



British Asian families: continuities and change

INFORMATION ABOUT THIS RESEARCH

I am from an English family, but I speak Urdu and Punjabi because I was born in India and married in Pakistan, and I have lived in both countries. I have done research on South Asian culture, migration and ways of life in Britain, India and Pakistan. I am now working with Oxford University on a new research project about changing families.

Traditionally, marriage has been a lynchpin of British Asian families, with the majority of people married by age 25 and low rates of cohabitation and separation. However, statistics suggest that families are changing. In particular, over the last fifteen years rates of single parenthood have been increasing, and we don't know why. We need to understand Indian and Pakistani people's experiences of how family life is changing in this country, and hear how service providers such as lawyers, mediators and benefits officers can be most useful to them.

With your help, I'd like to produce a book made up of people's stories and other academic writing. I'd like to use these stories to help service providers understand the difficulties that families are going through and work with them more supportively, as well as contribute to national debates about changing families, migration and diversity in Britain.

I am writing to ask if you would agree to take part in the research. If you agree, I would like to meet with you to talk with you, either in your own home or somewhere else. The first meeting may take from one or two hours. I would also like to meet with you to talk a couple of times after this, to understand how family situations may change over time.

When I write about this work, I will not use your name or address and all your details will remain completely confidential. I will only use a tape recorder with your permission. You can tell me that you want to stop taking part in the research at any time. You do not need to give me a reason, and doing this will not affect in any way the services you receive.

If you agree to take part in the research, I can't offer any direct benefit, but you'll have a chance to talk to a neutral person about any concerns or worries you may have about your family situation, and I hope that the research will help other families in the future.

If you'd like to ask anything about the research, please contact me. My name and phone number are at the bottom of this letter. If you'd like to speak to somebody else, the project advisor is Dr Alison Shaw, alison.shaw@dph.ox.ac.uk office 01865-274-546.

This research has been supported by the Economic and Social Research Council and reviewed by the University of Oxford Central University Research Ethics Committee.