Semi-structured interview schedule

Length: 45 – 60 minutes

** N.B. The interview is divided in five parts as they offer natural breaks. The interview is ideally thought to be conducted in one sitting. However, if the students need a break, this will be encouraged.

Before the interview:

- Ensure the student feels comfortable and at ease (offer water, casual conversation, etc.)
- Briefly explain the purpose of the interview
- Revisit the information sheet and confirm informed consent
- Explain the use of the audio recorder and obtain permission
- Discuss how the student would like to be acknowledged in the research (e.g. pseudonym

Semi-Structured Interview Schedule (Narrative qualitative approach)

Part 1: Background and Context			
Themes	**Questions**	**Prompts**	**Comments**
Understanding the student's background and personal characteristics that might shape their understanding. (Past and current temporal elements)	**1.** Before we begin, I'd like to get to know a little bit more about you. Would you be comfortable sharing some background details?	• Age, • gender, • ethnic background, languages spoken at home, • Level of study • parental education level & occupation, • siblings, • religious identity.	Allow for opt-out options if participants are uncomfortable answering any demographic question
	2. Can you tell me about your journey in education so far?	What moments stand out? How has your family/community influenced your journey?	

	3. What has your experience been like as a student with Pakistani/Bangladeshi heritage in your school?	Have you felt supported? How have your cultural background and identity shaped your school experience?	
	4. What have been the most important influences on you as a student?	This can be a mentor, teacher, family member, a theoretical influence, life event…	
	5. What do you like most about being a student?	What elements do you find most enjoyable?	
Understanding the school context from the student's perspective	**6.** How would you describe the academic culture of the school?	What are the attributes the school expects from their students?	Refer to the vision and mission statement of the school and phrase your question around it.
	7. Where do you see similarities and differences between your home environment and the school environment?	Can you elaborate? Can you give examples?	
	8. In your opinion, what makes the school special?	Have you been at other schools? Can you compare this school to another school?	
Part 2: Aspirations for tertiary education			
Themes	**Questions**	**Prompts**	**Comments**
Understanding aspirations for tertiary education	**9.** How would you define aspirations?	If you had to describe your aspirations as something - a journey, an object, a place, or even a feeling - what would they be? Can you tell me a story or memory that helps explain why you chose that?	

	10. What are your aspirations for university and beyond?	What kind of university do you see yourself in? What would achieving this mean to you and your family? Has this aspiration changed over time?	
	11. Were there any key moments or people that shaped these aspirations?	Any specific teachers, family members, or personal experiences that encouraged or discouraged you?	
	12. If you could tell the story of your journey toward university as a book or film, what would it be called?	What would the first chapter be about? What moment would be the climax? Who are the main characters in this story, and what roles do they play in shaping your aspirations for the future?	
	13. Can you remember a time when your aspirations felt especially strong - or especially distant?	Where were you? What was happening at that time? What helped those aspirations feel close or far away? If you could go back to that moment, what would you tell yourself?	
Part 3: Barriers			
Themes	**Questions**	**Prompts**	**Comments**
Barriers to accessing tertiary education	**14.** What challenges do you see in accessing university?	Financial concerns? Feeling like you belong? Academic pressures? What worries you the most about the future?	
	15. Have you ever felt that certain barriers are specific to students from	Are there challenges that your peers from other backgrounds may not face? How	

	Pakistani/Bangladeshi backgrounds?	do these challenges make you feel?	
	16. Can you tell me a story about a moment when university felt far away or out of reach?	What made it feel distant or difficult at that time? Was there a specific experience or event that shaped that feeling? How did you respond or make sense of it then - and has anything changed since?	
Part 4: Enablers			
Themes	**Questions**	**Prompts**	**Comments**
Resources and support	**17.** What or who has helped you in pursuing your university goals?	Family, school, teachers, mentors? Have any programs or initiatives been useful?	
	18. Can you tell me about a time when you felt truly supported in your journey towards university?	What was happening around you at that time? Who was there? How did they show their support? If you had to draw that moment as a scene or snapshot, what would it look like?	
Imagining the future	**19.** Imagine yourself five years from now - where are you, and what has helped you get there?	What does your life look like? What advice would you give to your younger self? What message would you give to schools or universities to support students like you?	
Part 5: Conceptualisation of hope			
Themes	**Questions**	**Prompts**	**Comments**
Defining and experiencing hope	**20.** Thinking back to when you were younger, can you remember a moment when you felt hopeful	What was happening around you at the time - at school, at home, or in your community? What	

	about your future education?	did that hope feel like? Has that feeling stayed the same, or changed as you've gotten older?	
	21. How do you understand the idea of hope?	Do you see hope as something personal, something collective? Can you share a time when you felt hopeful about your future?	
Hope in education	**22.** Can you tell me about a time when your hope for education was tested?	Was there a moment when you almost gave up? What helped you hold on? What did you learn about yourself or your dreams through that experience?	
	23. What role does hope play in your journey towards university?	Has your sense of hope changed over time? What keeps you motivated?	
	24. If your hope for university were a person, what would they be like?	What would they say to you? How would they help or guide you? Has this "person" changed over time? You can imagine them as a character, a mentor, or even a younger or future version of yourself.	

After the interview:

- Thank you very much for your time. We have reached the end of the interview. Is there anything else you would like to share?
- If you would like to add anything to any of these questions, please feel free to let me know.