

## PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Qualitative study to explore alcohol, ethnicity and COVID-19.

IRAS Number: 273216

**Exploring ethnic differences in alcohol trends, explanatory models, and attitudes to alcohol consumption and intervention in a British South Asian population during COVID-19.**

### Invitation

Thank you for taking the time to read this information. We would like to invite you to take part in our research study funded by Barts Charity, which will contribute towards a PhD qualification. Before you decide to take part, we would like you to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for you. Please take the time to read this information carefully and, if you wish, discuss it with your friends, relatives or your GP. You will be given as much time as you want to make a decision. Please ask if anything is not clear or if you would like any further information. This information sheet also gives you details of who to contact if you have any questions during the study. **If you would prefer to read this information sheet in a different language or have an audio version, please let the researcher know directly or ask your health/support team to request this.**

### Introduction

We are conducting a study to explore attitudes to alcohol use and treatment for people with South Asian heritage living in the UK (often referred to as British South Asians). Previous research has shown that collaboration with key figures within communities can help improve the design, delivery and uptake of health interventions. We are consulting health professionals that work with British South Asian communities, as well as religious leaders and community members to gather important perspectives on alcohol use and treatment. You will be asked to take part in a confidential focus group or interview with a researcher at a time of your convenience. Topics will include patterns, causes, consequences and treatments of alcohol use within South Asian communities and will last approximately 60 minutes.

### What is the purpose of the study?

The purpose of this study is to explore attitudes of health professionals, religious leaders and British South Asian individuals to alcohol use and treatment to help improve health messages and services to better address the needs of British South Asian people.

### Why have I been invited to take part?

We are asking people to take part in the study if, according to our information, they:

- Identify as having a South Asian (Pakistani, Bangladeshi or Indian) background OR

- Occupy/ previously occupied a health professional or religious role that involved working with individuals from a South Asian (Pakistani, Bangladeshi or Indian) background.

### **Do I have to take part?**

No, you do not have to take part. Your participation is completely voluntary and it is entirely your decision if you would like to take part in this study. If you do choose to take part, you will be asked to sign a consent form to confirm that you understand what is involved when taking part. You are still free to withdraw from the study at any time, without having to give a reason.

### **What will happen to me if I take part?**

If you are happy to participate, our researcher would like to meet with you. Due to COVID-19, this can be via a telephone or video call. They will contact you to arrange a time and method suitable for you. If guidelines allow face to face meetings, we can schedule this at a time and place of your preference. The meeting would involve going over the study details again and asking you to sign a consent form to show you have agreed to take part. This meeting will take approximately 1 hour and will be audio recorded. During this interview you will be asked some questions about:

- Your perception of alcohol consumption within British South Asian communities (including preferences for support, and problems that may be experienced because of alcohol use)
- The use of health, social and religious services for alcohol problems
- Your perspectives on available and new alcohol interventions
- How COVID-19 may have impacted on any of the above

**If you require an interpreter, we can arrange for professional interpreters via Language Line or NHS Bilingual Health Advocacy and Interpreting Service.**

### **How much time will be involved at each stage of the study?**

The interview will take approximately 60 minutes to complete.

### **Are there any expenses involved?**

All participants will be offered a £10 Love2Shop voucher as a thank you for their time. Due to COVID-19, where possible, interviews will be scheduled to take place over the telephone or via video call to reduce any burden. However, if guidelines permit a face-to-face meeting, we can arrange for this to take place at a time and location convenient to you. Should you need to travel, expenses will be reimbursed up to the value of £12.

### **What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

We hope that your contribution will help improve the future treatment of people who consume excessive amounts of alcohol by creating effective health messages and tailoring interventions. At the end of the study, you will be offered a £10 voucher to thank you for your participation in the study.

### **What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

We do not expect there to be any disadvantages to taking part in the study. If you agree to participate, you will be asked some questions that some may find embarrassing or uncomfortable. For example, we will ask about alcohol consumption and mental health in your community or communities that you work with. The researcher will not expect you to answer any questions you are uncomfortable with.

### **What if I do not wish to take part?**

Taking part is entirely voluntary.

### **What will happen if I change my mind and don't want to carry on with the study?**

You are free to withdraw from the study at any time and you do not have to give a reason if you wish not to. If you do withdraw, we would like to continue to use your data, in a confidential manner, up to the point of withdrawal as this will help us with our analysis. However, if you would prefer us not to use your data then you can request for your data to be removed from the study.

### **Will my data and participation in the study be kept confidential?**

Yes. What is said in the interview is regarded as strictly confidential. Audio recordings will be typed into anonymised written transcripts by the researcher and original recordings permanently deleted immediately after transcription. Any information you provide will be held securely. If you disclose any information that may result in you or anyone else being put at risk of harm we may have to inform the appropriate authorities. If this situation arises, we will discuss all possible options for ourselves and you before deciding whether or not to take any action. All data collected during this study will be processed in accordance with the GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018.

### **How will you use information about me?**

We will need to use information from you and your care team (where applicable) for this research project. This information will include your name and contact details. Our research team at Queen Mary University London will use this information in order to do the research or to check your records to make sure that the research is being done properly and will act as the data controller for this study. This means that we are responsible for looking after this information and using it properly. Only the research team at QMUL will be able to see your name or contact details. Your data will have a code number instead. We always store and process information that identifies you (e.g., name, date of birth) separately to any other information we collect about you. We will keep all information about you safe and secure. Once we have finished the study, we will keep some of the data so we can check the results. We will write our reports in a way that no-one can work out that you took part in the study.

### **What are my choices about how my information is used?**

You can stop being part of the study at any time, without giving a reason, but we will keep information about you that we already have. If you do not want this to happen, tell us and we can remove your information from the study. A decision to withdraw from the study will not affect the quality of NHS care you receive. We need to manage your records in specific ways for the research to be reliable. This means that we won't be able to let you see or change the data we hold about you.

### **Where can I find out more about how my information is used?**

You can find out more about how we use your information

- at [www.hra.nhs.uk/information-about-patients/](http://www.hra.nhs.uk/information-about-patients/)
- our privacy leaflet available from [[www.insertstudywesbite.com](http://www.insertstudywesbite.com)]
- by contacting the research team at [Stacey.jennings6@nhs.net](mailto:Stacey.jennings6@nhs.net) or 07841833442.
- by contacting the QMUL data protection officer (Jonathan Morgan) at: [data-protection@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:data-protection@qmul.ac.uk) or to: Data Protection Officer, Queens' Building, Mile End Road, London, E1 4NS.

### **What if there is a problem?**

If you have a concern about any aspect of the study, please feel free to speak with the researcher who will be happy to answer your question. Whilst we do not anticipate any major problems, in the event that something does go wrong and you are harmed during the research you may have grounds for legal action for compensation against QMUL and Barts Health Trust but you may have to pay your legal costs. The normal NHS complaints mechanisms will still be available to you. If you have cause to complain about any aspect of the way you have been approached or treated during the course of this study, you can do this through the NHS Complaints Procedure for which details can be obtained from the hospital. If you wish to make a complaint about the conduct of the study you can contact QMUL using the details below for further advice and information: Stacey Jennings, [Stacey.jennings6@nhs.net](mailto:Stacey.jennings6@nhs.net), 07841833442.

### **What happens if I have a complaint?**

If you have complaints or concerns please contact the study CI: Stacey Jennings, [Stacey.jennings6@nhs.net](mailto:Stacey.jennings6@nhs.net), 07841833442.

### **What will happen to the results of the research study?**

At the end of the study, the results of this research will be reported to Barts Charity and disseminated through publications in scientific journals and conferences. All data used will remain confidential and anonymous meaning there is no chance of you being identified by the study. The researcher will ask you at your meeting if you would like a summary of the findings which we can send you when the study is finished.

### **Who is organizing and funding the research?**

This study is being organized by QMUL and is being funded by The Barts Charity.

### **Who has reviewed the study?**

The research has been reviewed and approved by an independent NHS Research Ethics Committee to ensure that participants will not be negatively impacted by being involved in this research project. This is a standard procedure to protect your safety, rights, wellbeing and dignity. This study has been reviewed and was given a favourable opinion by Camden & Kings Cross Research Ethics Committee, an independent Ethics Committee.

### **Contact details:**

If you want to find out more information about the study, or for answers to questions relating to this research study, please feel free to contact the Chief Investigator of the study:

Stacey Jennings

Wolfson Institute of Population Health, Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6BQ

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