

LANGUAGE IN INDIA

Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow

Volume 12 : 11 November 2012

ISSN 1930-2940

Managing Editor: M. S. Thirumalai, Ph.D.

Editors: B. Mallikarjun, Ph.D.

Sam Mohanlal, Ph.D.

B. A. Sharada, Ph.D.

A. R. Fatihi, Ph.D.

Lakhan Gusain, Ph.D.

Jennifer Marie Bayer, Ph.D.

S. M. Ravichandran, Ph.D.

G. Baskaran, Ph.D.

L. Ramamoorthy, Ph.D.

Assistant Managing Editor: Swarna Thirumalai, M.A.

Female Higher Education and Elders' Role among Pakistani Migrated Communities in United Kingdom

Muhammad Mushtaq, Ph.D. Scholar

Abstract

Europe made tremendous material, technological and social development during the last century. People from all over the world, especially from the poorer countries, migrated legally or illegally in the wake of a better, secured and safe future for them and their children. The force of money and material things made some of them forget their culture and tradition but still a vast majority of them cling to their own culture and traditions. The interpretation of values and traditions, religious teaching and practices vary in detail but, in general, they are derived from five sources of religion.

There are deep divisions between parents and their children about the danger of assimilation. Traditions and beliefs are varied and dynamic, constantly reinterpreted according to circumstances. The major focus of religion is that there should be purity of heart rather than "window purity" (apparent practice). They place

Language in India www.languageinindia.com

12 : 11 November 2012

Muhammad Mushtaq, Ph.D. Scholar

Female Higher Education and Elders' Role among Pakistani Migrated Communities
in United Kingdom

more emphasis on that apparent part of the physical disposition rather than internal and deep rooted purity of the heart.

The study identifies the current situation in the Stoke On Trent area where a large number of Muslims population lives. They have enough control on their children particularly female children. The issues related to their origin in Pakistan, their qualifications, their employment, the number of children they have, female children qualification and ratio of females in university level education have been analysed and evaluated through a survey which is conducted at different place of the region.

Keywords: Female, higher education, elders' role, migrated, communities, UK

Introduction

The Parekh Report (2000) declares that the Asian communities are highly concerned to maintain cultural and religious tradition, although the meanings of traditions vary widely in practice. The interpretation of values and traditions, religious teaching and practices varies in great detail but in general, they are derived from five sources of religion. Traditions of origin and religion are strongest in familial, personal, domestic and religious contexts where there is a strong sense of extended kinship. A stereotype has arisen of Asian being distinctively conservative, but, in fact, there is internal diversity in Asian communities.

There are deep divisions between parents and their children about the danger of assimilation. Traditions and beliefs are varied and dynamic, constantly reinterpreted according to circumstances. Consider, for example, the diversity of interpretation of Islam among British Muslims. The report further says that for entry into university the national average is exceeded by Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi men rather than women.

Language in India www.languageinindia.com

12 : 11 November 2012

Muhammad Mushtaq, Ph.D. Scholar

Female Higher Education and Elders' Role among Pakistani Migrated Communities in United Kingdom

The report points out four factors that play very important role in the lives of this particular group: traditions, religion, sense of identity and extended kinship. The factors that I intend to explore are closely linked to them.

This study is concerned with the particular Muslim group of people who have migrated from Pakistan for a better and prosperous future. The particular Muslim group has been studied is mostly from Pakistani eastern districts of Jehlum, Mirpure and Kotli. They consider themselves as religious, practicing Muslims. They believe religion as most dear to them and they can even sacrifice their life to save their religion. They believe strongly in life hereafter and consider themselves as answerable to Allah for what they have done in this world. Therefore, they perform various religious activities rather than recreational functions to achieve purity and closeness to All Mighty Allah. They sometimes might not have performed religious duties in their youth but still demand and expect from their offspring to have complete dedication to religion. They have strong roots and relations in their own native areas and help many needy and deprived people to earn Allah's generosity and grandeur. They do performs duties to their fellow beings more attentively inform of monetary help.

Historical Background

The Indian subcontinent is a vast area comparable in size to the whole of Europe excluding former Soviet Union. The two sovereign states, India and Pakistan, came into existence when the British left the Indian subcontinent in 1947. Both are nuclear powers now but many people of the subcontinent live in poverty as economic indicators show. Bangladesh was part of Pakistan but in 1971 it was separated and got the status of an independent country. It has a population of 120 million. According to

Language in India www.languageinindia.com

12 : 11 November 2012

Muhammad Mushtaq, Ph.D. Scholar

Female Higher Education and Elders' Role among Pakistani Migrated Communities in United Kingdom

the Census of Pakistan, the estimated population of Pakistan on October 16, 2012 is 181068295 (181 million) persons (<http://www.census.gov.pk/>). India has the population of 1.2 billion people (<http://defenceforumindia.com/forum/politics-society/30771-indias-population-2012-a.html>). Poverty and inadequate job opportunities, among other factors, drive people out of these countries mostly to Europe, Middle East and America. They get better paying jobs to improve their economic condition and future security for themselves and for their children. So majority of the people want to go abroad to meet these ends. Majority of the people from Pakistan and Bangladesh are Muslim.

In the census of 2001 the ratio of Pakistan based ethnic minorities in United Kingdom is almost 1.3 %, of the total population. Commission for Racial Equality (CRE 2000) statistics shows that almost two million Muslims are resident in Britain compared to 400,000 Hindus and 400,000 Sikhs. Majority of the Pakistani Muslims are concentrated in the West Midlands (21%) and in Yorkshire and Humberside (20%) while in other areas their ratio is significantly low.

Literature Review

Demack (1998) presented an analysis of gender, ethnic and social class differences in General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) results from 1988-93 and concludes that Pakistani and Bangladeshi groups showed a decline in comparison to the white groups. The gap between social groups remained as large as ever. Later Youth Cohort Study (YCS) data from 1988 -95 suggests continuation of the trend and placed Pakistani students at the lower cluster but they claimed that

Language in India www.languageinindia.com

12 : 11 November 2012

Muhammad Mushtaq, Ph.D. Scholar

Female Higher Education and Elders' Role among Pakistani Migrated Communities in United Kingdom

ethnic differences were larger than the gender differences but social class difference was the largest of all.

Gilby, Ormston, Parfremment and Payne (2011) claim that based on the 2001 census, there are 167,763 Muslim students in the UK, making up 6 per cent of the total student population. Most Muslim students (56%) are males, the (44%) are females.

Mirza (2002) concludes that Pakistani children, who were lagging 30 points behind their white peers in 1991, have fallen behind by additional 3 points. It shows that the eagerness and thirst for knowledge has decreased and the students take less interest in their studies. This analysis is for the males.

Memon (2004) made a very good analysis of the educational achievements of ethnic minorities in 'Race and Class'. He showed relative performance of boys and girls from 1991 to 2001 in rank order and proved that the Asian girls' performance is the highest (64%) in the table as compared to other groups.

It can be agreed that the girls' achievement at GCSE level is all right, they do perform well at this level but my point has two-fold direction: one is that my focus is Pakistani Muslim girls and the reports consider all the Asian girls. Secondly, the papers show performance at GCSE level of exams. Girls do go to school at this level, but do they go to colleges and universities and perform there as well? Here my question does not get the right answer. So I will try to find it out. The commentary shows a certain trend at GCSE level but it does not present any analysis of higher education. Secondly, the issue of class is also important. The reports present overall view of education without class identification. We need to identify the social and economic conditions of the parents who live in rich areas and the parents who live in deprived areas.

Language in India www.languageinindia.com

12 : 11 November 2012

Muhammad Mushtaq, Ph.D. Scholar

Female Higher Education and Elders' Role among Pakistani Migrated Communities in United Kingdom

Memon 2004 concludes that the report of YCS shows that only 3% of Pakistani youth attend independent schools. That is very low if it is compared to other black communities. It is due to the lower income of the parents that keep their aspiration and motivation low.

Shain (1996) said that the young women were found predominantly in low academic sets within the school and they did not expect to study beyond compulsory schooling. In the interview question when they were asked about what they would do in next ten years, the answer was uncertain. Some of them intended to get married, and others depended on what their parents would advise them. Shain advocates that the racism and teacher behaviour are the two factors that are not encouraging the young girls to go for further education. In her research paper she selected eight schools to check the parents' status and majority of the parents were unskilled and only the parents of the school 'A' had better jobs than the rest three D, F, and H which were doing lower level of jobs like retailers, shop owners, waiters, and factory workers. On the other hand, majority of the mothers work as homemakers and do only domestic chores at home.

Hamyoun (2003) wrote that the home set up is controlled by their men. Parmar further says that Asian girls have least freedom in the selection of their career and choice of marriage, but these claims were contradicted by Shain. On the general level, many researches on ethnic minorities had conducted research during the last couple of decades. The subjects that were covered in the studies are more related to social adjustment and social behaviour, their job placement and political contribution in the United Kingdom.

Language in India www.languageinindia.com

12 : 11 November 2012

Muhammad Mushtaq, Ph.D. Scholar

Female Higher Education and Elders' Role among Pakistani Migrated Communities in United Kingdom

Modood (1998) was one of the pioneers in research on the Caribbean and Asian communities. He writes about black communities and concludes that among respondents aged 16-24, those of Chinese, African Asian, and Indian origin were the best qualified followed by whites, Caribbean, and Pakistanis, with Bangladeshis at the bottom of the qualification league. He further adds that the Pakistani and Bangladeshi women were significantly less well qualified than women of all other groups, with an additional note that the Pakistani women were well represented at the degree level. The statement needs some clarification as to who were the respondents. Secondly, the representation is measured as per their population or as compared to only other Asian countries.

Shaw (1994) confirms that racism against and harassment of non-white children is very prominent in school. Most of the time, directly or indirectly racism exists in primary schools and even children face it when they are not in the school premises. Moreover, their findings reveal strong dynamics of racial egalitarianism within children's cultures due to two factors: one is growing awareness of the significance of racial discrimination in society and its injustice. The other is the development of relationships among children on a basis of equality of treatment and an ability to take the viewpoints of others. In the book 'Racism in children,' they also suggest that this process is later overridden and reversed.

This study is concerned with the particular Muslim group of people who have migrated from south Asia for better and prosperous future. The particular Muslim group that I intend to focus is mostly from Pakistani eastern districts of Jehlum, Mirpure and Kotli. They consider themselves religious and practicing Muslims. They believe religion as most dear to them and they can sacrifice anything even life for that.

Language in India www.languageinindia.com

12 : 11 November 2012

Muhammad Mushtaq, Ph.D. Scholar

Female Higher Education and Elders' Role among Pakistani Migrated Communities in United Kingdom

They believe in life hereafter and consider themselves as answerable to Allah for what they have done in this world. Therefore, they perform various religious activities like Juma congregation, sermon, speeches and Mahafil-e-Naat and Zikr ullah rather than participating in recreational functions like pubs, discos and clubs to achieve purity and closeness to All Mighty Allah.

Their children get two different environments in school and home. They survive but their opinion is not considered because they themselves are shy and hesitant to communicate due to the lack of communication skills in English.

Objectives

The major concern is to explore the migrants' original district, their education, their children's education, their business and the ratio of male and female education.

The study is delimited to the people who are religious minded. This means they regularly go to mosque and offer religious services regularly. Secondly, they are not economically well off. Thirdly, they do not have enough formal education. Fourthly, they mostly have more than three children. They live in small houses.

The second phase is about the hypothesis. So the following hypotheses have been tested in the pilot study.

1. Majority of them are from three districts (specified above) in Pakistan.
2. They have low level of education.
3. Their employment is not satisfactory.
4. They have many children.
5. Their male children are more qualified than their female children.
6. Very few males and female children go to university.
7. Their satisfaction about 16+ educations in Britain.
8. They do have more females than male children.

Research Methodology

Language in India www.languageinindia.com

12 : 11 November 2012

Muhammad Mushtaq, Ph.D. Scholar

Female Higher Education and Elders' Role among Pakistani Migrated Communities in United Kingdom

Methodology is a systematic way or certain pattern and procedures to carry out some particular function and activity. This research is conducted by selecting a sample out of the Muslim population in United Kingdom first. The sample is based on those who have migrated from three districts of Pakistan, Jhelum, Mirpur and Kotli. The randomly selected sample are given questionnaire. Individual help is provided to respond the questions if necessary. The sample consists of entire Muslim population of males and females with the ratio of 70/30 who are now British citizens but they migrated from their respective districts to the town of Stoke on Trent 15 years ago. Another assumption is that the sample is based on those who consider themselves as religious people and adhere to their own tradition and values.

Data collection in the mosque can be labelled as biased but I believe that as the research is based on particular social ethnic subgroup, it is better to conduct the research in the mosque because Muslim communities respect and regard mosque as a place of worship and truth and fair play is highly esteemed in it. So I still believe that I was able to get the valid data.

Sampling Technique

The sample is selected for various purposes. There is a vast population to conduct this research but at the first phase of the study only the parents of the pupils were selected.

These parents included only males. There can be different samples like the students themselves or only female students, ex-students, the teachers and educational administrators of the higher educational institutes. The next phase of the research will take into account these factors. These people in this phase were selected randomly. They volunteered to respond to the questionnaire..

Data Collection

The data is collected in two ways: through the questionnaire by individuals in English. As it is intended to elicit responses to the questionnaire in the mosque so

Language in India www.languageinindia.com

12 : 11 November 2012

Muhammad Mushtaq, Ph.D. Scholar

Female Higher Education and Elders' Role among Pakistani Migrated Communities in United Kingdom

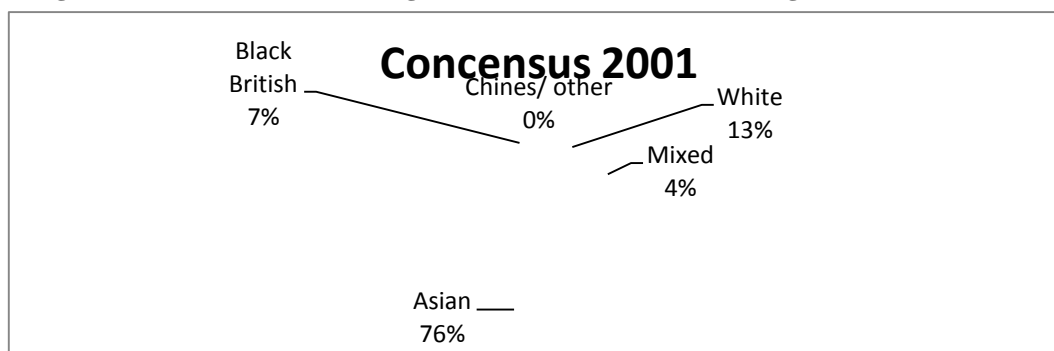
individual help will be provide to them if they require it. Questionnaire has been selected as a research tool which is comparatively easy to administer and less time consuming as other research tools require many days and perhaps many months to gather the data. Secondly, this research instrument is more reliable than any other to find solution to the problem.

Data Analysis

In the study only 100 respondents out of 1000 population were selected and their responses are included in the data set. In the first phase, every item in the questionnaire has been presented in the form of charts and its implication and its various responses has been evaluated separately.

The data collected through questionnaire has been presented in the form of graphs that will show the ratio of the responses that the reseacher intends to measure or test about diferent hypotheses built in the beginning of the research. The factors that constrain the female education and the ratio of getting higher education among females as compared to males are to be judged.

Figure 1 The ratio of Asian orgin british students in United Kingdom



The above pie chart shows that there are large number of students from Asian origin particularly belonging to India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. 7% belong to Black British, 13 % are White, and 4 % are mixed while quite a large number 76% are from Asian orgin. This respresentation shows that a large number of Asian students are studying in UK.

Language in India www.languageinindia.com

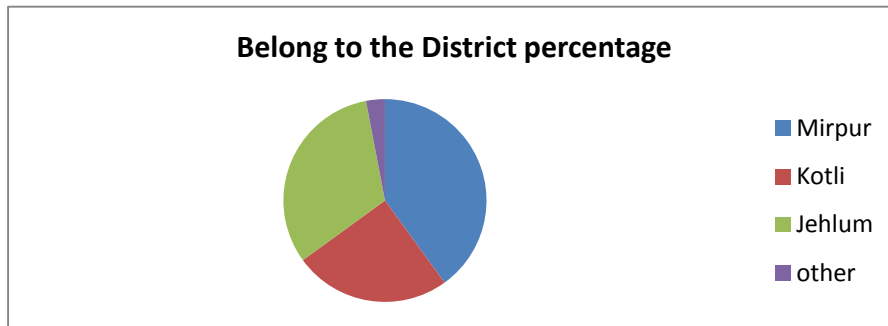
12 : 11 November 2012

Muhammad Mushtaq, Ph.D. Scholar

Female Higher Education and Elders' Role among Pakistani Migrated Communities in United Kingdom

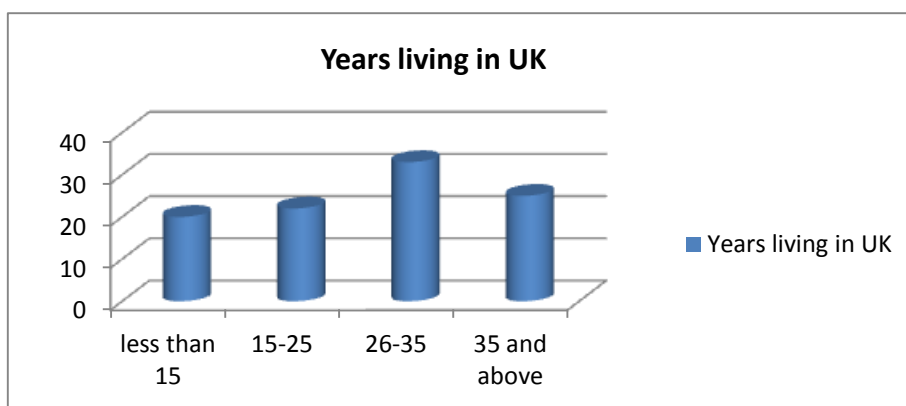
Do all of them belong to Pakistan? The data shows that all of them are Pakistani. As all the respondents marked that they belong to the Pakistani district which is shown in pie chart. So 100% ratio is shown in the table

Figure 2 *The respondents belonging to the following districts of Pakistan*



The majority of them belong to the three districts of Pakistan. These districts are Mirpure, Jehlum and Kotli. The ratio here shown is that 40% belong to Mirpur and 32 % belong to Jelum 25 % are from Kotli and 3% are from other places.

Figure 3 **Duration of stay in United Kingdom**



They have been staying there for a long time. So the different pairs of years are grouped. The first pair which is less than 15 years is 20% of the whole population, the second pair consists of 15 to 25 years which make 22% of the respondents, and the majority of them 33% have been staying there for 25 to 36 years. There were enough numbers staying more than 25 which constitute 25%. The figure shows that all of the people have been staying in United Kingdom for many years.

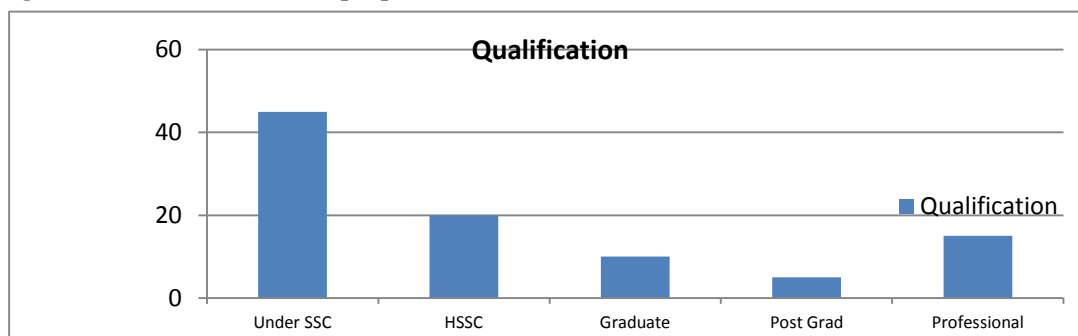
Language in India www.languageinindia.com

12 : 11 November 2012

Muhammad Mushtaq, Ph.D. Scholar

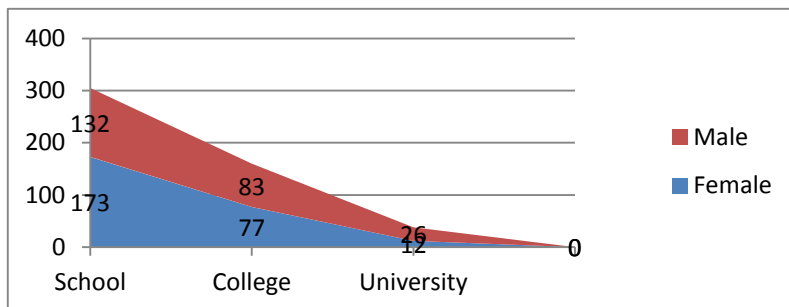
Female Higher Education and Elders' Role among Pakistani Migrated Communities in United Kingdom

Figure 4 Education of the people



This chart shows the qualification of the people. The first column shows under secondary school certificate which makes 45 % of the respondents while Higher secondary school certificate holders were 20% . There were only 10% graduates and 5 % postgraduates. Here professional qualification falls under the experience of the respondents. They have long years of experience in the relevant fields like restaurants, taxi cabs and grocery shops. This does not mean professional formal qualification.

Figure 5 Gender wise ratio of the students in different Educational Institutes



The figure shows that there are more females than males in high schools while it drops down in college and further drops down in university. There is an overall trend to decrease in numbers but female ratio is falling more rapidly than in the case of males which shows that beliefs of the parents affect their educational career.

Conclusion

Language in India www.languageinindia.com

12 : 11 November 2012

Muhammad Mushtaq, Ph.D. Scholar

Female Higher Education and Elders' Role among Pakistani Migrated Communities in United Kingdom

Finally, it is concluded that the majority of the people migrated to United Kingdom are Asians, particularly those living in Stoke On Trent are from three Pakistani Districts. They have many children. Their own education level was mostly undermatric. Males are more educated than females. They have different businesses like hoteling, taxi cabs, grocery stores, etc.

References

- Anwar, M. (1998). *Between Cultures Continuity and Change*, London, New York.
- Bhikhu, C. P. (2000). *The Future of Multi-Ethnic Britain: Report of the Commission in the Future of Multi-Ethnic Britain* (London: Profile Books, 2000)
- David, M. (2003). *Race and Ethnicity in Britain* (2nd, Ed) Oxford University Press.
- Demack, S., Drew, D., and Grimsley, M. (1994). *Minding the Gap: ethnic, gender and social class differences in attainment at 16, 1988-95, Race Ethnicity and Education*
- Gilby, N., Ormston, R., Parfremont, J., Payne C. (2011). *Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, National Centre for Social Research (BIS Research paper number 55)* London.
- Hussain, S., Cook, C., and Sheikh, S. (2007). *Literature review: Muslim students in further and higher education in London*, London: OPM.
- Humayun, A. (2003). *The Infidel Within: Muslims in Britain since 1800* (London: Minority Rights Group International).
- Mamon, S. (2004). *Race and Class*, Sage publication, Institute of Race Relations.
- Mirza, M., Senthikumaren, A., and Ja'far, Z. (2007). *Living apart together: British Muslims and the paradox of multiculturalism*, London: Policy Exchange.
- Modood, T. (2003). *Ethnic Differential in Educational Performance*, in David Mason (ed.), *Explaining Ethnic Differences: Changing Patterns of Disadvantage in Britain*

Language in India www.languageinindia.com

12 : 11 November 2012

Muhammad Mushtaq, Ph.D. Scholar

Female Higher Education and Elders' Role among Pakistani Migrated Communities in United Kingdom

(Bristol:Policy.

Modood, T. (2005a). *Multicultural Politics: Racism, Ethnicity and Muslims in Britain*,
Minnesota: University of Minnesota Press

Parmar, P. (1990). *Black feminism and politics of articulation* in J Rutherford(ed)
Identity, Community, Culture and Difference

Shain, F. (1996). *A Study of the experiences and responses of Asian girls in secondary
education in Britain*. Unpublished PhD thesis, KeeleUniversity.

Shaw, A., (1994). *The Pakistani Community in Oxford*, in R. Ballard (ed.), *Desh Pardesh:
The South Asian Presence inBritain* (London: Hurst and Company, 1994), p. 37.

Tanlinson, S. (1983). *The education performance of Asian children*, New community.

Tyrer, D., Ahmad, F. (2006). *Muslim women and higher education: identities, experiences
and prospects*, Liverpool: Liverpool John Moores University and European Social Fund.

Wisker, G. (1996). *Empowering Women in Higher Education* Kogan Page Ltd UK.

=====

Muhammad Mushtaq, Ph.D. Scholar
Department of Education
Faculty of Social Sciences
International Islamic University
Islamabad
Pakistan
Mushtaq.alvi@gmail.com

Language in India www.languageinindia.com

12 : 11 November 2012

Muhammad Mushtaq, Ph.D. Scholar

Female Higher Education and Elders' Role among Pakistani Migrated Communities
in United Kingdom