

**INTER-GENERATIONAL CHANGE AND MINORITY ETHNIC WOMEN IN
THE LABOUR MARKET:
A QUALITATIVE PILOT STUDY
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The objective of this pilot study is to understand inter-generational change among different black and minority ethnic women in their employment experience and job aspirations. We are particularly concentrating on the following groups of women: African Caribbean, West African, Pakistani and Bangladeshi origin. We are hoping to separate groups into age ranges. There will be two discussion groups for each minority ethnic group. In one group we will gather women in their late teens to early 20s, and in the other, women who are over 40 years old.

The study will be the qualitative part of a national quantitative study of ethnic minority women to be conducted by the Equal Opportunities Commission in 2005-2006. Evidence to the Government's Task Force on Ethnic Minorities will be presented in the form of a report in 2006. This self contained pilot study will greatly contribute to our knowledge in an area much neglected by policy makers and researchers, and will, we hope, have a direct influence in improving minority ethnic women's lives.

Research Questions

The proposed study will address two key research questions:

1. How do conditions in the labour market vary across age and gender between and within these disadvantaged groups of black and minority women?
2. What role does multiple identity and agency play in younger women 'choosing' jobs and careers for themselves, and how do their actions influence the older generation?

The final report for the Nuffield will be completed by the end of August. A couple of articles on the project will be written for academic journals, one with Veena Meeto, Research Assistant at the SPRC.