

Semi-structured interview guide for women

This interview guide was adapted from Bohren MA, Opiyo N, Kingdon C, Downe S, Betrán AP. Optimising the use of caesarean section: a generic formative research protocol for implementation preparation. Reproductive Health. 2019 Nov 19;16(1):170.

FIRST INTERVIEW WITH WOMEN: THIRD TRIMESTER

RESEARCHER INTRODUCTION

“Hello, my name is Rana, I’m a PhD student at The University of Melbourne in Australia. Once again, thank you for your willingness to participate in this study. As mentioned in the Plain Language Statement and Informed Consent Form that you signed, this study aims to understand your preferences and decision-making process on the way you give birth to your baby. I would like to talk with you two times, which is now, in the last few weeks of your pregnancy, and later after you have given birth to your baby. Please note that I have no medical background or skills and any conversation we have during this interview should not be used as medical advice or consideration in choosing your mode of birth. This interview will be audio-recorded, but the recording will only be used for us to be able to write down what you say and will not be published. All your identity and personal information will be anonymised and will not be disclosed to anyone. In this time we have now, I will ask you some questions relating to your pregnancy and birth plan, but you do not have to answer any specific questions if you don’t want to. So, please let me know if you would like to pass any questions or stop our talk. Before we begin, do you have any questions about the study?”

CONSENT RETRIEVAL

1. If you are fine, I would like to turn on the recorder for the interview now, so I don’t miss any of your comments. Would this be alright with you?
 - a. If yes, proceed to the next question
2. Have you read the Plain Language Statement and Informed Consent Form that I provided?
 - a. If yes, proceed to the next question
3. Do you have any questions regarding the Plain Language Statement and Informed Consent Form?
 - a. *Probe:* are you fine with being interviewed after your birth as well?
4. Do you agree to participate in this interview?
 - a. If yes, continue the interview
 - b. If no, stop the interview

PARTICIPANT INTRODUCTION

1. Can you tell me a little bit about yourself and your family?
 - a. *Probe:* How old are you
 - b. *Probe:* What is your job?

- c. *Probe:* How many children do you have?
- d. *Probe:* When is your expected due date?

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Can you talk about your previous childbirth experience? How many times have you given birth, and how did you give birth?
2. Can you tell me about the care during pregnancy? Did you see any health care workers for your pregnancy visits?
3. Where do you learn information about childbirth?
 - a. *Probe:* Do you attend any antenatal care education? Where do you go? Who delivers this? How have these helped you?
 - b. *Probe:* Are there certain social media sites that you frequently go to learn?
4. Have you thought about how do you want to give birth?
 - a. *Probe:* Where do you plan to give birth?
 - b. *Probe:* How do you think you will give birth?
5. How did you decide to give birth at *[the place mentioned by participant]* and through *[methods mentioned by participant]*?
 - a. *Probe:* What factors did you think about when deciding this?
 - b. *Probe:* How do you make this decision?
6. How will you pay for your care during your baby's birth?
 - a. *Probe:* Do you have any private or public insurance to cover your birth?
 - b. *Probe:* How do you make this decision?
7. How have other people influenced your decision about where and how to give birth?
 - a. *Probe:* How have your healthcare providers influenced your decision? What did your care providers suggest?
 - b. *Probe:* How have your husband/partner or family influenced your decision? What did your husband/partner or family say?
 - c. *Probe:* How have your friends influenced your decision? Did your friends share their experiences with you?
 - d. *Probe:* How have your health insurance policy influenced your decision?
8. How do you feel about the different ways to give birth? Are there any ways that you think are better for you? How do you think women make the decision that is right for them?
 - a. *Probe:* What do you think are some positive and negative aspects of vaginal birth, assisted vaginal birth, caesarean section, vaginal birth after caesarean section?
9. Do you feel there are more women having normal births in your community compared caesarean section, or the other way around? Why do you think this is the case?

- a. *Probe*: Do you think this is a problem? Why or why not?

10. Do you have any other comments, questions, or feedback in regard to your birth plan?

CLOSING

[Researcher to summarise the main points of the interview with participants and confirm if there is anything that participants would like to add]. That was the last question for me, and I think this will mark the end of this interview. I would like to thank you for being generous with your time and for your willingness to share your experiences and thoughts with me in this interview. If this interview has brought up some uncomfortable feelings or issues for you, please do not hesitate to speak with your doctor or contact one of the support services listed here [Researcher gives the list of support services to participant] and you can find these contacts on plain language statement too. I will be looking forward to our second interview on the next few weeks or months. Please feel free to contact me when you have given birth. I will also contact you as well four weeks after your due date to follow up. In the meantime, please stay healthy and take care.

SECOND INTERVIEW WITH WOMEN: POSTPARTUM

RESEARCHER INTRODUCTION

“Nice to see you again! I hope everything is well. You have been through a lot over the past couple of months, and I hope you manage to get some rest. **[If the baby is alive]** Congratulations on the birth of your baby. Once again, thank you for your willingness to participate in this study again. As mentioned in the Plain Language Statement and Informed Consent Form that you signed, this study aims to understand your preferences and decision-making process regarding the way women give birth. Like our first interview, this interview will be audio-recorded, yet the recording will only be used for transcription and will not be published. All your identity and personal information will be anonymised and will not be disclosed to anyone. In this interview, I will ask you some questions relating to your pregnancy and birth plan, but you have the right to not answer me if you are uncomfortable. So, please let me know if you would like to pass any questions or stop this interview. Before we begin, do you have any questions about the study?”

CONSENT RETRIEVAL

1. If you are fine, I would like to turn on the recorder for the interview now, so I don't miss any of your comments. Would this be alright with you?
 - c. If yes, proceed to the next question
2. Have you read the Plain Language Statement and Informed Consent Form that I provided?
 - a. If yes, proceed to the next question
3. Do you have any questions regarding the Plain Language Statement and Informed Consent Form?
 - a. *Probe*: are you fine with being interviewed after your birth as well?

4. Do you agree to participate in this interview?
 - a. If yes, continue the interview
 - b. If no, stop the interview

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Where did you give birth and who helped you to give birth?
 - a. *Probe:* Did you give birth at clinic or hospital? Was it public or private?
 - b. *Probe:* What do you feel about the care that you received? Did you give birth with the help midwives, obstetricians, or doctor? Did you have someone from your family with you in labour?
2. How did you end up paying for your care during the birth of your baby?
 - a. *Probe:* Did you use any private or public insurance?
 - b. *Probe:* Were there extra costs that you had to pay for?
3. Can you tell me how your labour and birth went?
 - a. *Probe:* how did your labour start – did you go into labour on your own or was there an induction to help?
 - b. *Probe:* Were you in the hospital before or after the labour starts?
 - c. *Probe:* If it is caesarean section, did you go into labour first?
4. How did you give birth to your baby? How did this come about?
5. How did you decide about the way you gave birth?
 - a. *Probe:* did you feel you made the choice or was it made for you?
 - b. *Probe:* How did you know about your options (including its pro and cons)?
 - c. *Probe:* How did you feel about the way you gave birth?
6. Did other things happen to you through your labour and birth (episiotomy, vaginal examinations, intravenous drip etc)? Do you know why?
 - a. *Probe:* How were you aware about these things happening? Did you feel you had enough information about them, and do you feel you gave permission for them to happen?
7. Would you choose this same way to give birth for your next pregnancy? Why or why not?
8. Do you feel that your birth experience went as you planned and wished? Why or why not?
 - a. *Probe:* Compared to our last interview, did you eventually give birth the way that you wanted to?
 - b. *Probe:* Why did you not end up with the way that you preferred?
 - c. *Probe:* [If different mode of birth than planned] Would you choose your planned or actual way to give birth again for your next pregnancy? Why or why not?
9. What do you like or don't like about your birth experience?

- a. *Probe*: How was your communication with your health providers?
- b. *Probe*: Did your family, providers, and husband support your decision?

10. How do you think your birth experience can be improved?

11. Do you have any other comments, questions or feedback in regard to your birth experience?

CLOSING

[Researcher to summarise the main points of the interview with participants and confirm if there is anything that participants would like to add] That was the last question for me, and I think this will mark the end of this interview. I would like to thank you for being generous with your time and for your willingness to share your experiences and thoughts with me in this interview. If this interview has brought up some uncomfortable feelings or issues for you, please do not hesitate to speak with your doctor or contact one of the support services listed here [Researcher gives the list of support services to participant], you can also find these contacts on the plain language statement. Thank you.