

IRB Question/Prompt Answers

Title of Project: Exploring the Acculturation Preferences of Bangladeshi-Muslim Second-Generation American Immigrants in New York City

Researcher: Jakir Hossain – Class of Fall 2019

Describe your research question briefly (approximately 250 words or less):

The research questions I would like to study in my senior project is exploring how attitudes towards acculturation and assimilation vary in 2nd generation Bengali Muslim immigrants based on their perception of their own ethnic and religious identity, socioeconomic (and educational status), and their residential location in the NYC area. The second question is to explore how the mechanisms of location, socioeconomic, educational, and ethnic/religious identity may facilitate or resist assimilation or acculturation intentions. The study will be separated into two distinct phases. The first will be focusing on acculturation by asking questions regarding their ethnic-cultural and religious identity and religiosity. The second phase focuses on institutional assimilation and how class, education, and residential location function to influence the participant's attitudes towards assimilation and acculturation.

If your participants will include individuals from specific populations, please specify the population(s) and briefly describe any special precautions you will use.

My participants will be specifically that of Bengali Muslim 2nd generation immigrants between the ages of 18 to 25. I am defining "2nd generation immigrant" as those who were born in America but had parents who immigrated from a foreign country. The ages are set between 18 to 25 as this a critical age period in America in the sense that they become legal adults and have the culturally accepted (and legal) freedom to make their own choices. This makes it a crucial age period in which assimilation and acculturation attitudes may more severely impact their decisions. There will be focus (about 15 participants) to gather these participants from the Hillside, Jamaica Queens area in NYC due to the Bengali ethnic enclave there to compare with additional (roughly 10-15 participants) 2nd generation Bengali immigrants from non-Bengali-Ethnic-Enclave areas (any area in NYC aside from the neighborhoods of Hillside, Jackson Heights, and Parkchester). I do this as I wish to compare the effect of living in ethnic enclave communities on attitudinal differences towards acculturation and assimilation processes.

Briefly describe how you will recruit participants. (e.g., Who will approach participants? What is the source of the participants?)

I intend to recruit participants through my own personal networks. This will happen through two different pathways. The pathway will be through reaching out to organizations and groups that are active within the populations of people I wish to interview. For instance, South Asian Youth Alliance (SAYA) is a program in the city that provides mentorship and other opportunities to south Asians. Many of their members are within the Muslim-Bengali 2nd generation immigrant demographic that I am interested in. I will reach out to them via email (a script of which will be emailed to the IRB alongside this proposal) explaining my research proposal, background, and intentions before asking to be connected to either current members or alumni of the program that fit under my participant demographic requirements. Another organization I intend to connect

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with is Khan's Tutorial, a tutorial company dedicated to hire and instruct south-Asians, primarily of the Bengali-Muslim background and age group that I am interested in studying. I have worked for this organization in the past and will send the same recruitment email that I will send to SAYA asking to be connected to members of the organization to participate in my study; given that they fit under my participant requirements. Once I am approached by either interested participants or referred people to reach out from these organizations, I will send an "Interested Participant" email to interested participants explaining the type of participants I am searching for to check their eligibility, the purpose of the study, and the expectations that I have for participants (that they will be interviewed). If and when they choose to agree to the study, I will work with them to find a time to meet with them at a neutral location, such as a coffee shop, and debrief them on how the interview will go, present consent forms to be signed and copied, and then conduct the interview.

The second pathway I intend to use to find participants is the snowball method. This will start from my own personal network of 2nd generation Bengali-Muslim Immigrants between 18 to 25 years in age. I will send my contacts emails (a script that will also be supplied to the IRB separately) about my project and the type of participants I am looking for. The email will specifically list out the demographic requirements and ask that they forward or refer people that they know that fit within said requirements to me. To which I will then send the "Interested Participant" email described above and undergo the same process of explaining the project and the expectations of what they have to do. Then, should they agree, continue forward with setting up a time for the interview at a neutral location and conduct the interview after briefing them and getting their consent.

At the end of the interview for participants from either recruitment pathway, I will brief them on any last details regarding my project moving forward as well as open up an opportunity to ask any questions that they may have. Then, I will ask for any other people they may be able to refer to me to also interview. This will then be followed up with another email (script will be provided) to the participants thanking them for their participation, and once again asking for anyone that they feel would be interested in participating in my research study.

Briefly describe the procedures you will be using to conduct your research. Include descriptions of what tasks your participants will be asked to do, and about how much time will be expected of each individual. NOTE: If you have supporting materials (recruitment posters, printed surveys, etc.) please email these documents separately as attachments to IRB@bard.edu. Name your attachments with your last name and a brief description (e.g., "WatsonConsentForm.doc").

My only research gathering procedure is to conduct interviews that should not exceed the duration of an hour. Participants will be entered in a raffle to win one of two \$50 Amazon gift cards (funded by myself) as compensation to be distributed through email at the end of the research period. The interview questions will be emailed to IRB@bard.edu as supplemental material to this proposal. The participant will be given a brief description of the purpose of the research study. Following this, the participant will be provided a verbal and written explanation of consent as well as the form to sign their consent. Next, I, the interviewer, will ask questions and will both take notes and auditorily record the respondent's answers. The interviewer will then thank the participant, provide any last details and information regarding the research study, and answer any final questions the participant may have.

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Please describe any risks and benefits your research may have for your participants. (For example, one study's risks might include minor emotional discomfort and eye strain. The same study's benefits might include satisfaction from contributing to scientific knowledge and greater self-awareness.) *

My research study is not intended to be invasive in my participant's lives in any way. It is geared to question more about their aspirations, attitudes, and experiences of participating in activities that showcase their relationship to processes of acculturating or assimilating into the majority culture of America. Due to this, the only risk that could be associated with my research would be that participants may feel mild discomfort in sharing a few of those experiences. There are no physical risks to my research. The benefits are to be compensated with treating them to coffee over the course of the interview, being entered in a raffle to win one of two \$50 Amazon gift cards, and contributing to research about Bengali-Muslim Americans, which is lacking.

Please include here the verbal description of the consent process (how you will explain the consent form and the consent process to your participants): *

Hello! Thank you for being interested in participating in my research.

However, before we can get started I am required to provide you a consent form so we can document that you understand the purpose of this interview and that you are willingly participating in it.

This research study is studying the aspiration, experiences, and attitudes that you have as a Bengali-Muslim 2nd generation immigrant between the ages of 18 to 25. I will be asking questions about your experiences, and attitudes about topics regarding your ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status, community, and education. These questions are not invasive, and the risks of participating in this study are minimal. You may feel slightly uncomfortable sharing certain details, but please note that you do have the right to skip questions or end the interview at any time.

Your answers will be noted and recorded auditorily during the interview. These notes will be kept locked up in my personal computer to which only I will have access. Furthermore, your identity and answers will be kept anonymous by a pseudonym when I refer to your answers in my written senior project. All raw data (recordings and notes) will be erased upon the completion of my senior project to further protect your privacy.

As compensation, you will be treated to a coffee as we conduct the interview, and be entered in a raffle to win one of two \$50 Amazon gift card to be distributed electronically at the end of the research period.

The findings of this will be available at the Bard Library Senior Project Database online, as well as the Stevenson Library at Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson, New York.

Please take as long as you need to read through the consent form to understand the expectations and processes behind this research study. Should you continue to be willing to participate in this study as an interviewee, please sign the consent form so we may get started. If desired, I can supply you a copy of the consent form.

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Let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!

What procedures will you use to ensure that the information your participants provide will remain confidential? *

Participant's raw data and answers to the interview will be kept in a password protected file to which only I will have access to. The raw data may only be accessed and seen by myself and my faculty advisor. When translating the data and answers of the participants to the actual written form of the senior project, individuals who will be referred to in the project will be assigned a pseudonym to protect their identity. All raw data will be erased from my records upon the completion of the senior project to further protect the participant's confidentiality.

Debriefing statement:

Thank you so much for participating in an interview. Your contribution is crucial to my research study and is incredibly appreciated. Today I questioned you about your aspirations, attitudes, and experiences. The reason for this was to specifically understand more about how the role of religion and one's perspective of their ethnic identity may facilitate or resist the acculturation of 2nd generation Bengali-Muslim Immigrants. Likewise, questions about your community, education, and socioeconomic statuses were to identify how they may facilitate or resist assimilation. Your contribution will help me better analyze the mechanisms behind these processes. If you intend on referring other people or just know other people planning to participate in the study, please keep the full explanation of the study private. Please let me know if you have any last questions about this process, or if you wish to know more about this study in general. Feel free to contact me at jh3508@bard.edu if anything else comes up. Other than that, you are free to go!

Interview Questions

Jakir Hossain

SPROJ Interview Questions

Acculturation

Tell me about your background. When did your family arrive in the United States?

What was it like to grow up as a 2nd generation Bangladeshi immigrant in the United States?

What does it mean to be a Bangladeshi to you?

What does it mean to be an American to you?

Do you feel you can be both “American” and Bangladeshi at the same time? Why or Why not?

What type of people do you like surrounding yourself with? Does their ethnic origin (Bangladeshi) matter to you? Why or why not?

Does your family have a relationship with your friend groups? If so, how? If not, why?

What language did you grow up speaking or learning? What kind of role does it have in your daily life?

What do you think about a Bangladeshi marrying someone outside of their ethnic/racial group?

What are some of the main expectations your parents have for your future?

How do you feel about those expectations, do you intend to achieve them, why or why not?

Religiosity:

What type of religious beliefs did you grow up with? How has this shaped your own beliefs?

What role has religion played in your parents’ lives?

How important is your religious beliefs to your life?

What does it mean to be Muslim to you?

When thinking about the people closest around you, would most of them identify as Muslim?

What do you think about a Muslim marrying a non-Muslim?

Do you feel that your Islamic background is a part of your Bangladeshi identity? Why or why not?

Assimilation (Institutional):

Education:

How important is higher education to you? Why?

What are your educational aspirations? Who, or what, inspired you to want to achieve them?

Interview Questions

Are you currently in school? What are you studying? Why?

What are your career aspirations? Why?

When making decisions about your educational and/or career goals, how important are your family and friends' expectations to you? Do you discuss it with them?

If you were given 3.5 million dollars right now, do you feel your career and/or educational aspirations would change?

Neighborhood:

Does your neighborhood play a large part in your daily life? Describe a typical day in it.

Describe the ethnic breakdown of your neighborhood (what is the ethnic majority or minority)?

Do you feel supported or helped by the members of your neighborhood?

(If participant lives in Bangladeshi neighborhood) What are the pros and cons of living in a neighborhood that is predominately Bangladeshi-Muslim?

(If participant does not live in Bangladeshi neighborhood) Do you see any pros or cons of living in a non-Bangladeshi-Muslim neighborhood?

Where do you see yourself residing in ten years? With who?

Demographic Questions (To be asked as a quick survey at the end of the interview):

How old are you?

What is your gender?

What neighborhood did/do you live in NYC, and for how long?

Up to what level of education have you completed so far?

Are you currently employed? If so, as what?

What are your parent's employment statuses?

What are their careers/jobs?

What is the highest level of education they have completed?

Select your family's socioeconomic status:

Upper Class

Middle Class

Lower Class

Do you live with your parents?

Do you (or your family) rent or own your home?

Consent Form to Participate in Research

Project Title: The Mechanisms behind attitudinal differences towards Assimilation and Acculturation in Bengali Muslim 2nd Generation Young Adults.

Researcher: Jakir Hossain

Faculty Advisor: Yuval Elmelech

My name is Jakir Hossain, I am currently a senior at Bard College who is collecting research for my senior project. I wish to study the experiences, attitudes, and aspirations of Bengali-Muslim 2nd generation immigrants.

During this interview I will ask questions about your experiences regarding your religious, socioeconomic, educational, and your surrounding residential communities' background. I will also question you on some details regarding your personal life and opinions regarding American cultural activities and behaviors.

Although this study is not intended to be invasive in its nature, potential risks include feelings of discomfort when recalling your personal experiences regarding the subjects listed above. If you do not wish to answer certain questions, please notify me and we can move forward to the next question or stop the interview.

The duration of this interview should not exceed an hour. Upon completion of the interview, you will be entered in a raffle to receive a \$50 Amazon gift card as compensation. The gift card will be sent out electronically via email at the end of the research gathering period of my study. In addition, you may receive indirect benefits of adding to the growing collection of research on the South Asian community.

I will record your experiences and answers in the form of notes and audio recordings. All notes & recordings with your information will remain secured in a password-protected file in my personal computer during the duration of the research project. Only myself and my faculty advisor will have access to that raw data. Once my project is complete, all raw data will be erased to protect your confidential information. You will be assigned a pseudonym when I refer to your experiences in my study to protect your information and identity in the research project.

Participant's Agreement

I understand the purpose of this research study and I volunteer to be a part of it. I acknowledge I have the right to end the interview for any reason and that I may do so without having to provide an explanation.

The researcher has explained the risks and possible benefits of participating in their study. I acknowledge that the information I provide will be used in a senior project that will be available to the public online via the Bard College Senior Project database and at the Stevenson Library of Bard College in Annandale, New York.

I acknowledge that the researcher intends on keeping my confidentiality in respect to my personal identity. I understand that complete confidentiality cannot be completely guaranteed as the researcher may have to provide notes and/or recordings if legally obligated to (due to a court order).

Consent Form to Participate in Research

Should I have any questions regarding the study, I am aware I can contact the researcher at jh3508@bard.edu or their faculty advisor at elmelech@bard.edu . Should the need arise, I am also aware I can contact the chair of Bard's Institutional Review Board at irb@bard.edu with questions about my rights as a research participant.

____ I am at least 18 years old and I consent to participate in today's interview

____ I consent to being recorded auditorily.

Participant's Signature

Date

Participant's Printed Name

Participant's Email Address

Interviewer's Signature

Email Scripts

Email to Organizations such as SAYA and Khan's Tutorial

To whom it may concern,

My name is Jakir Hossain and I am a senior at Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson, New York. I am working on a senior project for sociology for which I need to conduct research. I am reaching out to you today because I wish to ask if anyone in your organization, that fits in the description of the population people that I intend to interview, would be interested in participating. Each participant would be compensated by being entered in a raffle to win one of two \$50 Amazon gift cards.

I am researching the experiences, attitudes, and aspirations of Bengali-Muslim 2nd generation immigrants between the ages of 18 to 25. Within this demographic, I also wish to focus on participants that live in the Hillside, Jamaica Queens neighborhood in New York City. Although this is preferred, this is not necessary to participate in my research study so long as they are:

Interested in participating in an interview no longer than an hour in duration

Are Muslim

Are Bengali

Live in New York City

Are between ages 18 to 25

Are second generation immigrants (meaning that their parents immigrated from Bangladesh, but they themselves were born in the U.S.)

If you are aware of anyone who would be interested in participating in an interview for my research study please forward this email itself or provide my email address (jh3508@bard.edu) for them to get in contact with me. Participation in my study has little to no risk, and the participant's identities will be kept private when referred to in my study.

South-Asians, much less Bangladeshis, are not often represented in academic literature. I hope that I can work towards changing that, starting with this research study. However, I can only do it by reaching out to organizations such as you who work with such people for support and help.

I would greatly appreciate if you could share this email and opportunity to those eligible. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions!

Best,

Jakir Hossain

jh3508@bard.edu

Email Scripts

Email to Personal Connections

Hello [name],

I am currently working on my senior project in Sociology in order to graduate from Bard College. I am reaching out to you today in hopes that you can help me progress my project! I am researching the experiences, attitudes, and aspirations of Bengali-Muslim 2nd generation immigrants between the ages of 18 to 25.

I am looking for volunteers to interview and I was wondering if you knew anyone who fit the following description:

Must be Bengali-Muslim

Must be a 2nd Generation Immigrant (meaning they were born in the U.S. to parents who immigrated here).

Must be between the ages of 18 to 25

Live in New York City.

Although I wish to focus my research on participants who also reside in the Hillside, Jamaica Queens neighborhood. This is not required, but it is preferred for the purpose of my study.

Participation in my research holds little to no risk and their identity will be hidden when referred to in my study. Furthermore, I will compensate all participants by entering them in a raffle to win one of two \$50 Amazon Gift Cards at the end of my research period.

If you are aware of anyone who would be interested in participating in an interview for my research study please forward this email itself or provide my email address (jh3508@bard.edu) for them to get in contact with me.

South-Asians, much less Bangladeshis, are often not represented in academic literature. I hope that I can work towards changing that, starting with this research study. However, I can only do it by reaching out to people to help me conduct my study. I appreciate and look forward to any support from you and your colleagues.

I would greatly appreciate if you could share this email and opportunity to those eligible. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions!

Best,

Jakir Hossain

jh3508@bard.edu

Email Scripts

Email to Interested Participants:

Hello [name]!

Thank you for showing your interest in participating in my research study! Just to explain a bit about my study, I wish to study the aspirations, experiences, and attitudes of 2nd generation Bengali-Immigrants.

Please check the description of my intended research demographic and ensure you fit the criteria:

You are a Bengali Muslim

You are a 2nd Generation Immigrants (meaning you were born in the U.S. but your parents immigrated here).

You are between 18 to 25 years old

You live in NYC

If you meet the criteria, then you are eligible!

In this study, the only expectation I have for you is to participate in an interview and answer questions as truthfully as possible about the topic described briefly above. The interview should not last more than an hour. We shall discuss a suitable neutral space to conduct the interview, likely a coffee shop that is easy for you to reach.

As compensation for your time, I shall treat you to the offerings of that setting, and enter you in a raffle to win one of two \$50 Amazon gift cards.

If you are willing to continue to be a part of my study, please let me know immediately so I may work with you to schedule an interview!

Please email me at jh3508@bard.edu if you have any further questions!

Feel free to notify or refer anyone else that you believe would be a good fit for my study. I would deeply appreciate it!

Thank You,

Jakir Hossain.