**Appendices**

**Appendix 1: Demographic characteristics of the participants**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Code | Age | Education | Occupation | Spouse occupation | Length of marriage | Number of pregnancies | Number of children | Number of abortions | Number of children with major thalassemia |
| 1 | 40 | B.A | Midwife | Employee | 17 | 2 | 2 |  |  |
| 2 | 23 | Elementary | Housewife | Workman | 5 | 1 | 1 |  |  |
| 3 | 36 | Diploma | Housewife | Employee | 10 | 2 | 1 | 1 |  |
| 4 | 20 | Elementary | Housewife | Farmer | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 |  |
| 5 | 40 | Elementary | Housewife | Worker | 24 | 4 | 4 |  | 1 |
| 6 | 36 | Elementary | Housewife | Plumber | 17 | 3 | 3 |  |  |
| 7 | 26 | Elementary | Housewife | Worker | 7 | 1 | 1 |  |  |
| 8 | 34 | Illiterate | Housewife | Worker | 7 | 4 | 4 |  | 1 |
| 9 | 31 | Diploma | Housewife | Worker | 9 | 4 | 2 | 2 |  |
| 10 | 42 | Elementary | Housewife | Driver | 21 | 3 | 3 |  |  |
| 11 | 45 | B.A | Midwife | Teacher | 20 | 2 | 2 |  |  |
| 12 | 38 | B.A | Midwife | Employee | 13 | 1 | 1 |  |  |

**Appendix 2: Example of initial interview questions**

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| Interview Questions |
| 1. Express your understanding and experience of pregnancy;  2. What are your feelings in terms of women with minor thalassemia falling pregnant?  3. What are the conditions of pregnancy for women with thalassemia? If you consider it to be difficult, how difficult is it?  4. How did thalassemia affect your pregnancy? |

**Appendix 3: Categories, sub-categories, and themes for mothers' pregnancy experiences with minor thalassemia**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Related topics** | **Sub -Category** | **Theme** |
| Stress and anxiety | Negative psychological feelings | Emotional and physical experience |
| Discomfort and being afraid that the child may carry the disease |
| Regret |
| Low self-confidence |
| Concerned about forced abortion |
| Worry |
| Mental pressure |
| Painfulness of the test | Physical problems |
| Mother's weakness |
| Symptoms of intense nausea and dizziness |
| Difficult pregnancy |
| Physical difficulty related to abortion |
| The feeling of motherhood | the feeling of value | **Satisfaction** |
| The feeling of pride |
| Rising dignity |
| Enjoyable pregnancy |
| Improved marital relationship | stability of family |
| Collaboration and attention of the spouse |
| The spouse’s feeling of responsibility owing to childbirth |
| The family encouragement |
| Resort to God | Spiritual support |
| Thank God |
| Pray |
| Low awareness of the community | Social issues | Social and cultural issues |
| The family disagreement |
| People's negative view |
| Stay at home all the time |
| poor culture of People | Cultural issues |
| Stigma |
| People's wrong beliefs |