for them so I normally do that

every year, I give a gift to the pastor or somebody I like in the church or I sing a special number at church because I am very good at singing.

B5. Money

- A. *How do you earn money?* Sell my work at Mashiah. I do business: I sell shoes, bags, clothes, and dry fish. People just know they can come to my house to buy these things.
- B. *What do you spend money on?* I buy food for myself, There is my younger brother and sister, I sponsor to school. I send their school fees to them and buy clothes for them. I buy food for myself and my parents because my father is not a salary owner so I buy food and send to them.

Values

V1. General Societal Views

- A. *What makes a good woman?* A good woman is, maybe she should be good in prayers, that is first of all then a hard working woman, not a lazy woman. A woman that have something she is doing. A woman that doesn't go sleep.
- B. *What makes a good man?* A man that takes responsibility of his house. A very good husband, a man that knows God and a man that at least doesn't cheat.
- C. *Think of differences between men and women. What are things that women should do that men shouldn't?* Some domestic things at home like washing of plate, cooking of the food, sometimes taking care of the children, sometimes she should help in taking care of the family.
- D. *What are things that men should do but women shouldn't?* A man supposed to take his responsibility to take care of his house by providing enough food for his house and his children and buy clothes for his wife and children. He should be the head in prayers.
- E. *What things would you like to do but can't because you are a woman?* I don't think there is any.
- F. *Do you think it is better to be a man or a woman?* I am grateful the way God makes me because what a man can do, I can do that.

V2. Rites of Passage

- A. *When is a girl considered an adult?* When she is 23 or 20. I became a woman when I was 17. [Never stated, but implied that womanhood is associated with marriage.]
- B. *How did your life change once you became an adult?* I was forced [to be married]. I was a very stubborn then. When I was a girl I used to be afraid of people. When I became a woman I was not afraid of people.

V3. Marriage

- A. *Did you look forward to marriage?* No. Because when I was a little girl, I wanted to finish my school, have a job, build house, have a car before I got married. It was just accidental that I got married.
- B. *How did you find your husband?* When I was in school, he was just a family friend, his father and my grandfather were friends. He used to visit house. When his father died he came and said he likes me. He used to visit me in school so that was how I

know him then we started dating then he got me pregnant. When a woman gets pregnant she has to follow him to get married.

- C. *How much was your bride price?* He did not have to pay a bride price. [Implied that no bride price was necessary because she was pregnant.]

V4. Children

- A. *What are things you want to teach your boy children?* I tried to teach him prayers. Secondly greetings. Thirdly at least if people give him something he should say thank you. If somebody offend him he should not take revenge. He should tell that person thank you and leave that person. I tried to teach him how to eat in the public. I tried to stop him from collecting things from people.

V5. Community

- A. *What activities do you do with other women?* We walk together with them and this sewing [at Mashiah Foundation]. We share some experience with them and sometimes I would be lonely so I have to go to their house or I have to call them ok, come let's have some talks.
- B. *How did you meet your women friends?* Women friends from Mashiah.