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|   ` *Amar bari amar jibon*[my home, my life] research project  |

Welcome to the *‘Amar bari, amar jibon’ (My home, my life*) research project. The project is seeking to recruit **six community Co-researchers** to help explore and undertake the study that is set out in this information leaflet. This is a three-year study undertaken by a partnership between the Bangla Housing Association, The Open University, and the Housing LIN. This information sheet tells you what the research is about, who is involved and how you can get involved.

What is this research?

The purpose of this research is to gather up-to-date and detailed information from Bangladeshi probin (i.e., Bangladeshi elders) and their families living in the 4 London Boroughs of Hackney, Newham, Redbridge and Tower Hamlets about their living arrangements, experiences of current home, housing and neighbourhoods and aspirations regarding where and how they live. This will be carried out using a method of participatory research in which our research partnership will work with members of the communities in the four boroughs to produce and analyse data which will be used to inform policy makers and housing and service providers, and other professionals (e.g., architects, health providers) both locally and nationally. The project aims to inform and influence thinking about appropriate housing for both probin and other people looking for more suitable accommodation in later life.

Why is this research needed?

Despite compelling empirical evidence of persistent, enduring ethnic inequalities in housing and the detrimental impact of poor housing on health and wellbeing, so far, policy has failed to successfully address these entrenched inequalities. Although there is no one-size-fits-all solution to housing and health needs of older adults when this is discussed the perspectives of those from ethnic groups are missing. Focusing on one such group, i.e., Bangladeshi probin, with entrenched housing and health inequalities this research aims to explore with them and their families: experiences of their physical and social environment, the challenges and benefits of multigenerational living or living alone or as a couple on their health and wellbeing and what preferred and possible future housing and community options look like.

How is this research being organised?

Over the next 3 years, a partnership between Bangla Housing Association (BHA) based in Hackney, The Open University (OU), and the Housing LIN, a national learning & improvement network, will work within long-established Bangla communities in East London to understand their everyday concerns and help to discover what preferred and possible future housing and community options could look like. Funded by The Dunhill Medical Trust, the project is being led by Dr Manik Gopinath, Lecturer in Ageing (OU).

Who is involved in this research?

The research will involve several elements and methods to include, involve and continuously engage with the local communities and stakeholders early on and throughout the whole research process. On-going concerns regarding the COVID pandemic will always direct how research is undertaken. It will include the following groups and phases:

* **The project partnership** (OU, BHA, Housing LIN) with the addition of a Postdoctoral Research Associate (PDRA) recruited to the project.
* **Bangla Research Advisory Group (BRAG)** consisting of a group of men and women recruited from within the communities to comment and advise throughout on the progress of the research, assist with analysis, and advise on the use of the findings of the research. BHA will lead on developing this group, with OU support.
* **Professional Advisory Group (PAG)** comprising local service providers, practitioners, policy makers and academics recruited to advise on local and national issues relevant to the research and to comment on findings. OU will lead on developing this group, with BHA support.
* **6 Community Co-researchers** **will work specifically with probin and families.** They will be multilingual people (male and female) from the Bangla communities who will be recruited and trained by the OU academic team/BHA to conduct interviews in Sylheti, Bengali and English as required with probin and their families.
* The OU team, BRAG, and interested Community Co-researchers will participate in **the data analysis** of information collected from probin and their families.
* **Dissemination will be led by Housing LIN, the advisory groups (i.e., BRAG and PAG**) and Community Co-researchers will have the opportunity to take part in these activities. Dissemination is the process of communicating the findings from the research using publications, presentations, events, video, etc.

Why involve community co-researchers?

The research partnership consider that it is very important to enable Bangladeshi probin to feel comfortable about taking part in this research project and that involving community Co-researchers, who are part of East London communities and speak Bangla, Sylheti as well as English will play a crucial role in making this possible. They will be people willing to take part in training and learn research skills that allow them to encourage older people to talk about their experiences and will bring to this research their own views on how research with older people from ethnic groups can be undertaken.

The role of Community Co-researchers

This role involves:

* each Co-researcher carrying out between 10-20 interviews in total with both Bangla probin and a small number of Bangla families. Ideally, interviews with probin and their families will take place face-to-face (with appropriate Covid-19 hygiene measures if necessary) but depending on any restrictions at the time of interviews, some or all interviews may have to be held virtually. In this case we have arrangements in hand to provide equipment and support to enable probin and families to take part in video conference interviews: Co-researchers will also be supported in this process.
* participating in training and workshops led by the OU team on the purpose and methodologies of the research, ethical principles, data protection, and personal safety in the field. For those interested in further stages of the research, there will be training in data analysis and presentation. There will be on-going support and instruction from the project team, with a named personal contact for each Co-researcher. They will also be required to undergo disclosure barring service checks, a standard safeguarding requirement when working with older adults (this will be supported and paid for by The Open University).
* Reflecting and feeding back upon the experience of being a Co-researcher at two points in the study. It would be very helpful to audio-record these conversations to help us understand and assess the impact of the working together with local communities to design and deliver this project.

Who will benefit from this research?

The immediate beneficiaries of this research will be the Bangladeshi communities - through having their voices heard concerning their current and future housing and environment needs. Knowledge about challenges and benefits of multigenerational living will contribute to informing practice and policy on housing for later life. At a later stage we aim to bring members of BRAG and PAG together to discuss the research findings and ways forward. Co-researchers can take part in discussion of findings should they wish to be involved.

Who can be a Community Co-researcher?

The Community Co-researchers must be aged over 18 and be able to speak, understand and write in English and speak and understand Bangla and/or Sylheti at conversional level. We want Co-researchers to have knowledge about the community and an interest in this role. We will provide the necessary research skill training and support to enable you to independently conduct and record interviews with probin and where appropriate their co-resident families. You will need to conform with the project’s required standards on confidentiality and data protection. In addition, Co-researchers may opt to continue with the project by helping to analyze the data and write up findings from the research.

Will this be a paid role?

Yes. There will be an interview process to select the Co-researchers, who will be contracted to the project paid on a fixed hourly rate. The dates and times of work will be agreed between individual Co-researchers and the OU team. In addition you will be paid for attending research training and for your travel and subsistence expenses for research work.

In addition to payment, you will gain:

* Experience of doing research in the community
* Training in research methods and ethics
* Experience of working with older people
* Opportunity to develop a range of transferable skills including use of information technology (e.g., dicta phones, Amazon tablets)
* Experience of working in a team
* Understanding of data protection and data handling

I am interested. What do I do next?

Complete and submit the online form **[Application form](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=VdQuDq-WAEG-06jl_ZgWhc0WyE5ZRH5LsAwwPZL-XGdUQ0pOTFFTVVU3Vk5BNVBTUDJENjZPMzM5OCQlQCN0PWcu)**.

I have questions. Who do I ask?

If you need further information and clarification , you can email Dr Mahera Ruby or Bashir Uddin mahera.ruby@open.ac.uk; bashir@banglaha.org.uk or call on 07962132441 to discuss.

The Research partnership

* Bangla Housing Association: <https://www.banglaha.org.uk>
* The Open University: <https://www.open.ac.uk/>
* Housing LIN: <https://www.housinglin.org.uk>
* Dunhill Medical Trust (Funder): <https://dunhillmedical.org.uk>

The Research Team Members

* Mr[Bashir Uddin](file:///C%3A/Users/mdg272/Work%20Folders/Desktop/Dunhill%20December%202021/Dunhill%20Ethical%20App/Final%20ethics/Bashir%20Uddin) (Community Co-lead, BHA)
* Ms [Leena Khan](https://www.banglaha.org.uk/contact) (Community Co-lead, BHA)
* Mr Jeremy Porteus (Community Co-lead, Housing LIN)
* [Dr Manik Gopinath](https://www.open.ac.uk/people/mdg272) (Project lead, OU)
* Dr Mahera Ruby (PDRA, OU)
* [Professor Sheila Peace](https://www.open.ac.uk/research/careers/academics/sheila-peace) (Academic Co-lead, OU)
* [Dr Caroline Holland](http://www.carolineholland.info/) (Academic Co-lead, OU)

**This research project has been reviewed by, and received a favourable opinion, from The Open University Human Research Ethics Committee – HREC reference number: HREC/ 4185**

**Thank you for reading this participant information sheet.**