

## Responsibilities within the Family

### Shona transcript:

A: Ndingada kuzivawo kuti mukati memhuri mune mabasa here anotarisirwa kuti iri ibasa rasisi, iri ibasa ramukoma kana kuti iri ibasa raamai?

B: Mumhuri zvakasiyana-siyana. Kazhinji baba vanochengeta mhuri, vanoshanda, vanopa mhuri mari uyezve vanoshanda nguva dzakanyanya. Dzimwe nguva kunana mai vanoshanda vanoita mabasa akasiyana siyana asiwo zvekare vanotarisirwa kuti ndivo muridzi wemusha, vanobika, vanowacha vanochengeta mhuri. Dzimwe mhuri dzinenge dziina vana sisi vebasa vanova vasikana vebasa vanogara nemhuri vachivachengetera vana, vachiita mamwe mabasa kana mai vachienda kune rimwe basa ndivo vanoitawo rimwe basa rakawanda. Vana vasikana vanodzidziswawo kuita mabasa epamusha vachiri vadiki. Dzimwe nguva vana vakomana vanodzidziswa kuita mabasa. Asi kutsika dzedu vakomana vanoita mabasa vanoita mabasa akasiyana nevasikana. Semuenzaniso vasikana vanobika, vanotsvaira, vanowacha. Asi vakomana vanoita mabasa anoda simba rakawanda semuenzaniso kudiridza mugarden, kugadzira zvakafa nekuita mamwe mabasa emaoko akasiyana-siyana nyangwe kurima kana kuri kumaruwa. Naizvozvo ndinoona kuti izvoni mabasa edu akasiyana nekunge uri musikana kana kuti nekunge uri mukomana uyezve kumhuri dzine vabereki vanoshanda mamwe mabasa vanoda kuti musikana webasa kuti aite mabasa akawanda-wanda.

A: Ndingadawo kuziva kukosheswa kweatinoti *maextended families* mukati memhuri dzemuZimbabwe?

B: Aaah mhuri dzekuZimbabwe dzakakura. Mhuri dzina mai nababa nevana asiwo tinokoshesa sekuru nambuya vanavatete vanabamukuru vanabamunini vanamainini. Uye tiri mhuri imwe, tose takafanana. Semuenzaniso vana vabamunini kana kuti vana vamainini kana kuti vana vatete vanoonekwa semhuri imwechete. Dzimwe nguva mhuri dzinogara nevana vavana bamunini kana kuti nevana vanamainini mumba mavo. Kunyanya mazuvano nevanhu vazhinji varikufa nechirwere chemukondombera, mhuri zhinji dziri kutora vana vevanin'ina vavo kana kuti vana vevakoma vavo kuti vavachengete. Naizvozvo mhuri dziri kukura zvakanyanya nekuti tinokoshesa kuwanda.

### English translation:

A: Within the family, do you have certain responsibilities for a specific person—say, this is my sister's or brother's or mother's duty?

B: Within the family, the responsibilities are different. Usually the father takes care of the family's needs: he works, he provides the family with money and he works more hours than the rest of the family. Sometimes mothers also go to work, but they are expected to

be the caretakers of the house: they cook, they wash clothes and take care of the family. Other families have housemaids—that is, girls who live with the family, taking care of the children and doing other household chores when the mother of the house has gone to work. Girls are also taught some of the household chores when they are still young. Sometimes boys are also taught how to carry out certain chores. However, in our culture, boys do different work than girls. For example, girls cook, sweep, wash clothes, but boys do chores that require more energy, for example watering the garden, repairing broken machines and other manual jobs, even farming if it is in the rural areas. Hence I have realized that duties depend on your gender, whether you are female or male, and also in other families where the parents work, the housemaids do most of the household chores.

A: I am also interested in the importance of extended families in Zimbabwe.

B: Aah, families in Zimbabwe are very big. A family has a mother, father and children, but we also consider grandparents, aunts and uncles as part of the immediate family. We are one family and we are all equal. For example, my father's younger brothers and their wives, and my father's sisters—they are considered as one family. Sometimes families live with their uncles' or aunts' children, taking care of them. Especially these days, people are dying because of HIV/AIDS. Parents are living with their brothers' and sisters' children and looking after them. Thus families are increasing in terms of the number of family members because we value big<sup>1</sup> families.

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<sup>1</sup> “Big” family in this case means a family with a lot of members (average five). It may be due to the fact that there are a lot of children in that family or because it is an extended family.