Department of Education,
University of Oxford
15 Norham Gardens
OX2 6PY

Dr Aliya Khalid (PI): aliya.khalid@education.ox.ac.uk

Dr Stephanie Nowack (Research Lead): stephanie.nowack@education.ox.ac.uk

Exploring Higher Education Aspirations of British Students of Pakistani and Bangladeshi Heritage

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

1. Introductory paragraph

You are being invited to take part in a research project. Before you decide it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether you wish to take part.

2. Why is this research being conducted?

This research explores the university aspirations of British students of Pakistani and Bangladeshi heritage (PBH). Despite having high educational ambitions, British students of PBH are underrepresented at top universities like Oxford. We aim to understand what influences their hopes for higher education, the challenges they face, and how families support their goals. The study will also develop a culturally sensitive way to engage with British students of PBH about their future aspirations. By working closely with students, parents, and university representatives, we hope to create stronger connections and inform policies that improve university access for underrepresented communities.

3. Why have I been invited to take part?

You have been invited to take part because this research focuses on the hopes and aspirations of British students of Pakistani and Bangladeshi heritage (PBH). We want to hear the stories of Year 10, Year 11, Sixth Form and College students who identify as British of

Pakistani heritage or British of Bangladeshi heritage. Your participation is valuable in helping us understand the aspirations of PBH students and ensuring their perspectives are represented in higher-education research.

4. Do I have to take part?

No. It is entirely your choice whether you take part. You can decide not to participate, or you can withdraw from the study at any time without giving a reason and without any negative consequences. You may also ask for your data to be withdrawn up to two weeks after you have taken part by contacting the research team..

5. What will happen to me if I take part in the research?

If you choose to take part, you will be involved in one or both of the following research activities:

1. **A semi-structured interview**.
    - The interview will take place online via Microsoft Teams at a time that is convenient for you.
    - Before participation, you will be given a consent form to read and sign, ensuring you understand the study and your rights.
    - It will last about 45 minutes, and you will be asked open-ended questions about your aspirations, hopes, support, and challenges after sixth form.
    - With your consent, the interview will be audio and video recorded to ensure accuracy. All recordings will be anonymized.
    - If you need a break during the interview, you can take one.
    - Participation does not require your camera to be on; you may choose whether to use it.

2. **A survey**.
    - The survey will take place online via Microsoft Teams, immediately after the 45-minute interview, in the same Teams call. Taking part in the survey is optional and will only happen if you choose to take part and give consent.
    - Before completing the survey, you will be asked to read and sign a consent form, ensuring you understand the study and your rights.
    - The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.
    - The survey will ask questions about your aspirations and hopes for the future.

6. What are the possible disadvantages and risks in taking part?

There are minimal risks associated with this research. However, discussions about aspirations and hope may bring up personal or sensitive topics. If you feel upset or distressed at any point, you can take a break or stop participating. If needed, we can help you access support, such as speaking to a teacher, school counsellor, or another appropriate professional. Interviews and surveys will be conducted in a thoughtful and supportive manner. Your data will be anonymized, ensuring you cannot be identified in any research outputs.

7. Are there any benefits in taking part?

While there are no immediate benefits for those participating in the research, it is hoped that this study will contribute to a better understanding of the aspirations and hopes of British students of PBH. By sharing your experiences, you will help shape research that could inform educational policies and practices, ensuring they better reflect and support the needs of students from diverse backgrounds. Additionally, participating may provide an opportunity for self-reflection and for having your voice heard on important topics related to higher education and the future.

8. What information will be collected and why is the collection of this information relevant for achieving the research objectives?

The research will collect both qualitative and quantitative data. This includes:

1. **Semi-structured interview data** (qualitative): We are interested in your understandings of hopes and aspirations for higher education, as well as the challenges you face and the support systems that help you access it. The information you provide will help us better understand how British sixth form students and their families with Pakistani and Bangladeshi heritage hope and aspire for higher education in the UK.

2. **Survey data** (quantitative): We are interested in developing an innovative and cross-culturally comparable hope scale for youth. The information you provide will help us better understand how hope and aspirations are represented across different cultural backgrounds, particularly for students of British Pakistani and Bangladeshi heritage.

The personal information that is collected is limited to only include what is necessary. The consent forms, audio & video recordings, surveys, and transcriptions, will be kept securely on a cloud storage server, protected by two-factor authentication, access control and field encryption, which will be automatically backed up by two servers. Consent forms will be retained for 3 years. All the other data will be stored for 5 years after the study, but the data that allows you to be identified (e.g., your name) will be destroyed at the end of the study. When we enter you name into a computer, we will keep your identifying details separately, protected by a password, and the research team will have access to it.

If you give us permission to record your interview, the audio and video recording will be stored securely, for possible checking or further analysis, until the end of the study. Your information will remain confidential unless we are required by law to release information (e.g., if we are presented with a any harmful or concerning information that might put you or others in danger).

We would like to utilize this data in future studies and share it with other researchers, such as in online databases. The data will be strictly protected. Throughout discussions, we will use the pseudonyms assigned to you in the research project.

9. Will the research be published? Could I be identified from any publications or other research outputs?

The findings from the research will be written up in academic publications, conference presentations, and blog posts. Further, the overall findings will be shared in a dissemination event with university representatives and your caregivers. The aim of this event will also be to strengthen relationships between your families and university representatives towards the end of the study. You will not be identifiable in the research outputs. However, with your consent, we would like to use direct quotations from your interview or survey responses, which will be attributed to you using a pseudonym to protect your identity.

10. Data Protection

The University of Oxford is the data controller with respect to your personal data, and as such will determine how your personal data is used in the research. The University will process your personal data for the purpose of the research outlined above. Research is a task that is performed in the public interest. Further information about your rights with respect to your personal data is available from the University's Information Compliance website at https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/individual-rights.

11. Who is funding the research?

This research is funded by the John Fell Oxford University Press Fund.

12. Who has reviewed this research?

This research has received ethics approval from a subcommittee of the University of Oxford Central University Research Ethics Committee.

13. Who do I contact if I have a concern about the research or I wish to complain?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this research, please contact Dr Aliya Khalid at aliya.khalid@education.ox.ac.uk or Dr Stephanie Nowack at stephanie.nowack@education.ox.ac.uk. We will do our best to answer your query. We will acknowledge your concern within 10 working days and give you an indication of how it will be dealt with. If you remain unhappy or wish to make a formal complaint, please contact the University of Oxford Research Governance, Ethics & Assurance (RGEA) team at rgea.complaints@admin.ox.ac.uk or on +44 (0)1865 616480.