

interview pp

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Interview Paper
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1. Basic background information:

My grandmother, Carolyn, also known as *Mimi* to my two brothers and me, is 71 years old. My Mimi resides in Wheeling, WV, and has seven grandkids, and all of us are the entire world- she would do just about anything for each of us. Last September, she lost her husband, my grandfather, exceptionally unexpectedly. This was a significant change for her, and I can tell that she is still adjusting to it, but the way she stays strong for all of us is very inspiring. She was born in 1948, which would make her a member of the Baby Boomers generation. Being this was 71 years ago, there are many things that the baby boomers experienced that those born into future generations have not, and vice versa. When I was interviewing my grandmother, she stated that she knew there would be a number of changes within society, from technology to laws and policies, and everything between- but she stated she had no idea things would change so much.

2. What activities did you do with your friend when you were in your 20s? What was a typical “date” like?

For starters, my grandmother was over-the-top excited to help me out with this assignment. It was a win-win, since she got to help me, and it made her happy that I chose her to help me out. I began by asking her what she did for fun when she was in her 20's. She told me that her favorite thing to do on the weekends was going to the drive-in movie theatre with my grandfather. At that age, a drive-in movie theatre was one of the fun things for couple's, especially young couples. It was also an excellent way for a man to show interest to a girl he liked. According to my grandmother, some of the things have not changed over the year. For instance, during her time, they used to go camping in the woods. It was a fun way for friends to spend the weekend, and it came with a thrill. Today, people still go camping in designated areas

for camping. During her time, the camping adventure had a dangerous side to it. The woods were not protected from dangerous animals as compared to camping in the present time. People also enjoy going to the cinema for movies. It is a fun way for family, friends, and lovers to spend an evening or the weekend.

What has significantly changed is the technology in the theatre industry. Over time, directors of films have developed numerous ways to make films realistic and more believable. The quality of videos generated is far better than what was present during her time. Also, people can watch films in 3d, which makes a film more realistic. She noticed how drive-in theatres have been on the decline over the years. Today only a few of those remain in existence. My grandfather used to pick her from her home and drive into the town. They would then go for dinner at any convenient hotels at that time. After dinner, they would go to the drive-in theatre for a movie and cuddle together as they enjoyed the film. Other times, they drove into an open field and enjoyed watching the stars as they made promises to each other.

3. How much do you think you have changed since you were in your 20s? In what areas do you see change?

There have been significant changes in technology. According to my grandmother, when she was in the 20s, people used to go to the shops or the markets. However, over time, the internet has brought about online shopping. People no longer have to go to the market or the shop. All they have to do is create accounts online using mobile phones or computers from where they can place orders for the things they require. This is a significant positive change brought about by technology as it brings about convenience in shopping. She says that it is now easier to order food when you do not feel like cooking or when a guest arrives unannounced. During her 20s, if a guest arrived unannounced, the host had to make plans for dinner. Also, the

internet is another change that has brought about so much change in the world. Through the internet, people at different corners of the world can communicate with each other.

Communication has significantly improved and also the transportation industry. There is a significantly high number of planes, and traveling to different destinations is easy. Also, people can know about the places they are planning to visit before visiting the place. This change has been brought about by the internet. People who travel to different places leave reviews on the internet about those places. Therefore, people planning on traveling can review those comments and make a decision.

Social media has brought about some significant changes in communication. People from different parts of the world are getting along in this new age. Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, and Instagram are some of the best places where people are making changes in society. People who have never met are making changes in society. On social media, people have made online demonstrations and also pushed for specific policies. Through social media, people are developing relationships and even getting married. Social media has formed a new society where people are more united irrespective of nations and ethnicity. People from different nations have come together in support or to condemn specific actions which are happening in different countries all over the world. People have united in condemning terrorism and other inhuman acts while they promote good deeds such as humanitarian activities. During her 20s, the best way to communicate was through writing letters. This was highly ineffective, and it took many days before receiving a reply.

4. What are some societal or cultural differences you have experienced throughout the years?

During her early 20s, the society was divided along the dressing code was way different from what we have today. Over the years, the fashion industry has changed, and the fashion today is entirely different from what they had during her time. Also, society was harsh, and people were divided depending on ethnicity and nationality. However, society has changed, and people have become more accepting of their differences. People from different places are even getting married, which was not a common phenomenon in her days. In her day's, marriages were taken seriously, and things such as divorce were not common. However, people get married more than once, and people can quickly get divorced after marriage.

5. What have been the biggest challenges you have faced throughout your adult years?

How did you deal with these challenges?

Over the years, society and culture changed significantly. Dealing with this change was a challenge for my grandmother. The things which she was used to changing and people started doing new things. This was a challenge for her. "Change is a must, but when it happens, it is difficult to adapt to the change given that you have been used to doing things in a given way," said my grandmother. Also, when she got older, some of her friends started passing away. Very few of her childhood friend is still living. This has been the toughest time for her. Adjusting to this has been particularly challenging, and each time her friend passes, she thinks that she is next.

6. What are your thoughts towards retirement, medical expenses, and nursing homes?

Retirement is tough. She says that when a person gets used to working for so many years, the idea of having to retire is stressful. This is because upon retirement, you no longer have the work to keep you busy. The thought of so much free time is disturbing. However, when you retire, you have new things to focus on. The good thing with retirement is that a person gets to

enjoy all the retirement benefits saved for all the years. This is one of the good things with retirement. Medical expenses increase when you get old. The body requires more attention and medication. Also, she does not like nursing homes. She says that they are lonely and she would rather spend her time with family. However, she also likes being around older adults as they can talk about issues that they are facing. In nursing homes, people are limited, and they can not travel as much as they would like to. She says that she would like to travel and see the environment and different places as her days nears the end. Rather than having memories of being in a nursing home, she would like to make new memories.

7. What are two important occupations or relationships? How would your life be different if you had chosen a different path?

Family is the most important relationship that my grandmother hold dear. She loved my grandfather, and she would not have lived her life any better. She also loved her children and us the grandchildren. Other than her family, she loved her job. It was part of her life for so long, and she believes that work defines a person. Therefore, you should not choose the work where you are not comfortable. She believes that if she had taken a different path, life could have turned out differently than she expected, and she might not be where she is today. However, she believes that she has spent a lot of time with my grandfather, and even if things were different, she would still have him around. She would probably be engaged in a different career, but she would only have worked somewhere she enjoyed. She likes being happy and working in an unhappy environment was not part of her dream.

8. What is your daily life like? Stresses? Joys?

Her daily life is quite average. On some days, she gets some weird dreams, and this affects her mood for the day. It makes her feel sad, especially when she thinks about the people

she cared about, and they have already past. However, whenever we come visiting, she gets so happy. At times she feel lonely, and she misses us so much. She is also happy when she is helping me with my homework and when we play games. She likes playing games, although she does not win most of the times. At times, my parents spend a lot of time before coming to visit her. This makes her feel sad and gives her the feeling that she is not loved. At times, her medication makes her feel terrible, and she gets stressed thinking about the days to come.

9. What do you do to maintain health? Happiness?

She looks at our family pictures, and this gives her joy as she remembers those old memories. Also, she likes talking to these people for fun, and this keeps her busy and happy. To maintain her health, she observes a very healthy diet and is keen to follow her prescription. She also attends some therapy where she keeps healthy. She also believes that maintaining a positive attitude is enough to keep a person healthy apart from the medication. Positive thinking positively makes the bodywork.

10. What advice would you give to yourself when you were 20? Or what advice would you give to me?

The best advice would have much fun. Engage in all fun activities during this age. She advised me to look for good friends and maintain them. With my friends, we should responsibly do fun things. If I like traveling, I should travel all over the world. Also, at 20, I should work to achieve my goals and also find a serious lover. I should try and get in a relationship that is likely to lead to marriage.

Appendix A.

1. Basic background information:
2. What activities did you do with your friend when you were in your 20s?

What was a typical “date” like?

3. How much do you think you have changed since you were in your 20s? In what areas do you see change?

4. What are some societal or cultural differences you have experienced throughout the years?

5. What have been the biggest challenges you have faced throughout your adult years? How did you deal with these challenges?

6. What are your thoughts towards retirement, medical expenses, and nursing homes?

7. What are two important occupations or relationships? How would your life be different if you had chosen a different path?

8. What is your daily life like? Stresses? Joys?

9. What do you do to maintain health? Happiness?

10. What advice would you give to yourself when you were 20? Or what advice would you give to me?

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