

ANNEXURE D:

FIELD NOTES

OBSERVATIONAL NOTES

▪ AT THE RESEARCHER'S WORK PLACE

Three individual stepfamily members were interviewed on different days at times that suited them. The researcher had already created a context by telling them to feel free. The first interview done was with a couple whereby a lot of tension was marked between them. There were lots of accusations and the researcher had to intervene. Both husband and wife needed or expected the researcher to side with them as they related their experiences. The researcher had to be neutral and explain to them that she was not taking any sides but to listen to their presentations.

The other two remaining individuals were very open and made the interview easy going without disruptions.

▪ AT HOME

The individual was keen to tell about her experiences. She welcomed me warmly and was very happy for the trouble I took in driving all the way. As the interview was in process, her husband came back from work at 15:00 pm. The wife (interviewee) then followed him to the bedroom excusing herself. The husband greeted me but never stayed long and left without asking me the purpose of coming as he did not know me. I want to believe that his wife explained.

▪ AT THE CLINIC

The sister-in-charge had organised the people to be interviewed. I received a very warm welcome by everybody. I was offered an office and the individual interviews were commenced. The disturbance was the phone ringing and babies crying and the up and down movements of patients and personnel

THEORETICAL NOTES

▪ AT THE RESEACHER'S WORK PLACE

The respondents were willing to talk about their experiences and needed a lot of sympathy by the way they talked.

▪ AT HOME

The respondents were very co-operative, opening up freely and after the interviews, offering me something to drink.

▪ AT THE CLINIC

The sister-in-charge was not available at my second visit but her subordinates were very handy and helpful in organising people for me to be interviewed. The respondents were also talking and opening freely

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The researcher did a lot of reflection because the respondents expressed themselves freely where I could not understand, I asked for clarification. The researcher refrained from asking leading questions. She entered the interviews from a point of not knowing

PERSONAL NOTES

The researcher experienced a lot of emotional pain whilst conducting interviews as the respondents had and still are experiencing difficulties in stepfamily relationships. All the respondents needed a lot of support system, intense counselling at the clinic, some respondents had high hopes that the researcher was bringing solutions to their problems but she had to explain to them that she was not doing therapy but wanted to

know their experiences in stepfamily relationships. The researcher told them that if need be, she will refer them for counselling to the psychiatric nurse specialist or a psychologist, a psychiatrist or to a clinic where there is a professional visiting on regular basis for therapy.

