

Interview Transcript

Interviewer: Omar Hassan

Narrator: Hanaa Koura

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Place: Narrator's home
IA omar Ebn
El Khatab ST.

University: American University
In Cairo

Prof.: Dr. Kim Fox

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Omar Sherif

Hanaa Koura Interview

21 February 2012

persons present: Omar Sherif- I

Hanaa Koura- s

Sherif: Hello and welcome to our interview, and your name is ?

Koura: Hanaa Koura.

Sherif: What's your title ?

Koura: I'm the costumer service manager at Beverly Hills Property Management Company.

Sherif: Your area of residence ?

Koura: Dokki.

Sherif: Your age ?

Koura: 45.

Sherif: Talk to me briefly about yourself.

Koura: I'm an AUC [American University In Cairo] graduate, I'm a single mother for two boys, and I'm the only daughter, eh, for nurturing parents who were very protecting, caring and loving.

Sherif: Who were your parents ?

Koura: eh, my mum was a pharmacist, she's Dr Tahani El Bendary, a pharmacist, she was working after her graduation immediately, she worked, she joined her career, but still she never forgets that she was the mother for a boy and a girl, eh, my dad, he was a police officer, Mohamed Said Koura, but yet you can never feel any impact of his job on his Character, as he was very affectionate, he was very caring and protective, and I was very much attached to him.

Sherif: How were you affected by your parents ?

Koura: My parents, eh, kept on emphasizing the importance of the family, and how the strong family bonds will give you more strength, and as a matter of fact this was very true, eh, both of them, they were busy working, but still, they had the time to join every minute in their children's lives. For example, i can never forget my father's insistence for me to join the AUC, eh, as i wanted to join the Cairo University, Faculty Of Arts, for all my class in the third secondary of school were joining this faculty, and i wanted to be with them, to feel the same feeling of school. Yet, he insisted, and inspire of the fact he was working these days away in another city, and he was very busy, yet he kept on calling me daily, eh, and kept on talking, and gave me the chance to negotiate until he was able to convince me, eh, as, with his vision, he was, and i do agree now that he proved to be far sighted, that this will be much better for me, and it proved to be afterwards.

Sherif: You seem very fond of your father's decision regarding AUC, why is that ?

Koura: My father was very protective, eh, he loved me very much, i was his only daughter, and he used to help me doing everything, and at the same time he didn't deny that this lead me to be dependent to an extent, i used to depend on him, I used to, to need his help whenever I'm doing anything, and he decided that he should help me get rid of this trait that might not help me to face life alone, that I, once I have to. And he sensed that joining the American university society, this will help me to be more independent.

Sherif: What else did you benefit from your time at AUC, besides being independent ?

Koura: eh, actually the American university system of teaching allows for diversity in what you're learning. I was a mass-communication major, yet, the elective courses allowed for studying a number of courses that, for example, I studied psychology, and I was very fond of child psychology. I kept on taking courses in psychology, it helped me a lot later on in raising up my children. And as to sociology, I took many courses in sociology and this was very interesting, and it helped main order to understand the societies, the different societies around us, eh, I took anthropology courses, and, eh, a lot of other courses, for example, introduction to music, introduction to films, this diversification gives you flexibility and allows you to join more than one field of career easily.

Sherif: Ok, how do you remember your time as a student at AUC ?

Koura: University years are usually the nicest years, whenever you ask anybody about university years, they are very happy talking about it, you have real friends, everything is genuine, still your mind is free, your heart is as white as cotton, everything is very true. I remember my group at the university, they were a group of girls that I still remember with all the positive things that we had together, at the same time I had a number of professors whom I remember, they were very nice and helpful, eh, and the activities we used to do, for example, joining the gym classes, joining aerobics classes, they were really great years.

Sherif: eh, so how did AUC help you with your career ?

Koura: Again, I'm going to talk about the diversification, eh, the diversity of courses allowed for a diversity in fields of

career, eh, let me tell you that directly after graduation, I got married, this was true, but still i didn't have children

eh, except after two years. The first two years I joined the National Counsel For Childhood And Motherhood, eh, the media representative for this counsel, and this was very much related to my career. Later on, after my first child, I, I left. I resigned, and hum, I stayed home for ten years raising up my children, eh, yet after they, I realized that they grew up, and they are no more the kids who need mommy every minute, I decided to go back to the field of, to, to work, to job, and I joined the Culture Wheel, or as it is known to the public (Sakiet El Sawy) as the general manager for seven years, and thank God, I think I did it successfully.

Sherif: How did u find going back to having a career after 10 years of being a mother and a housewife ?

Koura: eh, I can never deny that there were problems, actually they were two problems. The first one was eh, eh, getting

away from my kids, whom i used to join every minute, eh, with them, and this was actually my problem not their's,

I think so, eh, but, the second one, which is a problem that may face anyone who stays for 10 years away, it's trying to adapt to the changes that happened in the society while I was away raising my children, but again I was able to overcome both

problems, thank God.

Sherif: As a single mother, how do you perceive your future with your two sons, the elder about to graduate, and the younger stepping to his first year in university?

Koura: hmmm, my main concern nowise how to proceed with my career as a member in a property management company, but still as an affectionate mother, and I do, I do confess that I am, I'm still thinking about the boys, I'll keep an eye on them, they might need my help, while they're doing their first step in their practical life.

Sherif: You experienced both, being a housewife and a working woman, which would you advise your sons to get married to ?

Koura: The time now, hmm, is not for a house, for housewives, I think, ehkh, now the ladies should get involved with her society and how it is developing, ehkh, yet, still I do care that my grandchildren, they have a mother that can give them enough time, as I did to my kids, or to my boys.

Sherif: Thank you.

Koura: Welcome.