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# Exploring Higher Education Aspirations of British Pakistani and Bangladeshi Heritage Families

## Information sheet for families and students

### 1. Introduction

We would like to invite you to take part in a research project. We're doing this study to understand how families like you support your children's hopes for university. Your voice matters, and we'd love to hear your story. This sheet explains what the study is about, what taking part means, and how we'll keep your information safe. Please 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?

We know that many parents of Pakistani and Bangladeshi heritage care deeply about their children's futures. But we also know that students from these communities are not fairly represented at top universities. This study looks at the hopes families hold, the barriers they face, and the support that helps - so that schools and universities can do better.

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.

4. **Do I have to take part?**

No. It is entirely up to you to decide whether to take part. If you choose to participate, you may withdraw yourself and your child from the research without giving a reason and without any negative consequences, and you may request withdrawal of your data up to two weeks after participation by informing the research team.

5. **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 or your child feel upset or distressed at any point, you can take a break or stop participating.

6. **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 Pakistani or Bangladeshi heritage and their families. 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.

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

The research will collect qualitative data. During a one-day workshop, you will take part in reflective activities. This will be accompanied by small group discussions and plenary reflections, which may be audio or video recorded (with your consent) and supported by detailed note-taking and photos. You will also be asked to provide basic demographic information (e.g., age, education level, number of children, heritage), which will help us understand how different family backgrounds shape hopes for higher education. The insights you share will help us explore how British families with Pakistani and Bangladeshi heritage narrate and make sense of educational aspirations. The group discussion notes, and

demographic data will be securely stored on a password-protected, encrypted cloud storage server with two-factor authentication and field encryption. Audio and video recordings (if given consent) will be transcribed, anonymised, and then deleted. Any potentially identifying details will be separated from the research data and kept in a password-protected file, accessible to the research team. This data will be stored for 5 years following publication, with personally identifiable data destroyed at the end of the study. Consent forms will be retained for 3 years only.

## 8. 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. The aim of this event will also be to strengthen relationships between families and university representatives towards the end of the study. You and your child will not be identifiable in the research outputs. However, with your consent, we would like to use direct quotations from your workshop participation and your child's interview or survey responses, which will be attributed to you using a pseudonym to protect your and your child's identity.

## 9. 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.

## 10. Who is funding the research?

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

**11. 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.