**Interview: Madina her grandfather**Family life

Name: Mohammad Shafiq Mir

Age: 85  
**part 1**

**1:** **How many people were in your parents’ family?  
How many people lived in the same house?  
Nuclear or extended family? Explain.**  
7 people lived with me, including my parents. We lived in a extended family.  
**2: What was the profession of your father/mother?**My father was an officer in the military and my mother was a housewife.   
**3: Where did you live with your family?**We lived in Kabul, Afghanistan. Kabul is the capital city of Afghanistan, but we lived in a small village in Kabul.

**4: Do you remember any historical fact / event when you were a teenager (between 12 and 16 years old) either in India or in EU or worldwide. Why were you impressed by that event?**I heard on the radio about WW2, because back then we didn’t have a television of course. It was very shocking to hear news like that.

**Part 2**

**1: Which family matters did your parents discuss with the children when you were a teenager?: free time, studies, holidays, purchases, renovation of the house?**My father really wanted me and my brother to go to school and learn, but in our village nobody went to school. Not because our village was poor, but there wasn’t a good possible way to get good education. Even though it was like that, my father brought me and my little brother to school so we could learn and make something out of our life.

**2: What main values were taught by your parents when you were a teenager?**I learned to always learn and work hard, so I wouldn’t fail my future family but also for myself to live a great life. I did as my father said and I became the general of the military. In 1979 the war started of course and I was glad I had work and had listened to my father.

**3: Was there any hierarchy in the family (father-mother-boys-girls)? Explain.**Yes, kind of. When my father was still alive he was like ‘the boss’ in our house. After that came my mother then me (I am the oldest child) and after that my brother and sisters. When my father died I was kind of the ‘boss’ , but my mother was of course still there and she was the main ‘boss’. It all kind of depended on the age, but also on the sex of the person, because a male could always work and easily outside, but that wasn’t the same for women. The women mostly stayed home and the male worked of course, because of this the male was kind of ‘higher’ than the women, but we never disrespected women. We always learned to treat everyone the same way.

**4: What did you like most in your family? Explain.**I always really liked to go on a trip with my father to just look at Afghanistan. I loved this. We had some father-son time, which made us become closer. This has also shown me a big part of Afghanistan.

**5: Can you remember one very special event/occasion that you really felt the importance of being member of a family?**My father had died when I was very young. He died because of stomach cancer. This had a very big impact on our family, because my mother was of course left alone and she had no work.

**6: Do you think that the role of a family has changed since you were young?**Yes, my family changed a lot. My brother was killed and my sister had died too. Me, my other sister and my mother were going through a very hard time and this also had a lot of impact on me. I had to go to school and work so I could get some money for us to live. I studied a very high education.