

Does living in a deprived area equal welfare and food bank use? Exploring the experiences of Pakistani Muslims

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Food and Poverty Conference 2018 – 17th April

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About my PhD

Research Aim:

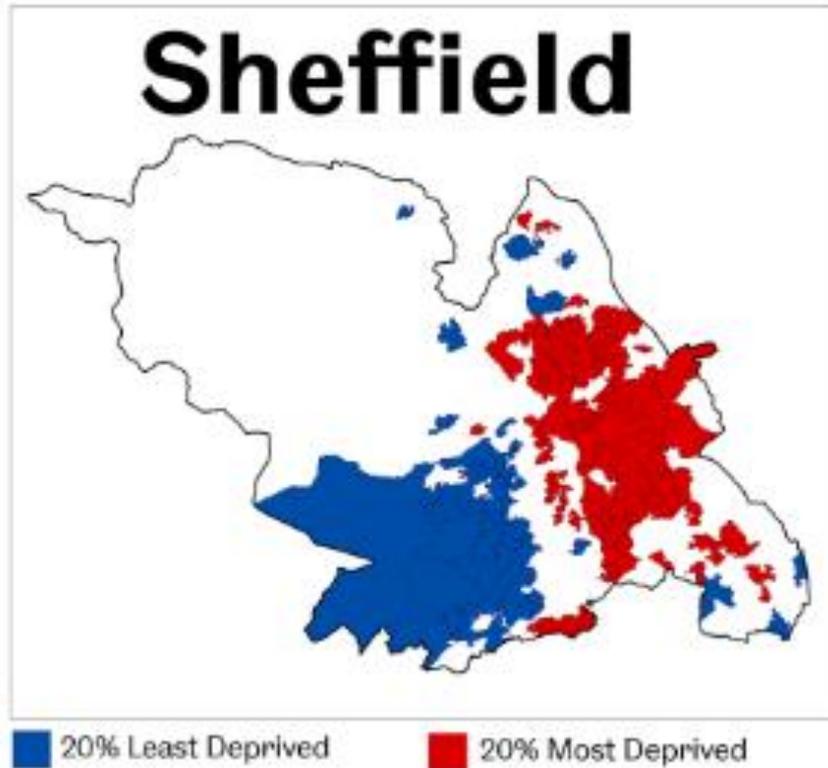
To understand the everyday practices of Pakistani Muslims living in deprived areas of Sheffield.

Main Research Question:

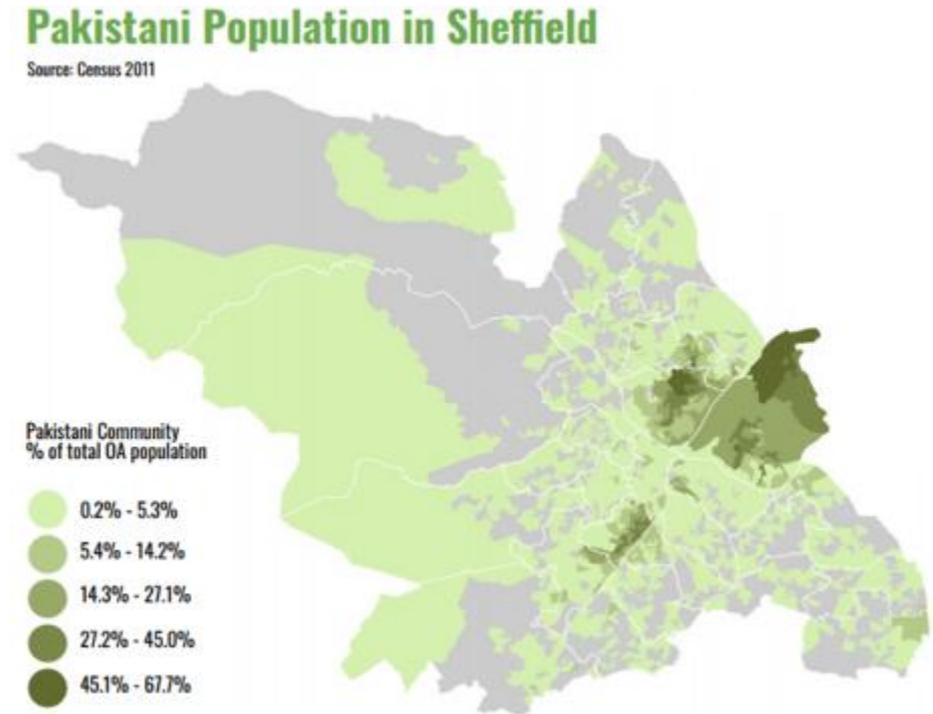
What are the everyday practices of Pakistani Muslims in Sheffield, and to what extent are these driven by religious, cultural and family values?

- Sheffield based study - 19% of residents are BME, 4% Pakistani;
- The Pakistani group is most likely to be in *persistent* poverty (JRF, 2017) but less likely to access welfare and food-aid provision;
- Evidence suggests the Pakistani community may have access to informal safety nets i.e. family support and mutual-aid groupings;
- Exploring food-aid and food practices is just *one* area of my research.

Location of fieldwork



(Rae, 2011)



(Sheffield City Council, 2017)

Fieldwork and Methods

Fieldwork progress	Age range of participants	Household size range	Av. household income per year
<ul style="list-style-type: none">9 interviews completed with 10 participants (3 male, 7 female)Approx. 11 interviews left.	26 to 65 years	2 to 8	between £6,000-12,999 and £13,000-18,999

Claiming Benefits:

- Most commonly people admitted to claiming Child Tax Credit but said they did not want to claim anything else
- Other benefits included Carers Allowance and Working Tax Credit (n=2)
- One participant didn't know if she claimed anything because her husband deals with all finances.

Methods



Never been to a food bank...

I know that there is an increase... in foodbanks...I also know that families are feeling the pinch...but it is also sad that they...haven't had... a good community around them that could maybe support them.

(Zainab)

Asians would never go to a food bank...You would probably kill yourself or die before people know that you go to food banks...

(Fatima)

I have heard of them [food banks], but I have not been down yet, I've not needed that much so we're ok. (Asif)

...you have got to be in desperate measures to do that... I definitely haven't seen it in person but I know it is there [food bank use]. (Alishah)

I don't know what is a foodbank...I don't know much about them. (Sadia)

A different kind of food-aid...

...if somebody was hungry they could turn up at dinner time at somebody's house, and you would get fed... you go at lunchtime to somebody's house you would actually eat lunch with them. You never get turned away...

That's our lifestyle.

(Alishah)

...our next door neighbours and her husband... he can't do jobs...he can't work...but she got 3 or 4 kids and sometimes she needs help...

our family, all families give her money. We can't afford too much but for food, or some clothes...

(Sadia)

...religion it teaches us that... your neighbours... if they are struggling... you should offer them food...Your neighbour shouldn't go hungry. Because then we are accountable... (Zainab)

...Aunty of mine she has got no kids and she is on her own but all the family, everybody used to send her food down.

She would either eat at somebody's house or they would say...we are going to send you food down.

(Fatima)

Food practices

...the way we have been brought up...if we were to get like a bag of rice, that could last us for weeks on end we could do lots and lots of things with it. (Alishah)

*I make...curry...for two days.... then we can save on gas bills and things.
(Sadia)*

*Asian groceries I think they are a bit cheaper as well...we will buy... a shoulder of lamb most Asians...put it in portions and put it in the freezer...it is cheaper if you put it in the freezer.
(Fatima)*

Concluding thoughts...

- Pakistani group most likely to be in *persistent* poverty;
- Early findings evidence examples of informal food-aid;
- Experiences of how this ethnic group 'get by' remains largely unexplored;
- Opportunity to learn about the positive contribution made by Pakistani community;
- Gap in literature surrounding those living in deprived areas who are not engaging with formalised provision.

| Thank you

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