

Voices and Cries Across the Generations: British Bangladeshis' Responses to Combat and Resist Stigmatisation

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Abstract : British Bangladeshis are one of the most marginalised and lowest socioeconomic groups in the UK. Their silent hardships have crystallised the stigma surrounding them. Understanding the intimate workings of this stigma can unravel its profound psychological impact, which has hindered their social and economic progress and slowly taken them out of the 'victim' mindset. Although community-based studies have been conducted to understand the nuances of British Bangladeshis' stigma experiences, these examinations are broad and touch only the surface. They do not investigate the private family dynamics behind closed doors, how family members feel and engage with stigma or the use and justification of their responses. The main objectives of this qualitative research are to observe how attitudes towards stigma differ across generations, analyse the variety and frequency of reactions across age cohorts, gender, and social class, and examine how their actions and identities shape their responses. This data will be collected through embedded ethnography and analysed using qualitative software. Through this analysis, the research hypothesises that the older generation will engage more in the 'isolation', 'not responding', and 'management of the self' response categories, whereas the subsequent generations will employ 'confrontation', 'demonstrating competence', and 'management of the self' reactions. From these findings, the study anticipates an assortment of compelling and diverse responses and effects. Ultimately, the family members and community are responsible for their own futures and have the power to make these life-altering changes. Their collective experiences and values shape how individuals perceive and respond to stigma, racism, Islamophobia and discrimination through either silence, resilience or confrontation.

Keywords : British Bangladeshi, stigma, racism, discrimination, Islamophobia, responses

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