



**Global Refugee Studies,  
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# **Integration Process of Bangladeshi Immigrants in Denmark**

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## **Abstract**

Every year the number of foreigners are increasing in Denmark. As the Danish state used to be a homogenous state, a state where the population had certain common characteristics like ethnic, linguistic and cultural background so the major influx of guest workers bring diversity to the Danish society. The guest workers are seen decided to stay here permanently and grow family which has influenced the immigrations and integration policies and became a subject of socio-political debate within society. For this reason the concept of integration has become an important subject matter to address in politics and in the Danish society. In this project I have particularly focused on Bangladeshi immigrants and analyse their way of integrating in Danish society.

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## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

In the beginning I would like to share the real motive to conduct this project. I am a student from Bangladesh and have been living in Copenhagen Denmark for almost two years. Before coming to Denmark as a student I had visited this country two times, during that short travelling time I was so interested to meet Bangladeshi immigrants here and I also have one friend here and besides I also met other Bangladeshi family and it felt like home in Denmark. I really like the life standard and came to know how one can stay here for longer time and mostly the Danish PBL education system. So there was a strong motive for me to choose Denmark for my future carrier and take a challenge to change life.

After coming to Denmark I have enough time to hangout with my Danish friends and enjoyed a lot the very first one month as a temporary residence in Denmark. As time passes, the crisis of accommodation as couple and finding preferable job was a big challenge, however my Danish friends were helping us with advices how to integrate in the Danish society and how to approach for a job in Danish company. After one month I realized that I must need to jump in any job as time passing and I need to manage my tuition fee for my education as that specific year the rule was changed to give tuition waiver for the international students.

As per rule I cannot work more than 80 hours as a student so I started work part time following the rules and to manage the tuition fee and other basic needs my husband also started odd job. He is a software programmer and he applied for many relevant jobs but the rejection motives him to start any jobs and the Bangladeshi community people helped us to get the job. After that we have seen that we do not have enough time to hangout with our Danish friends, they invite us several times but we cannot make it as after doing physical jobs we are very tired so we can see that our Danish friends stop to invite us as we are busy with our life.

From this experience, I always try to understand how immigrants are integrating in Danish society putting myself also in this categories. I have chosen my own community people to conduct this research work so that I can deeply understand the perspective of integration. Through this project work I have come to know more dimensions of understanding and analyzing integration. In this project I have mainly followed the conceptual framework

proposed by Ager and Strang on integration as the framework basically demonstrates the successful integration and the normative understanding of integration. Moreover I have also applied other theories to broaden my discussion. Besides, the global regime of human rights which has created a new condition of global migration now (Shamir, 2005). “Guest workers with no formal citizenship rights managed to establish both local and cross-border social networks, thereby creating an on-the-ground necessity to develop a variety of new “patterns of incorporation” that transcend and bypass formal citizenship rights (Shamir, 2005: 198)”.

According to Castles and Millers (2007) people migrate for various motives such as sociological, political, geographical, economical or demographical. Many people migrating voluntary or involuntary each year for economic factors and considering jobs, as a family or holding refugee status. The Bangladeshi immigrants are also seen migrating themselves for the economic factors and this economic factors create a way for them to integrate in the Danish society. However, the Bangladeshi immigrants are facing challenges to integrate in the Danish society due to language barrier as well as cultural diversity, so this project's aim is to investigate, are the Bangladeshi immigrants really integrating in Danish society? And to support this question an open ended semi structured interview questionnaire is developed to understand different indicators or factors determining the successful integration in Danish society.

This project also argues the Danish welfare state system as well as integration policy with the integration process by the immigrants. The project sample group for the interview is very small as I interviewed 9 Bangladeshi immigrants, however it can be said that, this small group of people represent the Bangladeshi community to some extent.

# **CHAPTER TWO**

## **METHODOLOGY**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

This chapter embodies the way of conducting research and rationale for selecting particular research methods and limitation of the study. This project is representing whether Bangladeshi immigrants in Denmark integrating in Danish society or not. As a part of the Bangladeshi immigrants myself, I have also notice that Bangladeshi immigrants are not integrating and to reveal the truth I have conducted this research.

In addition to this, the method section defines the set of guidelines and resources through which the data was collected and analysed. This chapter also demonstrates how the theoretical concepts are applied in terms of methodology, and analysing the field data. In this part of the discussion we will also present the target group of the study and why this particular study group is selected for the project, methodological considerations and analytical background of the research.

### **1.1 RESEARCH QUESTION**

The overall research question is- Are Bangladeshi Immigrants Integrating into Danish Society?

### **SUB- RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

1. Why are some Bangladeshi immigrants not integrating into Danish Society?
2. Why are Danish immigration laws/rules/policies preventing some BD immigrants integrating into Danish Society?
3. What are the cultural challenges experienced by the BD immigrants to integrate in Danish society?

### **2. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY**

In this part of the discussion I will discuss the target group of the study and the focus area of our research methods in terms of questionnaire, semi structured interviews and related sources and materials which have been used for conducting the research.

## 2.1 SAMPLING AND SAMPLE GROUP

Sampling is the prime foundations of research methods and design as it always involves recognition of samples. The small group is called Sample and selecting the sample group is called sampling. Moreover, sampling is determining the size of the sample and the sample size rely on many different factors for instance the aims and objectives of the study and way of conducting the research (Guthrie, 2010).

In this project I have applied purposive sampling to select the sample group or size. Purposive sampling represents an assumed representation of the population. This kind of sampling is often accomplished by applying experts knowledge from the population and it refers to a sample of elements that demonstrates a cross-section of the population (Lavrakas, 2008).

On the other hand, sample size refers the number of unites which are being selected from which the data are gathered. The sample size is defined in several ways for example, designated sample size and final sample size. In designated sample size researcher select sample units for data collection. Besides, the final sample size represents the actual units of conducting interviews. The final sample size might be smaller than the designated sample size (ibid, 2008).

In this project I have purposively chosen Bangladeshi Immigrants which can also be considered as my biasness, who came in Denmark through different visa categories e.g. study, family reunification as well as green card scheme. Hence, in this project the sample size is very small and the data had gathered from the small sample. In the beginning of the research design I had planned to conduct 10 interviews for collecting data. However, in real I have conducted 9 interviews which includes 3 categories, one group of respondents are students (3 students), 3 respondents who are holding green cards and 3 are accompanying family members.

Finally, in this project I have also particularly focused on women and how they are integrating in Danish society. This is because, the Bangladeshi social structure have direct impact of women's life because the Bangladesh society is male dominated society and gender based discrimination is still exists strongly. From that point of view, I have particular interest about Bangladeshi female immigrants about their life and way of integrating in Danish society.

Moreover, I had also participated one of the most big cultural festivals titles "Bengali New Year 1426" in Tingbjerg where I have also observed how they celebrate their cultural festivals and what activities they do and how they organize their traditional occasions.



Subsequently, the interview details are enclosed in annex. In this project I merely analysed the theory of integration aligned with mobility theories, the Danish integration policy and Danish welfare system. This study critically analyses different indicators and contradictory laws or societal issues that may hinder to integration into the Danish society.

## **2.2 STUDY FOCUS AREA**

Conducting the field work in this project, I have applied semi structured questionnaire interviews and open ended questionnaire where different indicators were subjected to find out the integration process of Bangladeshi immigrants living in Copenhagen, Denmark in different sectors e.g. culture, politics, language, job, politics, education and engagement in an association, immigration rules and regulations, green card system. So overall I have focused on the different indicators for integration according to the Danish integration policy and the paradoxes as well as gaps between the real integration by the immigrants and Danish integration policy.

Moreover, I have also focused particularly on Bangladeshi women who came here through student or in family reunification visa, this is because the Bangladeshi social structure is different from Europe, in Bangladesh the gender discrimination and male dominating social structure influences women's life. For this reason I would like to explore and recognize the integration process of BD women in Copenhagen through this project.

Therefore, to identify the focus area of the study I have done secondary data analysis as well as literature review to recognize how Bangladeshi immigrants integrating in Danish Society and the impact of the changing rules or what the BD immigrants think about the Danish rules and regulations for the immigrants. On the other hand, I have also conducted pilot interviews to focus on particular problems or issues to be analysed in this project.

## **2.3 TYPES OF QUESTIONNAIRE**

In this project I have used qualitative approach for the questionnaire. I have developed semi-structured interviews and open ended interviews for our face to face meetings with the Bangladeshi immigrants.

In open ended interviews the respondents have more opportunity to express their thoughts and views in their own words. Moreover they are not bound to making limited choices. So the open ended questionnaire provides more detailed oriented information than the standardized one. In

this type of interviews the researcher can follow up answers to probe more profound information about what really a respondent thinking (Giddens, 2006).

Furthermore, the semi-structured interview guide provides a clear set of instructions for interviewers and can provide reliable, comparable qualitative data. In this kind of interview the interviewer and the respondents are usually engaged in an informal interview. The questionnaires which were conducted face to face through semi structured interviews are enclosed in the appendix.

In addition to this, in open ended interviews the questionnaire is normally listed so that researcher can ask questions and record information in the predetermined manner. Hence, all the questionnaire must be fully comprehensible as well as clear to interviewer and interviewee (Giddens, 2006).

In this project, in questionnaire I have used some key points in every question to be guided by some relevant following questions which also provided detailed information. In addition to this, before stating the final field work I have conducted pilot test interviews.

## **2.4 PILOT STUDIES**

“Most surveys are preceded by pilot studies in order to pick up problems are not anticipated by the investigator. A pilot study is a trial run in which a questionnaire is completed by just a few people. Any difficulties can then be ironed out before the main survey is done (Giddens, 2006, Pp. 88)”.

In this project I have conducted pilot studies to precise the problems or issues to accomplish the research. During secondary data analysis and literature review a draft open ended questionnaire is developed and that questionnaire is applied in the pilot studies. The pilot study helps to reorganize the questionnaire in case of adding more questions and eliminating some questions.

In pilot study, some questions were closed and some are open, so after the pilot test except the demographic information most of the questions were developed in open ended questions with some possible indicators to discuss more in details to get overall notion of the particular questions. In pilot study I had conducted two interviews one student and one green card holder. Moreover, through the pilot study I had reached other Bangladeshi people to conduct the interview and for collecting data.

### **3. METHODOLOGICAL CONSIDERATION**

The main concern about the project were time and the vast subject of the study. As the study purely focuses on integration. Therefore, in the beginning it was very challenging to find a clear aim and objective as well as formulating the sub questions. In the beginning, I aimed at implementing only integration theories but later realized that it very important to also focus on the Danish integration policy as well as Danish welfare system. In this project I have also tried to emphasize on BD immigrant women's integration.

During the questionnaire development I have also seen that each question carries our critical issues and for a quality data we need to ask more deeply in every section of the questionnaire. For that reason I chose to conduct all the interviews face to face, in order to get more detailed answers and also to observe the respondent's impression and expression while sharing their opinion and thoughts in each questions. However, more face to face interviews would have been preferable, but again, there was the lack of time and it became very challenging to get time from the people as all are very busy for their full time work.

In this project I have used the theory of integration and Danish integration policy, Danish welfare system since it can provide us with an insight to the socio-political discourse about integration and represent the reality through the research on an analytical point of view, where immigration and integration of Bangladesh immigrants and women living in the Danish society are clearly visualized and discussed. I have conducted nine in-depth interviews, focusing on the integration process of Bangladeshi immigrants particularly women living in Copenhagen, Denmark, to explore particularly their life and their success in the new society in terms of integration, job, education, family, language and social activities as well as culture.

#### **3.1 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

This project focuses on the concept of integration. Through this project an analysis of the life of Bangladeshi Immigrants who came here as a Green Card holders, students and accompanying family members and how they are integrating in the Danish society is presented. This project also critically analyzed the Danish integration policy and there is also a discussion around Danish welfare state. For this reason the concept of integration is very significant. The project particularly focuses on different indicators, paradoxes as well as impediments which are hindering immigrants to integrate in Danish society.

In this project, I have mainly applied Ager and Strang's theories on integration as well as model of understanding the conceptual framework of integration is also applied as the authors discussed and analysed the main spheres of successful integration aligned with four different themes for instance achievement and access to employment, education, accommodation and health, then practice of citizenship and rights, social interaction and connection with the society and finally structural bonding through language, culture and environment (Ager & Strang, 2008). Additionally, I have applied the conceptual framework by Ager and Strang on defining core domains of integration to analyse the field data.

Moreover, to broaden the discussion I have also focused on other relevant theories for instance Castles and Millers's theories on migration where they focuses on several motives like sociological, political, geographical, economical or demographical for migrating. Besides, many people migrating voluntary or involuntary each year for economic factors and considering jobs, as a family or holding refugee status (2007).

Likewise, I have also discussed Neo Classical theory in the theoretical chapter to spot the prime motives for migration explicitly the push and pull factors. Additionally I have also focused on the mobility and globalization; as globalization is creating more limitations for movement and creates a new condition of global migration as well as the global regime of human rights. Hereafter, how global human rights regime challenges the scared notion of bounded territory and citizenship rights (Shamir, 2005).

In addition to this, I have also discussed theory offered by Givens on immigrant integration in Europe, where Givens discussed and analysed how the notion of immigrant integration has transformed the nature of migration movements over time and how they are gaining rights (Givens, 2006). Moreover, I have also presented the analytical discussion around the Danish welfare state and its link to integration as well as the Danish integration policy with its recent shifting paradigms.

## **3.2 INSIDER AND OUTSIDER PERSPECTIVE**

“The research process can never be totally ‘inside’ or completely ‘outside’, but involves an interrogation of situatedness and how ‘being inside’ relates to lived bodies and their practices and experiences (Woodward, 2008: 547)”. In this project I have also experienced my stand being an insider of the community I have conducted my investigation. Moreover, “the

researcher's potential position as an 'insider' offers particular opportunities for utilising self as a key resource (Voloder, 2008: 27)".

During field work the respondents get comfortable in a sense that as they considered me as them and my personal experience being in their situation also drive me to investigate further, however I have not implies my experience to understand their experience. While conducting research with same ethnicity or nationality the respondents usually consider the researcher as a 'local' and share their views and experience as a way that the researcher might also experience the same and the term like 'you would know' and 'you have been through' creates a relation or connection between the researcher and the respondents (ibid).

On the other hand, anthropologists have emphasized on the distinction among societies as well as culture, as these aspects can both influence the relationship between researcher and the respondents (Voloder, 2008). "Variables such as education, gender and class can serve to align or distance researchers from participants, consequently problematizing notions of an 'authentic' insider's perspective (Voloder, 2008:29)". Therefore, in this project being a Bangladeshi and conducting interviews with the same ethnic groups positioned me as an insider and outsider at the same time, which also biased me in a way and experienced it as a challenge.

### **3.3 CONDUCTING INTERVIEWS**

At the beginning of the interview I had taken consent from the interviewee to start the interview and my project's aims and objectives, data privacy and confidentiality. During conducting the interviews I have tried to find out an explanation for each questions on why I need to ask the question and why it is important to ask. As I early mentioned about the pre-test, in this project so before jumping to the final field work I did a trial interview for practice and to find out where to focus. I anticipated the approximate length of the interview 40 to 50 minutes. All the interviews are conducted by 40 to 45 minutes.

During interview I have also seek consent from the respondents to start interviews and recording and noting down the discussion. Among the 9 respondents only 3 were agreed to record their interviews. I have field notes written in papers and in laptop. I have also ensured respondents confidentiality while they were sharing their thoughts. I have also thanked each respondents after finishing the interview.

In this project it was very challenging from my side to be unbiased towards the same ethnic group and show neutral facial expression during interview. As in this project I have chosen to conduct my project with Bangladeshi people so it may raise question regarding my biasness. I would like to share here that I purposively chose Bangladeshi immigrants so that there is no language barrier and I can understand what exactly the respondents are saying so that it helps me to analyse each interview more precisely and in details.

Besides, I had conducted all my final interviews to the BD immigrants (who are unknown to me) as culturally Bangladeshi people feel more safe and comfortable in sharing thoughts or opinion to the unknown persons. As I had conducted 2 pilot interviews among the previously known Bangladeshi people so I had experienced that those 2 persons were very concern about what they are sharing and one of them was very scared to shared information.

Moreover, the positive side was that, 7 people I had interviewed were totally unknown to me and they were quite open to share their thoughts and opinion comfortably. Finally, I would like to say that, in this project I have tried my level best to step aside as a researcher not mixed with the respondents and behave professional and make them feel comfortable sharing their opinion. Hence, I have tried my level best to critically analyse their point of view.

Subsequently, I have mentioned earlier that I had interview particularly women in this project to get to know and analyse how they are integrating in Danish society.

On the other hand, I had also attended purposively the Bengali New Year Party in Copenhagen to observe how they celebrate their cultural festivals here and know more about the way they are connecting to each other and how they also celebrate other festivals including religious occasion. I had also experience their different point of discussion topic. I had spent most time with the women but I have also introduce myself to the men in that party but they were not very interested to talk to me. I had also shared my experience in that party in the annex.

### **3.4 ETHICAL CONSIDERATION**

Ethics are standards for a professional researcher which guide researcher to act with integrity towards the respondents in the research and the code of ethics with its principles of behavior should be implied in the field work (Guthrie, 2010). In research, the investigator should also set out some principles of ethics to maintain the data privacy or confidentiality.

Before starting interview researcher should briefly inform the respondents regarding the purpose of the study or research and what researcher will do with the result. Besides researcher should answer all the possible questions from the aspirant and also take permission to start the interview process. Moreover, researcher should respect the right not to continue the process or if the aspirant do not want to share something or his or her name and they can withdraw at any stage. In addition to this, researcher are obliged to maintain confidentiality not to reveal the information what can result to be identified in future. During interview the interviewee want not to share such information e.g. name, age or any IDs, so all the information should be secured (ibid, 2010).

Moreover, in this project, it was very difficult for me not to be fully biased. For me I think it is an ethical problem to be biased. However, for this particular project it is okay to be bias as being a Bangladeshi immigrant it influences me to conduct research and help me to understand aspirant perspective from the context.

In this project I have also maintain the research ethics to protect the information given by the interviewee. With their (respondents) consent I started interview process and in 4 interviews I have used fake name to protect the identity of the respondents. I have also recorded 3 interviews as rest of the respondents did not allowed me to do recording and the rest of the interviews I have taken instant notes. However, writing notes were challenging because it becomes tricky to make sure writing all in details. Even, during 3 interviews the aspirant was scared to share information so I have ensured that person there is no audio recording.

### **3.5 CHALLENGES AND LIMITATION**

The very first challenge I have experienced through this thesis work is to finalize my study focus area. In the beginning of the project I was interested to conduct research regarding the role of NGOs at Rohingya refugee camp in Bangladesh later due to time constraint I focused on Bangladeshi diaspora living in Denmark where remittances and labor development agent was the main concept. Later attending one seminar organized by my department I followed my passion and motivating area of study integration. So until deciding my final focusing area of research I had spent quite a lot of time behind other areas literature and read different articles. So from my point of view time limitation was the main challenge I experienced throughout the thesis work.

Before jumping in the field for collecting data, I had communicated with Bangladeshi immigrants I know, to get contact to other immigrants who are living in Copenhagen in green card scheme, accompanying family members or being student. I also had an introductory meeting to explain about my project with one Bangladeshi immigrant, however finally the main interview did not happen due to his unavailability. From that introductory meeting I also learnt how I should approach to the Bengali people here especially women who are not working here as well as what kind of questions can make the respondent uncomfortable for instance relationship or communication with the Municipality-Kommune. Hence, it helps me to rethink about developing more technically open ended questions.

On the other hand, it was quite challenging to know their real stories through the 40 minutes interview. I had also participated in one most famous Bengali festival titled “Shuvo Noboborsho” and it is a Bengali New Year 1426. I had not get any invitation to attend the party but I went with one of the Bengali family. My plan was to talk with men and women and be presented among them but the women stay separated and even have food and take pictures separately so being also a women and to be assimilated with them I was also there with them, but I did not have any interaction with men unless introducing myself. So for me it was very challenging and a new environment to see in that festival.

Moreover, during pilot study I had contacted with two people who are known to me. However, it was very challenging to get their time for interview although I knew them. I had expected that it would be very easy to get same ethnic people response for the project but it was totally opposite. I had observed that people are even scared to share their critical thought about their life here in Copenhagen.

Subsequently, for the project I needed to adopt a strategy for conducting the interviews and the applied methods. In the first pilot study interview I had applied semi structured interview questionnaire where the respondent seems like very aware to answer each questions and it was not so elaborative and less interest to open up and deliver information. However, in the second pilot study interview the respondents was very comfortable to share her opinion and thoughts.

After reconstructing the questionnaire by adding and removing some questions and make it more open ended questionnaire, in order to get more knowledge and opinion about their live in Copenhagen being in the green card scheme and integration in the Dane society. I have also send questionnaire through email and facebook to reach more people but it did not work.



Moreover, I had arranged meeting to conduct rest of the interview. I had conducted 9 interviews where 3 were students and 3 were green card holders and 3 were accompanying family members. In the beginning I thought I will focus on all these three types of Bangladeshi immigrants but after finishing all the interview the outcome from the interviews of green card holders were very interesting. Here, when I started solely on green card holders and the green card scheme then I realize that in the Danish immigration website there is no existing information regarding the rules and regulation for green card holders and overall about the scheme. As I did not find any I again need to change the direction of focusing area of the thesis. Then I have purely focused on the integration of the Bangladeshi immigrants living in Denmark.

Moreover, in all the interviews only 3 persons were agreed to allow me to record their interview, among them 1 person was green card holders and 1 of them was student as well as 1 accompanying family member. So basically I was able to record only 1 interview from the green card holders. Besides the rest of the interviews I had conducted I needed to take notes directly and memorize at the same time which was very tough in a sense that there is a scope to lose information as during conducting the interview it is not possible to write down everything as I also had to maintain eye contact.

To recapitulate this situations, I learn that I should have spent more time in specifying the research questions and finalize my study focus area and read theories more on the relevant areas as well as communicate and network with more BD immigrants to reach people in time. Besides, what is more, in the beginning I look at only integration among the Bangladeshi green card holder's perspective not the women or students, however later I considered all these three types of interviews and the information which also helped me to get more diverse information and point of discussion to analyze immigrants integration in Danish society.

## **Chapter Three**

### **Literature Review**

There are many studies have been conducted focusing on immigrant's integration and the concept of integration is similarly a noteworthy concern in Denmark. My project is also focusing on the Bangladeshi immigrant's integration in Denmark. While reviewing the articles and reading materials for my thesis work I have found numerous articles relevant to my project. However, I have considered selected materials for analyzing my field data as well as for theoretical framework.

The major theme I have focused on my thesis is Integration, besides I have also discussed around Danish welfare state and Danish integration policy. First of all I have concentrated on the conceptual framework of integration by Ager and Strang in their article titled "Understanding integration: A conceptual framework" where I came to know about the chaotic notion of integration and four main domains of integration which suggest how to analyse different perspective of integration. This articles also discuss regarding how to do successful integration as well as normative understanding of the process of integration. Ager and Strang's model of understanding the concept of integration obviously helped me think critically about perspective of integration and its implementation throughout my thesis work. For this reason I have mainly focused and analysed field data on Ager and Strang's model of conceptual framework on integration.

In addition to this, I have also significantly emphasize Castles and Miller's book on "The Age of Migration: International Population Movements in the Modern World" which provides a comprehensive analysis on social, political, economic as well as organizational aspects motivating integration process. Furthermore, as my thesis is on integration by Bangladeshi immigrants so to start from beginning the history of migrating people in developed countries like Europeans countries it is very important to analyze the motivating factors for migrating people. In terms of that discussion I have also underline the Neo-classical theory of migration for supporting my background knowledge. Moreover, I have also taken inspiration from Salazar's theory on "The Power of Imagination in Transnational Mobilities, Identities: Global

Studies in Culture and Power” as well as Ronen Shamir’s theory on “Without Borders? Notes on Globalization as a Mobility Regime”.

Moreover I have also used Terri E. Givens’s empirical research on Immigrant Integration in Europe and this article helped me to focus more on European context of integration and further discussion on multiculturalism and citizenship. Hence, I have also used Bett’s theories on Forced Migration and Global Politics which allow me to analyse the immigrants’ situation in global world and political agendas around forced migration as well as threats constructed with immigrant integration. Moreover, I have also used Critical Security Studies theory on securitization and its association with immigrant integration in terms of economic, cultural and societal security.

Likewise, I have also instigated Jöncke’s theory where the discussion cultural demands of Danish welfare state is stated, which is very relevant in this thesis. In this project while discussing around integration and Danish welfare state I have also taken enthusiasm from Ireland theory on “Becoming Europe, Immigration, integration and the welfare state” and, Tim Reeskens & Matthew Wrights’ work on “Host-country patriotism among European immigrants: a comparative study of its individual and societal roots, Ethnic and Racial Studies” and Anderson & Benedict’s theory on “Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism”. Moreover, I have also used Danish Integration policy to analyse integration process aligned with Danish welfare state.

On the other hand, finally for designing my project I have primly used Anthony Giddens’s Sociology book where he has also discussed research design and key concepts of research design, conducting interview, pilot text, developing questionnaire etc. I have also used different articles from Sage publication to get more inputs on ethics on research, conducting interviews etc.

# **CHAPTER FOUR**

## **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

This project is solely focuses on the integration route of the Bangladeshi immigrants living in Copenhagen, Denmark. Hence, to analyse the field data I have applied integration theories. In this chapter I will discuss about the integration theories and Danish integration policy as well as Danish welfare system aligned with integration process. In the beginning of this chapter I have discussed about the overall concept of integration, then integration theories and following I have also presented the Danish integration policy as well as Danish welfare system.

#### **1.1 INTEGRATION THEORIES**

Before conducting the research on the Bangladeshi immigrants' integration, it is significant to have a brief understanding of the concept and the analytical fields of integration as a theoretical background. I have to admit this review is not exhaustive; some of the most frequent concepts and models will be selected in order to provide us an overview of integration theory.

This review will firstly present the concept of integration in a broad sense, explaining the core properties and mechanism of integration. Then it will go forward to the most frequent definitions of immigrant integration in different studies, following with the development and criticism of main classical and contemporary integration theory or models. After that I will discuss the multiple dimensions in integration studies, which will be helpful as a framework in our analytical part later.

In migration studies, although the concept 'integration' is widely used in empirical and policy studies, it is still a 'chaotic concept' which has no single, clear definition. The main spheres of successful integration aligned with four different themes e.g. achievement and access to employment, education, accommodation and health, then practice of citizenship and rights, social interaction and connection with the society and finally structural bonding through language, culture and environment (Ager & Strang, 2008). The concept of integration is rather "individualized, contested and contested" (ibid). In addition to this, according to Castles et al. "there is no single, generally accepted definition, theory or model of immigrant and refugee integration. The concept continues to be controversial and hotly debated (Castles et al.,

2001:12)”. However, the concept itself is very vast and can be defined or stated in numerous way but the concepts is very significant in migration study and policies.

Subsequently, Ager and Strang (2008) in their conceptual framework of integration illustrated major domain of integration where the ‘Employment’ is considered as the most investigated area for integration. Afterwards, “Employment has consistently been identified as a factor influencing many relevant issues, including promoting economic independence, planning for the future, meeting members of the host society, providing opportunity to develop language skills, restoring self-esteem and encouraging self-reliance (Ager & Strang, 2008: 170)”.

Besides, Ager and Strang also demonstrated that, “successful resettlement depends on programmes which allow them to find a place in the new society, for example by converting their skills and qualifications so that they can be used in the new situation (Ager & Strang, 2008: 171)”. Authors also mentioned that the key areas of integration is also the vocational training and education through particular languages and skills (ibid). In addition, according to Ager & Strang (2008), education also plays a significant role for the immigrants to integrate in the host society. As education can foster essential skills and capabilities for the future employment and assist immigrants to become active members of the society.

On the other hand, the concept as well as understanding of integration creates debate due to the citizenship rights and responsibilities. According to Ager & Strang (2008), “Definitions of integration adopted by a nation inevitably depend on that nation’s sense of identity, its ‘cultural understandings of nations and nationhood (Ager & Strang, 2008: 173)”. This identity as a nation constitute certain values that helps to form the way to approach integration (ibid). Here, Ager and Strang also epitomize an example from UK that “there has been a significant shift in UK debates regarding nationhood, prompted initially by race riots in Northern England and latterly by concerns over Muslim Extremism fostering terrorist threats within the UK (Ager & Strang, 2008: 174)”. As a result the policy makers of UK are now seen to emphasize more on the harmony and disharmony besides the societal repercussions of integration (ibid).

In addition to this “full citizenship is an essential prerequisite for integration, and full participation in civic life, including political participation, is expected (Ager & Strang, 2008: 174)”. Here, Ager and Strang (2008) stated that integration practice the notion of citizenship; where the citizenship models represents four different spheres imperial, ethnic, republican and multicultural values and more specifically Europe following the ethnic-based citizenship trend. Moreover, the “ethno-cultural political exclusion tends to be associated with assimilation

models of integration: the expectation that refugees will adapt to become indistinguishable from the host community (Ager & Strang, 2008: 174-175)". The state should clearly pose the policy on nationhood and citizenship for effective integration policy (ibid).

Likewise, Ager & Strang (2008) also specified that social connection plays an important role fostering integration process in local level and this social connection represents the integrated community. However the Authors also denotes that integration is a two way process so the connection between the refugee and the communities and how people settle. Moreover, "many identified 'belonging' as the ultimate mark of living in an integrated community. This involved links with family, committed friendships and a sense of respect and shared values (Ager & Strang, 2008: 178)". This social connection lead the social bond and create ethnic enclaves (ibid). "An 'enclave' is distinct from a 'ghetto' which implies low levels of economic activity, and which becomes a permanent rather than transitory home (Ager & Strang, 2008: 179)".

In addition to this Ager & Strang (2008) also emphasized on language and they mentioned that knowing the host country's language is an advantage to be in integration process as language can be the barrier to social connection, economic integration as well as full involvement. Moreover, cultural diversity and close ties to own community culture and tradition results alienation.

On the hand, it is seen that the study of integration or the concept of integration originates from migration, so it is also important for this project to discuss about migration to understand the standing of integration. People are crossing border and when people migrate then they start developing strategies for integrating to the host societies and how they can assimilate to the host society's culture as well as tradition. There are many factors existing in the society which are influencing people to migrate. According to Castles and Millers (2007) people migrate for various motives such as sociological, political, geographical, economical or demographical. Many people migrating voluntary or involuntary each year for economic factors and considering jobs, as a family or holding refugee status (ibid).

Here I am going to discuss briefly about the Neo-Classical theory which plays a significant part in migration discipline which debate regarding the relation between the movements of low income countries to high income countries. Which is also evident in the push and pull factors of migration resulting both pros and cons. Hence, job opportunities, political and cultural strength are the positive side of the pull factors.

On the other hand, wars, lack of job opportunities, social insecurity, and economic instability push or force people to migrate. “Remittances and (conspicuous) consumption by migrants can easily increase the feeling of relative deprivation among non-migrants and increase their aspirations to migrate as a way to achieve upward socioeconomic mobility. Through the exposure to migrants’ (perceived) relative success, wealth, and status symbols (international) migration has almost become an obsession as it is perceived as the main or only avenue of vertical mobility, in which ambitions, life projects, and dreams of people are generally situated elsewhere (Salazar, 2011:589)”.

Moreover, sometimes people also migrate for better life style and specific attraction for the place with economic steadiness (Castles & Miller, 2009). “Migration is a collective action, arising out of social change and affecting the whole society in both sending and receiving areas (Castles & Miller, 2009: 21)”. Here it can be said that migration affects both countries which results developing new policies as well as laws to ensure the balance in the host society and integration is another significant step to foster collectiveness.

On the other hand, when we do discourse around integration is it obvious to analyse also the mobility and globalization. It is called that, in the era of globalization now the countries as well as people are interconnected and has access to information and the world become a global village. However, globalization is creating more restrictions in the movement (Shamir, 2005). “Globalization is a seamless flow of goods, services, ideas, technologies, cultural forms, organizational forms, and people, all more or less in agreement that globalization is largely about “free movement across national boundaries” and cross-border interdependencies (Shamir, 2005:198)”.

Now, globalization represents a differing cultural issues and creating pressure between capitalism and democracy and the difference between north and south (Shamir, 2005). Here Shamir also mentioned about the global regime of human rights which has creates a new condition of global migration. “Guest workers with no formal citizenship rights managed to establish both local and cross-border social networks, thereby creating an on-the-ground necessity to develop a variety of new “patterns of incorporation” that transcend and bypass formal citizenship rights (Shamir, 2005: 198)”. Moreover, this global human rights regime intensely demands the “scared notion of bounded territory” and its relationship to access the citizenship rights (ibid.).

In past two decades Europe imported temporary labor from Southern Europe, former colonized areas and developing countries; and those worker settled permanently and also grow their family through family reunification process, some also pursued asylum policies. All these influences the large immigration flow and changes in the policies, not only integration but also welfare, labor as well as cultural policies collaborating with the citizenship rules and regulations (Givens, 2006). Policy maker also made changes and reevaluate the integration policies and focuses on the multiculturalism and assimilation (ibid).

On the other hand, in the western world Muslim immigrants are being considered as a threat or 'enemy within' who are regulated through different policies e.g. surveillance, limited entry and conditions to authorize cultural traditionalism (Castles, 2006). "This securitization of migration soon spread to cover anyone who looked different (phenotypical racism by a new name) or indeed who dresses or behaved differently (cultural racism) (Castles, 2006:25)". Moreover to ensure integration state poses multiple mechanisms for instances citizenship tests, integration contracts, compulsory courses on language and national values (ibid).

In addition to this, "immigrant integration has gained salience in Europe because of changes in the nature of immigration flows over time (Givens, 2006:70)". Besides, Miller links the condition of Europe with the America and argues that short tenure labor migration was mismatched with the democratic ideals (Castles, 2006). "In terms of immigrant's integration, immigrants are gaining rights despite efforts to control immigration (Givens, 2006:71)".

Later it has become a political concern which results several changes in the policy initiatives. Further, the immigrant integration influences the labor sector as well as laws. So there is a paradox between the laws and the nature of immigrant integration. Here, Givens demonstrated that, "an important contradiction between laws that encourage immigrant integration and the nature of immigrant labor, in which immigrants are expected to take on dangerous and/or low-wage jobs that can only keep them in the underclass (Givens, 2006:72)".

Therefore, it is the everlasting demand of immigrant labor for the economy of the developed countries (Douglas et al., 1993). "International migration is part of a transnational shift that is reshaping societies and politics around the globe (Castles et al, 2014:139)". Immigrants who are highly skilled and migrate in a temporary labor market hardly seen integrated and the cultural distinction is seen among the immigrants as they maintain their mother language as well as homeland cultures for couple of generations (ibid).



Hence, migration stands for national uniqueness or identity. In countless countries ethnic homogeneity refers to common language, tradition, culture as well as history, on the other hand, immigration and ethnic diversity question the notion of nation as the immigrants belong to different ethnic origins (Castles et al., 2014).

Furthermore, the way to connect with immigrant people and the state is through the existing rules for attaining citizenship and naturalization (ibid). “On the other hand, states which link citizenship to cultural belonging tend to have exclusionary policies which marginalize and disadvantage immigrants (Castles et al., 2014: 20)”. Integration is the juncture amongst migrant’s policies and governing structures which are not framed for immigrant corporation mechanisms (Givens, 2006). “Integration is also considered to be a two-way process, requiring accommodation by both the native and the immigrant populations (Givens, 2006:72)”.

Therefore, to be integrated in the host country for the immigrants the terms assimilation, multiculturalism and incorporation is used by the policy makers to acknowledge the integration process. Around 1980s the Scandinavian countries were known for multiculturalism and policies supporting cultural diversity. Now, “these countries moved away from a multicultural approach and returned to a nation-building idea of integration during the 1990s (Givens, 2006:74)”.

Hence, “immigrants tend to work in jobs that natives are unwilling to do. The jobs provide low wages and are often dangerous (ibid, 2006:74-75)”. Even though the immigrants have high skills, education and training but they are not able to find suitable job for them rather they get low wage and skilled jobs. “So, regardless of the mode of immigrant’s integration, immigrants will have difficulty truly integrating as long as they are stuck in the type of jobs that do not provide them the work contracts they need to gain or maintain legal status (Givens, 2006:75)”.

In contrast, there is party politics around integration mainly among the left parties who seek immigrant voters. Besides there is also an existence of radical parties who are against immigration and rather support deportation of the immigrants and bear anti-immigrant sentiment (Givens, 2006). “Radical right parties have had an impact, particularly in countries such as Denmark and Austria where they have directly influenced government policy (Givens, 2006:75)”.

Moreover, radical parties are more strategic and effective in the national level which influence the implementation of integration policies (ibid). As the integration policy emphasize

immigrants and focuses on learning language, culture and values so policy makers should reevaluate the imbalances in education, inadequate accommodation, lack of mobility in job sector and other motivated factors what hinders immigrant to pay for certain courses or tests (Givens, 2006).

Afterward, as this project is emphasizing on integration and how are Bangladeshi people living in Copenhagen, Denmark integrating in Danish society so in the next part of discussion I have discussed concerning about the integration in Danish welfare state, which can give us an insight how Denmark as a welfare state demonstrate integration policy.

## **1.2 INTEGRATION IN THE DANISH WELFARE STATE**

Generally, we know that the welfare state is built upon citizenship and a collected national identity or individuality. Especially the latter has the possibility in being affected by the presence of immigrants, as these often pose a different tactic on such factors as culture, traditions, language, norms and values.

Moreover, in this part of the discussion I would like to highlight and emphasize on why immigrants can be seen as a threat to the welfare state and the attached national identity, and why it is seen as an important matter to integrate immigrants into the Danish society (Waever, 1995). Though the project focus on the Bangladeshi immigrants and their subject of being integrated into the Danish society through, it is suitable to touch upon, on the contra part, why integration is not only measured as a subjective feeling, but also as means of maintaining the Danish welfare state as we know it.

The Danish state is considered to be a welfare state. When thinking of the welfare state, words such as equality, political stability and a safety net for its citizens comes in mind (Albertsen, 2013). The system of the welfare state aim to distribute social wealth, and this is seen in Denmark, where paying relatively high taxes allow the citizens to for example go on paid maternity/ paternity leave, to get the benefits of free health care services and of public financial support while studying, amongst others (ibid). According to Steffen Jöhncke from Copenhagen University in Denmark, “Since 1933 the general trend has been towards a coordination of policies in terms of national economy, employment and social welfare, as well as the creation of universal schemes covering the entire population, run by the public sector and financed out of general taxation (Jöncke 2011: 39)”.

The European countries have left it up for their social welfare systems to somehow structure the presence of immigrants, which seemed, and still seems to be a difficult task. Prior to a larger influx of refugees and immigrants into the countries, they had had the focus on their own demand of foreign labor, as it was seen in Denmark with an influx of foreign workers coming from Sweden, Poland and later Turkey, but seemed to be failing for a long period, and maybe still is, to cope with social and political fallouts of refugees and other immigrants (Ireland 2004). According to Patrick Ireland “some welfare states serves not only as social protection but just as much as an agent of social control (ibid)”. They have the power in excluding or including via the policies and the way these are carried out. This is seen with policies regarding immigrants, but likewise on other matters of the social welfare system.

The focus on social welfare and equality which should cover the entire population then gives the impression that the Danes sees themselves as a population with certain responsibility forward each other. One can then draw the attention to Benedict Anderson and his book “Imagined communities – Reflection on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism, where he analyzes a nation as a social constructed community, where the people imagines themselves as part of a group (Anderson 2006)”. One can say a group of people that share certain mutual characteristics such as the same ethnic background, language and, to a certain extent, norms and value.

Some would say that the welfare state is stronger in nations where the inhabitants seem to be more ethnic, linguistic and racial alike, and nations that are more diverse on these terms, seem to focus less on social welfare. An example could be that of the US where the diversity of the people and the shorter history of the country could be the course of a more restrained system of social welfare (Wright and Reeskens, 2013).

In comparison to this, Denmark who seems more homogeneous on ethnic and linguistic terms has a strong welfare state with a focus on equal social welfare for all citizens. One can then theorize on the fact that national identity is the glue that keeps the population together, and generates the feeling of solidarity and concern for others, which is needed in order to maintain the welfare state (Wright and Reeskens, 2013).

According to Matthew Wright and Tim Reeskens, “There are three different variants of national identity each focusing on national identity as being the catalyst for the welfare state. The first is that ethnic ties are the glue that holds the welfare state together. Ethnic unity distinguishes between “us” and “them” and that makes a homogeneous feeling in the society.

The second is civic national identity, which means that the political unity that shapes a welfare state is due to shared political values, which are written down in the nation's constitution. The third is cultural national identity which refers to people who share a common language and cultural values, but do not necessarily have the same ethnicity (ibid)".

Furthermore, assuming that national identity relies on common political values and cultural features, then immigrants are entitled to refer to themselves as someone with a Danish national identity. On the other hand, if I assume that the national identity solely relies on the ethnicity of the majority of the people in Denmark, then it becomes impossible for immigrants to refer to themselves as someone with Danish national identity.

Besides, it likewise becomes impossible, since their ethnicity derives from another place. In fact, "the second generation" immigrant is also somehow an immigrant, linked to the place of their parent's birth country. When some Danes regard immigrants as people who do not have the possibility in becoming Danish, and should not have the possibility, it can derive from the fear that the presence of the immigrants will change the Danish society in terms of remodeling the welfare state, but also adding other ways of living, norms and values, that is not regarded as traditional Danish. The immigrants can then be seen as a threat to the society.

Here, Critical Security Studies (CSS) offers a theory on why some citizens of the Danish state see immigrants as a security threat. Here it is important to highlight that the security threat is not seen as a threat to security in the traditional sense, but opens up for the possibility that security can be seen as including economic, cultural and societal security (Wæver, 1995). Besides, "many threats are constructed in relation to a social group that defines itself as a "we" in position to "other" (ibid)".

Here one can see the ethnic Danes as the "we", constructed as a social group, and immigrants as the "other". The "we" wish to either keep out the threat, the "other", or somehow make sure, that the threat is under control. In order to keep societal security it is therefore important that immigrants, living in Denmark integrate and somehow become Danish, otherwise the way of life, norms and values the immigrants have been raised and lived by, and maybe still do, might be a threat to the homogeneity of the Danish society (Wæver, 1995). According to Jöncke, "For immigrants this means that, in order to become accepted as integrated, they must not only "feel Danish," they must also "do Danish" in close accordance with a whole range of particular social and cultural demands of the welfare state (Jöncke, 2011:35)".

But what it is to be Danish is naturally a subject matter, and even though the Danes might agree on certain common characteristics, one cannot define what it is to be Danish. Integration and if one is integrated or not, then becomes difficult to define. One common characteristics of many Danes is that the welfare state is regarded as a great value and that those living within the Danish borders should appreciate this and somehow live by the notion that the welfare state offers social solidarity alongside respect for the individual (Olwig et al., 2011).

This above discussion has touched upon the obstacles of integrating into the Danish Welfare state, where the system not only brings equality and solidarity amongst the citizens, but likewise questions who is entitled to be a part of this. The welfare state is built upon a nation that in the broader sense used to be a more homogeneous group of people, with the same ethnic and linguistic characteristics.

Moreover, the presence of the immigrant has hereby, for some Danes, been a threat to status quo of the Danish society, a societal threat, were there is a possibility that the economic, cultural and social landscape will change. For this reason it is likewise important that immigrants integrate, and not only become Danish in their way of thinking, but maybe more so, that they should do Danish, in accordance to the Danish welfare state.

Hence, it is mentioned in the beginning of this chapter that I will also discuss the Danish integration policy besides Danish welfare state aligned with integration theory. So now I will discuss Danish integration policy as well as the immigration and integration issues in Denmark in recent years. Moreover, the integration policy of individual countries will differ in each of them mainly due to the different understanding of the concept of integration itself. That is why it is also important for this project to point out the historical outline of Danish immigration in order to understand the earlier and current shape of the immigration and integration policy.

### **1.3 DANISH INTEGRATION POLICY**

Following the distinction of Tomas Hammar (1985), the concepts of immigration policy includes regulations on immigration and foreigners' control as well as the policy regarding the conditions provided to residents. Immigrant policy only applies to residents. Integration policy, in turn, includes an additional element that promotes the integration of residents. On the other hand, Philip Muus (1997: 31) distinguishes and defines “immigration policy (...) as the policy

related to the admission of immigrants, and integration or immigrant policy as the policy related to the incorporation of immigrants into the receiving society”.

Besides, according to The Ministry of Immigration and Integration (2016: 14) “an immigrant is defined as a person born abroad whose parents are both (or one of them if there is no available information on the other parent) foreign citizens or were both born abroad. If there is no available information on either of the parents and the person was born abroad, the person is also defined as an immigrant”.

In addition to this, the Ministry of Immigration and Integration (2016: 6) defines the permanent character of the presence of immigrants as “long-term migration, which represents the movement of a person to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of at least one year (12 months), so that the country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of residence. Long-term migration includes both long-term emigration and long-term immigration”.

The 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2017, Statistics Denmark reported 591 433 people of non-Danish origin living in Denmark forming 10% of Danish population. According to the recent statistics in 2019 the number of Bangladeshi immigrants is 2000. Since 1980, which dates the earliest Danish statistics available online, the number of immigrants in Denmark has more than multiplied. This undoubtedly implies an increase in the need to create an integration policy directly proportional to the change in the number and nature of immigrants in Denmark over the years.

Although it could be argued that the Danish hospitality is dating back to the sixteenth century and from the beginning was associated with a range of privileges for immigrants awarded for significant contribution to the development of cultural and economic Denmark, with oncoming of the nineteenth century the situation began to change when Danes started bringing foreigners to do hard physical works. The post-war immigration wave included mainly blue-collar workers. The demand for them has increased in the sixties and seventies, after the Danes (before 1960) unwilling to take physical job, have begun mass immigration (Olwig, 2011).

Moreover, guest-workers' employment lasted until 1973 and would last longer if not the increase in oil prices and sudden unemployment, and thus the economic recession. This resulted in stopping immigration, but already existing immigrants decided to settle in Denmark and

bring family under the family reunification program, and thus the number of foreigners began to grow again (Udlændingesservice 2008).

The 1<sup>st</sup> of February 1999 Integration Act came into force, defining the legal framework for the integration in Denmark, indicating the main directions in which the integration process should proceed and presenting the range of rights and obligations concerning immigrants. The Act charges the municipalities responsible for the integration process (The Ministry of Immigration and Integration, 2016: 52).

According to paragraph 1 of the above presented document, the Danish integration is carried in a biopic manner. On the one hand, it is to provide opportunities for participation in the public sphere, and on the other, to provide a clear understanding of the fundamental norms and values that govern Danish society. From the paragraph quoted, it can be read that the legislators wanted to create a multicultural society functioning on an equal footing while still respecting these. Besides, paragraph 16 points, in turn, to compulsory integration programs for refugees and members of the family reunification program, which the beneficiaries must follow to receive social benefits and citizenship in the future.

The Liberal Party (Venstre) created after the elections that took place on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, established at the same time the Ministry of Immigration, Integration and Housing. The Ministry's task was to develop a new immigration and integration policy. The government's work resulted in the 'Together for the future' platform, which sets the direction of the new immigration and integration policy. The government emphasizes the need to create a hard and consistent immigration policy, showing Denmark as open to immigrants who are willing and able to integrate with the Danish community and closed to opponents of integration phenomenon (The Ministry of Immigration and Integration, 2016: 29).

In February 2016, the government developed the project "United for better integration" and called social partners and municipalities to cooperate in the field of integration. The goal is to achieve better results by foreigners on the labor market. The government in the budget for 2016 allocated 6.5 billion Danish crowns on integration. The result of the project was the signing in March of the following year, the two agreements with the social partners and local authorities, containing more than 80 integration initiatives (The Ministry of Immigration and Integration, 2016: 51). Below are the most relevant to my project strategies of the current Danish government aimed at successful integration.

As the first one, attention should be paid to the strategy of intensified annual integration program with an emphasis on participation in the labor market, which puts the creation of employment opportunities after registering a newly arrived person in a given commune, in the first place. Refugees and members of the family reunification program from the beginning will be considered as ready to take up a job.

In addition, a three-year initiative was created to raise inadequate qualifications for selected groups of beneficiaries. Special restrictions apply to municipalities concern increasing the linguistic qualifications in teaching Danish language: lessons should take place at the workplace or outside working hours and be oriented to teaching professional language. Municipalities also have the task of monitoring skills such as the language and professional experience of the beneficiaries of the program. In return, municipalities and enterprises supporting foreigners on the labor market receive subsidies in the amount of 25,000 Danish crowns for each employed immigrant in 2016 and 2017, as well as additional bonuses on the terms specified in the program (ibid).

Additionally, Mette Frederiksen, leader of the Social Democrats group (Socialdemokraterne), in her speech from 2016 said: “there are too many immigrant women who do not speak Danish. Do not go to work. The employment rate for foreigners is way too low. And it costs (Frederiksen 2016)”. I have particularly focused on this quote because in this project I have also focused on the women and interviewed women who are living in Denmark. Subsequently, in the following chapter I am going to analyse my field data based on the theories discussed here in this section.



# CHAPTER FIVE

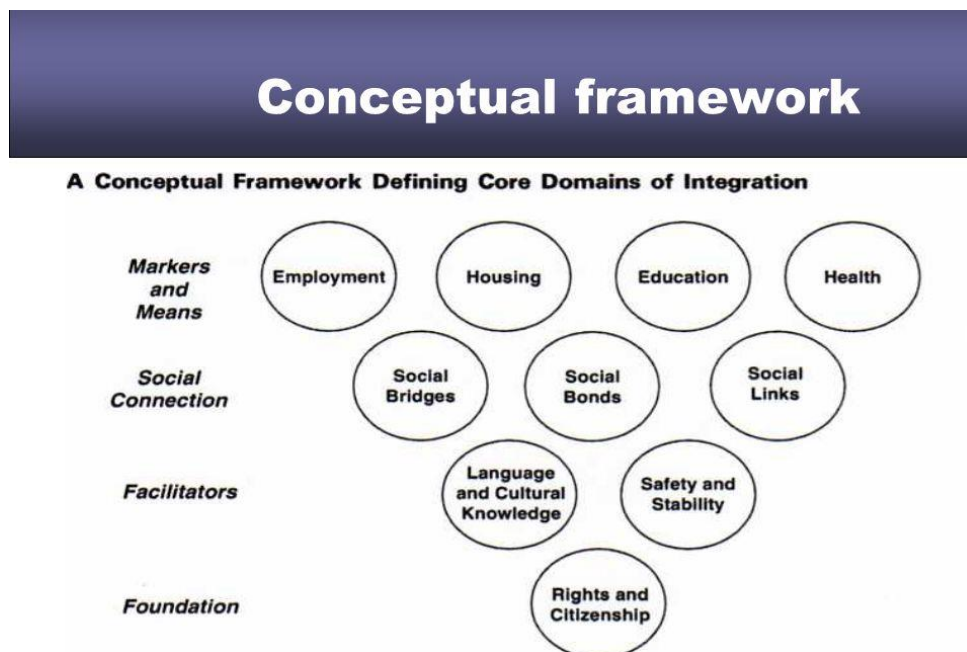
## ANALYSING FIELD DATA

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In this chapter I have applied the model of understanding the integration by Ager and Strang. Moreover I have analyzed the information collected from my field work through the integration model proposed by Ager and Strang. In order to collect the information to formulate analysis for this project I have developed a questionnaire for clear understanding of my research questions. In this section, I have used quotation, words, explanation from my transcriptions which I have attached in the annexure. I have also presented my analysis section under the proposed domains of the main section titled ‘Conceptual Framework of Integration’ associated with my research questions and sub-questions as well as analyze the information and broaden discussion applying other relevant theories besides Ager and Strang’s conceptual framework of integration.

### 1.1 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF INTEGRATION

In this part of analysis I have focused on the conceptual framework on core domains of integration proposed by Ager and Strang where the authors analysis different key issues or domains for considering integration process.



(Ager and Strang 2008)

Figure 1, Source: (<https://slideplayer.com/slide/9421052/>)

Ager and Strang (2008) in their conceptual framework of integration proposed core domains of integration in four different categories and under each four categories they also proposed 10 more principles of integration. However, in this project all the domains are not discussed or analysed. This is because, after conducting the interviews it is seen that some indicators are visible which are similar to the above mentioned framework. As in this project my interlocutors were from different visa categories so the perception of integration according to them seems also different. Moreover, if we see the above represented framework from the interviews some areas for integration are reflected for example employment, language, education, citizenship and rights, social connection and strong ethnic bonds which can be analysed.

## **1.2 EMPLOYMENT**

To begin with, according to Ager and Strang (2008) the ‘Employment’ is considered as the most investigated area for integration. Afterwards, “Employment has consistently been identified as a factor influencing many relevant issues, including promoting economic independence, planning for the future, meeting members of the host society, providing opportunity to develop language skills, restoring self-esteem and encouraging self-reliance (Ager & Strang, 2008: 170)”. In this project the interlocutors also shared their views on their experience regarding employment in Denmark and shared how their employment experience is linked with the immigration rules and regulations as well as visa extending requirements.

However, the experience also defers according to the different categories of visa categories. Besides, the green card holders living in Denmark have their own view on integration. Particularly, in the beginning, the green card holders shared their view on the changing rules and regulation they have gone through. Moreover, they also shared the rules for green card holders and green card scheme make their life hard to fulfill the schemes’ requirement.

The green card holders who were interviewed for this project had come to Denmark as a guest workers like other guest workers through an intense process where they had to prove their proficiency as well as skills to be accepted in the Danish labour market. The guest workers, students, family members who are in employment, they are working in an unprofessional sectors and all the respondents openly shared that this unprofessional employment sectors separating them from the main society as their co-workers are not Danish but Asian, African

and other European countries people. Here we can argue that there is a very strong relation between professional and unprofessional employment to consider integration through employment.

According to Givens (2006) also point out that integration policy is focused on the learning language so that immigrant can get access to different sectors. Here if we discuss why Bangladeshi immigrants are doing unprofessional job then it is evident that the interlocutors who are students as well as accompanying family members are doing unprofessional job because of language barrier and lack of learning language. On the other hand the green card holders who come here as a guest worker are doing also odd job due to language barrier as well as to fulfill the green card scheme requirement.

### **1.3 LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE**

As stated by Ager and Strang (2008) learning host society's local language reflects the structural bonding with the host society and proceed successful integration. So language plays an important role to find the right employment for the immigrants. Nevertheless some of the respondents in this project can speak Danish but not in very communicative way so learning native Danish language could assist them to get professional job and through that job they could integrate in the Danish society as the employment can lead wider opportunities to be connected with the host society's members and enrich language skills.

Moreover, Olwig (2011) stated that around sixties and seventies Danes were not willing to do physical jobs and that is the starting to mass immigration. Here we can see the global pull factors attracting people to global market which constitute both positive and negative impacts. Based on the 3 interviews with green card holders it is evident that they voluntarily migrate to Denmark for economic factors and to get PR and stay here forever. They have less motivation to live in their homeland for political, social and economic reason what also pushes them to migrate in Denmark. The push as well as pull factors are very important to understand the mobility of the Bangladeshi immigrants in this project and through this process their family also follow them here.

Further, in Givens's theory on immigrant integration in Europe where the author represented a paradox between the law for immigrant and the integration policy where immigrants are

expected to do low wage unskilled jobs, risky work what hold them to be underclass. Subsequently, highly skilled immigrants or who migrate temporarily they are hardly seen to be integrated because of cultural and national ties (Givens, 2006). Here, linking with my field data I have found out that the immigration rules and regulations as well as its changing dimensions pushes immigrants indirectly to the unskilled job sectors. While performing in the unskilled job sectors they have to work double hours comparing to professional job to meet the income requirements set by the government. Moreover, this situation hinder immigrants integrate in the Danish society.

On the other hand, in this project the female accompanying family members are seen not working and this kind of unemployment closes the way of integrating in the host society, however they are learning Danish language as they have children and to take care their children in Danish society they must need Danish language, otherwise they are not using language to communicate with other members of the society, they are using English all the time. The Bangladeshi cultural and traditional ties are very strong among this group too which can prevent them not integrating in the Danish society.

## **1.4 EDUCATION**

Additionally, Castles and Millers (2007) stated that the factors like sociological, political, geographical, economical or demographical people migrate. Here Castles and Millers also mentioned about considering jobs in high income countries attracts people to migrate. The Bangladeshi immigrants also came in Denmark with certain dreams and where they can lead a good life style, and Salazar (2011) calls it as a vertical mobility.

On the other hand, the students from Bangladesh living in Denmark came here particularly to attain higher education and also establish themselves after their study. Mainly students have vision to build their career in Denmark and then settle here permanently. For that they emphasize on integration and they learn Danish and have Danish friends and also attend different Danish cultural events or festivals. Moreover students seem very interested to be integrated with Danish society. However, the students also shared their frustration doing odd job although they have Danish degree. For them only learning and understanding Danish language is not enough native speaking is also important and they also think there is bigger opportunity to build career in Denmark.

In addition to this Ager & Strang (2008) also emphasized on language as another important elements for integrating in the host countries and they mentioned that knowing the host country's language is an advantage to be in integration process as language can be the barrier to social connection, economic integration as well as full involvement. Moreover, cultural diversity and close ties to own community culture and tradition results alienation. Besides, from the field data it is also evident that Bangladeshi immigrants are emphasizing on language as one of the most important sectors for integrating in Danish society. However it is also come out from the interviews that the Bangladeshi immigrants who can speak Danish, do not use Danish language in workplace and home. So there is lack of learning as well as practicing Danish language and use in everyday life of Bangladeshi immigrants due to strong cultural practices and ties.

Stating one example from the interview with one green card holder about language problem that as a parents now they are having problem with communicating with their daughter as she does not response to Bengali, only Danish or English, she become Danish so they are very upset right now how to handle this situation. The couple speak English and they started Danish now to communicate easily with their baby and understand what baby is saying and cope up accordingly. Here we can see a contradiction between Danish and Bangladeshi culture as parents want their children to become Bangladeshi first.

Besides, Ager and Strang also demonstrated that, "successful resettlement depends on programmes which allow them to find a place in the new society, for example by converting their skills and qualifications so that they can be used in the new situation (Ager & Strang, 2008: 171)". Here we can link from my field data collected from all kinds of Bangladeshi immigrants who are placed in Denmark in different visa categories and based on their visa categories the immigrants performing and creating new scenario of their living condition.

Authors also mentioned that the key areas of integration is also the vocational training and education through particular languages and skills. In addition, education also plays a significant role for the immigrants to integrate in the host society. As education can foster essential skills and capabilities for the future employment and assist immigrants to become active members of the society (Ager & Strang, 2008). So it can be said that Bangladeshi immigrants who are studying here also in a way integrating to the Danish society as they are representing Danish education and an ambassador of the education.

## **1.5 RIGHTS AND CITIZENSHIP**

In addition to this, “full citizenship is an essential prerequisite for integration, and full participation in civic life, including political participation, is expected (Ager & Strang, 2008: 174)”. In this project, 2 of the Bangladeshi immigrants who participated in the interview are holding Permanent Citizenship and through the permanent residency the immigrants will get the opportunity to attain the Danish passport and one of them participated in the municipalities election last year, so it can be said that attaining Permanent residency and take part in election symbolizes the full integration. Here, Ager and Strang (2008) stated that integration practice the notion of citizenship; where the citizenship models represents four different spheres imperial, ethnic, republican and multicultural values and more specifically Europe following the ethnic-based citizenship trend. In this project, one of the findings from the field work is that all the respondents are very interested to attain permanent residency because of the Danish Welfare system.

Moreover, the “ethno-cultural political exclusion tends to be associated with assimilation models of integration: the expectation that refugees will adapt to become indistinguishable from the host community (Ager & Strang, 2008: 174-175)”. Besides, especially when to analyse the integration process by the green card holders they could not share their integration process in real life rather it is all about accomplishing mandatory visa requirement to be accepted by the Danish society as a permanent resident and besides learning Danish for getting good job. Otherwise their daily life is strongly connected with their roots and same ethnic community as the ethnicity and cultural as well as religious factors influence them to be different from the local.

Here we can see what Denmark as a welfare state resembles, as the welfare state is built on citizenship and national identity so the immigrants with different ethnicity and national identity can be affected. According to Ireland (2004), in the social welfare system they positioned immigrants on their own demand for foreign labour and state become the agent to control the system or society through introducing different policies related to immigrant.

Moreover, Wright and Reeskens (2013) also explain that, Denmark as a homogeneous country in terms of ethnic, linguistic and strong focus on equal social welfare to keep people united and together which can motivate people to be concern for others holding welfare state and the ethnic harmony brings a homogenous feeling in society. The authors also shared the notion of national

identity what refers common norms, values and culture; however this juncture can create a distance between the Danish and the immigrants. This is because immigrants like Bangladeshi holds different norms, values, culture, religious and political view and this can result changing the Danish society reshaping the Danish welfare system and emerge threat to the society (ibid).

At this point, it is important to highlight that, according to Ole Wæver (1995) stated that why immigrants can be seen as a threat to the societal security as well as constructing the notion of 'we' and 'other', here other symbolizes immigrants. Here, we can give example what Castles (2006) also confer regarding Muslim immigrants, Castles says that the Muslim immigrants are seen as well as treated as a threat or 'enemy within' and they are controlled and structured by certain rules and limited entry, surveillance and this condition effects to other immigrants who even looked, dressed or behaved different. Additionally to attest the integration process by the immigrants government position numerous regulation for example citizenship tests, integration contracts, language course and bear national values.

Besides, Jøncke (2011) also added that to be fully integrated and accepted by the Danish welfare state immigrants have to 'feel' and 'do' Danish. About 'feeling' there was one question in the interview I have used if the Bangladeshi immigrants feel like Danish, however the response was negative and the cultural root and changing rules and regulation influence the immigrants to feel different. Here we can also denote what Givens stated about changing immigration policy what motivate the policy according to him. Givens (2007) , in this particular situation mentioned that the labour who come to Europe or developing countries and settled for permanently and bring family or grow family through family reunification process influence the immigration policy makers to reconsider the immigration policy and bring changes in integration, labor, sociocultural policies.

One of the green card holder stated that "The general danish people, social system all are good but I think the politician who set up immigration policy their planning should be human (Interview 1, Audio clip 1: 29 minutes 15 second- 31 minutes 43 seconds)".

The respondent opined in that way as the green card scheme had changed after he came to Denmark, which also prevented him not to integrate in the Danish society. Moreover, it is also seen that the policy makers of Scandinavian countries use different concepts like assimilation, multiculturalism and incorporation in the integration process however now countries are seen

to be shifted from the notion of multiculturalism to nation-building idea what motivates or influences to the shifting paradigm of integration policies (Givens, 2006). Furthermore, according to Matthew Wright and Tim Reeskens (2013) who presented 3 different alternatives of national identity where the last one denotes that cultural national identity means people common language and cultural values with different ethnicity.

## **1.6 SOCIAL CONNECTION**

Likewise, Ager & Strang (2008) also specified that social connection plays an important role fostering integration process in local level and this social connection represents the integrated community. However the Authors also denotes that integration is a two way process so the connection between the refugee and the communities and how people settle. From the field data it also apparent that the Bangladeshi immigrants also emphasizes the importance of two way integration process.

Moreover, “many identified ‘belonging’ as the ultimate mark of living in an integrated community. This involved links with family, committed friendships and a sense of respect and shared values (Ager & Strang, 2008: 178)”. This social connection lead the social bond and create ethnic enclaves (ibid). “An ‘enclave’ is distinct from a ‘ghetto’ which implies low levels of economic activity, and which becomes a permanent rather than transitory home (Ager & Strang, 2008: 179)”. The Bangladeshi immigrants have their strong ethnic enclave where they help each other finding job opportunities. One of the most popular living area for Bangladeshi immigrants in Denmark is Tingbjerg, which is one of the ghetto area in Denmark.

According to Castles (2014), as migration stands for national uniqueness or identity and ethnic homogeneity refers to common language, tradition, culture as well as history, on the other hand, immigration and ethnic diversity question the notion of nation as the immigrants belong to different ethnic origins.

“If you drink beer with them that’s easy to integrate with them, with friends then you become part of their community” (Interview 2.1, Audio Clip No. 2.1: 33 second-38 second).

Adjusting to the new culture is not easy for the immigrants due to cultural differences as the immigrants have their own cultural ties (Ager & Strang, 2008). Subsequently, while conducting the interview the food culture become a significant issue for the Bangladeshi immigrants as the



Muslim religious philosophy is linked with their food culture. Besides, food choices or culture is one of the important issue which hindering Bangladeshi immigrants in integration process. Moreover, Ager & Strang also stated that “The value of refugee communities maintaining cultural traditions for themselves (Ager & Strang, 2008: 183). Besides, the authors also mentioned regarding ‘sharing own culture with others’ which can foster mutual understanding to contribute in the integrated community (ibid).

In addition to this, Bangladeshi immigrants are taking part of the national level games and playing games can socially connect the immigrants to the host society. Ager and Strang (2008) in their conceptual framework of integration they suggested ‘The social connection’ as one of the major domain of integration where they also proposed three other sub domains such as social bridges, social bonds as well as social links. From the field data it is evident that, as two Bangladeshi immigrants are playing in Danish 2<sup>nd</sup> Division Cricket League so it can be said that they are integrating strongly with this sectors as it connects and creates bridges with the host society.

To sum up this part of analysis, as the analysis followed by the conceptual framework proposed by Ager and Strang, all the domains presented by the authors though not reflected in this project. In this project six domains are directly linked with the project’s research findings. Where it is visible that all these six domains e.g. employment, education, social bridges and links, language and cultural knowledge as well as rights and citizenship are basically playing significant role in integration process. However, the rest of the domains proposed by Ager and Strang are not visible or cannot be link with this project as the research questions and the interview guideline reflects the six areas only.

Moreover, considering the main research question for this ‘Are Bangladeshi Immigrants Integrating in Danish Society?’ it can be said that, Bangladeshi immigrants are in a way integrating in Danish society through employment, learning language, linked with the national level games and holding citizenship rights. However, form the field data we can see that the challenges experiencing by the Bangladeshi immigrants in Denmark. Moreover, one of the obstacles is triggered that the changing rules and regulations basically preventing the Bangladeshi immigrants to integrate in the Danish society.

In addition to this, in this project I also emphasized the cultural diversity as one of the key to measure integration by the Bangladeshi immigrant. This is because, cultural perspective symbolizes the connection and associations or bonds to the host society, and in this project it can be seen that the Bangladeshi immigrants whether they are integrating through different areas like employment, education and language but they are not seen connected with the host society and cannot assimilate with the culture of the host society due to their own cultural roots. This cultural differences also mainly averting the Bangladeshi immigrants not to integrate in the Danish society.

Conversely, the employment area experienced by the Bangladeshi immigrants in Denmark also indicates major challenge to integrate in the Danish society as they are working in the unprofessional field where they mostly have other European co-workers not Danish, in that sense they are integrating with the Danish society connecting with other European immigrants however they are not using Danish language communicating with other European in that case it might not be considered as integration.

Moreover, the Bangladeshi immigrants through their work they are paying taxes like local residents so in that case they are directly contributing to the countries development of the Danish welfare system like Danish people and it is integration. Additionally, as two of the respondents in this project holding permanent citizenship after meeting the language, employment and citizenship tests so they are also directly integrating in the Danish society. Contrariwise, it is also seen that even though the Bangladeshi immigrants who are holding permanent residency still experiencing the Danish language as a barrier to integrate in the Danish society and to get skilled job in the Danish labor market.

To recapitulate it can be said that the proposed framework definitely compliment this project findings and theoretical foundation, however the findings from the field work shows challenges faced by the Bangladeshi immigrants in every possible domains of integration and there is always some inconsistency that preventing Bangladeshi immigrants to integrate in the Danish society. So it can be said that the Bangladeshi immigrants are integrating in Danish society with some inconsistency.

## CHAPTER SIX

### CONCLUSION

Bangladeshi immigrant mainly migrated in Denmark for economic reason as well as better life style. It can be said that many immigrants from Bangladesh do have ability to cross the international border and make living in the developed countries as well as achieving citizenship. Besides, adapting in the Danish welfare state is also in a way is the integration. In this project the main research question is ‘Are the Bangladeshi immigrants integrating in Danish society?’ and to find out the answer of this question I have conducted 9 interviews and it is obvious to mention that the sample size is very small to analyse as well as to find out the exact answer, however, the sample group represent Bangladeshi immigrants community in Denmark. Besides, the findings can be considered as a tool to conduct further research on the concept of integration in a broader perspective.

Furthermore, the theoretical framework as well as the analysis of this project is mainly inspired by the framework proposed by Ager and Strang. In this project I have also focused on Danish welfare system as well as Danish integration policy to compliment the analysis and theories to understand the concept of integration. The major finding in this project direct us to focus on particular issues for example the unskilled job sectors and policy around it, social and cultural connectivity linked to the integration process.

Moreover, I would like to mention that the Bangladeshi immigrants are very aware of changing rules and regulations of immigration and integration laws as it can let them migrate to another country where immigrants are more welcomed and valued. Moreover, the Bangladeshi immigrants would like to migrate to another country not homeland as they are habituated to live a better living standard. The immigrants are seen focusing on meeting the rules and regulation for their visa extension not the integration, however they recognize the importance of integration.

In addition to this, the cultural diversity and particular ethnic identity also influencing them to be more closed to the same ethnic community than the hos society’s members. And this cultural discrepancy might influence the policy makers to think differently about the immigrants and its laws and regulations connected with the immigrants. As state assumes that the cultural diversity of immigrants can bring risks to the society’s norms, values and culture so immigrants are particularly controlled and directed through states policies and immigration law (Waever, 1995).

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## **Annexure**

### Annexure 1: Questionnaire for Interview

1. Name (*It's also okay if you don't want to share your name in this research*):
2. Age:
3. Family status (Married/Unmarried/Number of Children):
4. Citizenship status (PR/Green Card holder/Student) in Denmark :
5. Country of Origin:
6. Duration of staying/living in Denmark:

#### **Please Answer the following questions elaborately**

7. When did you first arrive in Denmark and Why (Motivation/Reason/Interest to come in Denmark, what you knew about Denmark) ?
8. Tell about your family here in Denmark (do you follow your family here or they followed you/was it easy for them to come here or you to come here).
9. Share your first 1 month living experience in Denmark (your expectation, finding job, housing, making friends, communication with Kommune/International house, tourist spots, transportations, any unexpected situation etc.
10. Tell about Danish culture, language and politics (what you like about Danish culture and what not, how do you feel about the language, your interests in Danish politics, voting rights in DK)
11. Tell about your Danish friends and Bangladeshi friends or other friends (what you do in the weekend, how often you meet your friends, how you enjoy your free time)
12. Tell about your work life here (how long it take to get the job, job searching journey, your first job, your colleagues and where are they from)
13. How you enjoy your holiday/spare times/weekend and with whom?
14. Share about how you celebrate or observe Bangladeshi festivals or religious festivals in Denmark (Bengali New year, Eid, Independence or victory day)
15. How you enjoy Danish cultural events?
16. How often meet or get together with your community people and how you enjoy your time?
17. Do you follow politics in your home country? Do you feel the need to vote in your

home country?

18. Are you a member of a Danish local club or social groups? Are your children?) e.g. football club, band, religious group ) And how do you feel about it. Why?
19. Do you feel represented and respected in Denmark or rather discriminated or even excluded?
20. Do you see Denmark as an open or closed country, is there a lot of diskrimination against people with another ethnicity?
21. Do you feel that you have bigger opportunities in Denmark (access to education, job, politics, social life, health care) than in your home country? Why?
22. Do you feel Danish? Why/ Why not?/ how do you feel living in Denmark?
23. What is your future plan (do you have plan to stay here permanently if so what strategy you will take, work life etc.)

## **Annexure 2: All Interviews**

### **INTERVIEW: PILOT TEST 1**

Interview Date 5 March 2019

Place of Interview: Brøndby Strand

Duration of Interview: 40 Minutes

No Audio Record

Muhammad Abul Hayat, 37 years old came to Denmark in the month of February 2014. He is married and has one 2 years old daughter. He lived Sweden 2 years for study purpose and just before his visa finished, then he came to Denmark getting Green card. He followed his friends as his friends were also shifted in Denmark getting green card. To start new life he came to Denmark. In the beginning he thought after his study in Sweden he will get job in Denmark but he did not get that. After coming here in Denmark he started searching for job and for this purpose he went to international house (suggested by his friends) for registering CPR number. He also attended training on Danish CV writing so that he can get job easily.

He was particularly interested to come to Denmark because of the good salary, social security, good life style but his first impression to arrive in Copenhagen was not good. He thinks Copenhagen is not so clean comparing to Stockholm. He expected to get a professional job here and he was preparing for that but the law had changed in that time that green card holder need to work full time instead of working 10 hours per week, then he jumped into odd job to fulfil the requirement.

Moreover, to get the professional job he needed Danish language so then he started Danish language course and his target was only to get PR live in Denmark as it has better financial condition. After doing language he felt that now it's easier to communicate with people or Kommune or work place. In case of asking about is there any help or demand he experience through the Kommune ? he informed that before getting PR he didn't get any support, even commune do not give any guidance for job or housing they just help in case of CPR transfer system.

Now he is doing full time cleaning job and he has friends from his work place who are from Turkey, Ghana, Spain, Nepal, India and boss from Denmark. He has friends usually from Bangladesh. He is very active in Bangladeshi community and he also attend in different events in the mosque. In the weekend he spends most of the time at home with family and when he got long time vacation then he travels to Bangladesh. He also travel to other European countries.

At home he speaks Bengali not Danish. He mentioned I am totally Bangladeshi. As he is very busy with family and job life so he do not get time to engage with other social activities here. However, he is very concern about Danish politics and read newspaper to know about the law if it changes or not. He voted in commune but not participated in the national election. Besides he is also very interested in Bangladeshi politics.

He added more that he likes the social security in Denmark and economic factors but culturally it conflicts as it is completely different so he lives Bangladeshi life here and raising children in BD culture. He doesn't like one thing about Denmark is that the country only celebrate Christian religious festivals and holidays related to Christian religion but not the other religions. He mentioned in Bangladesh he at least he can enjoy all festivals. For better and



secured life style this country is better than Bangladesh that is why he likes to maintain dual citizenship.

Experience during this interview

During interview I have observed that the person is scared to share information and somehow very concern not to share critical view about Denmark as he recently got permanent residence in Denmark. He was checking if I am recording the interview or not. I have also observed that this person is only focusing on legal side of being a legal citizen and now it is a concern that during this period how much he is integrated in the Danish society. Furthermore, it was very tough to get appropriate and open answers for the questions. Besides, he was not opening that much. It is also observed during interview that he is living here for the better life style.

INTERVIEW: PILOT TEST 2

Interview Date 7 March 2019

Place of Interview: Veksovej

Duration of Interview: 40 Minutes

No Audio Record

One of the interviewee for the pilot test for the project is Anannya Jahan, aged 28 years studying in Denmark. She came to Denmark for higher studies in 2015, the Danish Culture and education system motivated her to come here and study. She was very excited after coming here and her 1<sup>st</sup> week was very good she enjoyed her 1<sup>st</sup> week roaming and visiting different tourist spots in Copenhagen with her husband. Her husband had lived in Greece in for 6 years and when she came to Denmark for study then he also moved. Her husband was also trying to move in other European countries as there was an economic crisis/recession in Greece back that time. Then she applied as a student visa so that they can start new life here again. So when they made it happen they were very happy.

Before coming to Denmark she knew that Denmark is one of the happiest countries in the world and least corrupted country which was really a big motivational factors for her too. However,

in case of Danish language it was very hard in the beginning. Before coming here she knew that the language is a big factor to enter in the social and economic sector. So after coming here she searched for job and after getting job she started Danish language course besides study. To get job here Bangladeshi community help and as his husband is living in Greece and have experience in kitchen work so he got job easily and then it became also easy for her to get job.

She did not get any support from Kommune regarding how she can get job or lead life, but she only get help in terms of getting CPR registration. On the other hand, as a student she also has many restrictions regarding support from Kommune, basically no social benefit she can take. She opined that she didn't get any support throughout her social life and in integration process.

Moreover, during her spare time or weekend she goes for shopping, watching movies, visiting friends house, doing household chores and travelling. She also hangout with her classmates in the university. She made friends from her university and work place. She is kind of introvert person she thinks so she made friends few and that was her main obstacle making friends.

Her social life is normal she thinks, she is busy girls doing job, study and maintain family that's how her days are going. At home she is living a combined of Bengali and Danish cultural life. As a couple they are living very liberal life and they do not have any problem accepting or following Danish culture. Her husband and she both speak Danish sometimes at home. She feels sometimes Danish as in Bangladesh she was not leading her life like now she is free and safe here and can do whatever she wants to enjoy her life no social pressure although sometimes it becomes a concern and she thinks about other Bangladeshi community people here as here all Bangladeshi people do care about how you lead your life, if you do or act Danish they don't like it. In party or event if you wear western dress they will not take it very friendly they accept or like to see you in Bangladeshi costume but I don't care but to show respect or be like them I try to wear something Bengali tradition. I like Danish culture. I feel independent here in Denmark.

She has no interest in Danish politics and her countries politics but she keep information regarding the law change circumstances. She also added that she does not even feel voting in her country of origin. When discussing about if she feels represented and respected in Denmark or faced any discrimination or excluded. She told that she experienced both. She also think in job sector there is discrimination and somehow all most all the immigrants from India, Bangladesh, Pakistan are somehow only get job in restaurant and cleaning job so in job sector

somehow they are discriminated and she does not like it. She thinks here in Copenhagen there is big opportunities for jobs and better future but it is only possible for native Danish speaker but there is also some exceptions she also believes that and she wants to take that challenge.

Experience during interview

I think she was very comfortable and very open. She also shared as she was feeling sick so she share like this. She was very positive about Danish culture but about job she has frustration and she feels discriminated at the same time. She critically thinks about her life in Denmark and plan for future in that way.

INTERVIEW: 3

Date of Interview: 15 March 2019

Place of interview: Osterbrogade

Duration of Interview: 53 Minute

Audio Recording is Available (no.01 audio clip)

**24. Name:** Walid Jahan

**25. Age:** 35

**26. Family status (Married/Unmarried/Number of Children):** Married, 2 children

**27. Citizenship status (PR/Green Card holder/Student) in Denmark :** PR holder from green card

**28. Country of Origin:** BD

**29. Duration of staying/living in Denmark:** 5 year 3 months

Walid came to Denmark in 2014. Before coming to Denmark he lived in UK for 3 years for educational purpose and he did Masters there. Then he got back to Bangladesh and tried to find IT job and he did IT job for 3 years. Basically when he lived and experienced European life style and after that living Bangladeshi life it become difficult for him to deal with. During that time the national election was knocking the door and the environment become very difficult and he was afraid of going out and send his employers for marketing. For this reason it became tough for him.

Moreover he also became frustrated as he was also newly married that time where he needed fixed income to run the family. As he was feeling so in secured and frustrated with job and business he started to look for opportunities in different countries where there is a scope for him. He found New Zealand and Denmark with good possibilities for him as that time these two countries were not asking for any IELTS score. He thought in that time to get required IELTS score at 1<sup>st</sup> chance was also quite difficult.

However, he focused and emphasized more on Denmark as the embassy is in Dhaka and easy to do all the process and to apply visa and do all processing for New Zealand he needed to visit India so it was a matter of saving time in that moment. Finally, he get information about Denmark and found out it is the 2<sup>nd</sup> happiest country in the world, he had good score and no IELTS needed for applying and he also emphasized on the number of Muslim people in Denmark as he is Muslim.

Besides, he opined that for him it was important to see this fact as where is going to live in is it secured for him or not. When he lived in London he found it safe as a Muslim but the issue on making cartoon about prophet (SM) he thought Denmark is anti-muslim and racist but when he found out information from internet that there are many muslim people living here without problem and there are also Mosques so he thought it was like London. For him it was very important to see if he can practice his religion freely or not and is there any torture against Muslim or not. After confirming all these he decided to come here. Besides, He found out Denmark is very secured and the community is also very nice and there is good opportunity for IT jobs so finally he decided to move in Denmark as a green card holder.

Additionally, he mentioned that in terms of age, education, job experience he had good points. He also shared that in that time the rules were a green card holder must need to work 10 hours minimum per week so after completing 3 years session he will again get 2 years session and again 3 years session. Moreover, within this session if anyone can fulfil the requirement for Permanent residence then he or she can apply too. So he thought for surviving he can do this amount of work and if he cannot find job by any chance he will left the country, so he was mentally prepared for both situation. However, they only drawback or challenges he found that time is language. He was scared of learning new language in that age but he was also motivated on the other side as he knew that the government provide free courses to learn Danish language. So after applying for green card he got decision after 7 months that he got Green Card.

After coming to Denmark he was picked up by a Bangladeshi from the airport and he stayed in their place until he finds his own house. He always compared his living in Denmark with London to understand what is new and what he needs to do. For him registering address was a big challenge as it was not in London. Subsequently, he did not get any support for housing from kommune as they only help residence with PR or pure Danish citizens otherwise they only provide some links to find place. However, he found out his sharing place with a Bangladeshi family and to get the place his own community people helped him.

Subsequently he started looking for jobs and as he worked in McDonalds for 3.5 years back to London so he thought it would be easy for him to get job in restaurants with that experience. However, it was not easy for him even with that experience applying at McDonald in Denmark and finally when he got job in McDonald then the authority told him to cut beard for hygiene issue but he refused to do that and then he got job in Cocks and Cows restaurant. After settling down little time in Copenhagen then he started applying for professional job as he was doing odd job only for surviving. He spent 2 years to get professional job but somehow he did not get the job.

During that time the rules changed again and a green card holder need to earn in the final year 3,06,000 DKK then his main focus was to fulfil that income requirement and stable job where there is a possibility to get PR. So he planned to work in the unprofessional field until he got PR then he will look for professional job. He was mainly focused on the visa saving and doing language as for changing rules or law it was the most important thing to do.

Before coming to Denmark he expected many things but he thinks, he got more than he expected in some cases and some are not fulfilled yet. He finds a very good Bangladeshi community here where they have strong network and as he played cricket in London so he started here playing Danish Cricket League 2<sup>nd</sup> Division. Here in Copenhagen players from Bangladesh, Australia, Nepal, India, Danish, Srilanka and they all played professional cricket here in 2<sup>nd</sup> division. And the Danish national cricket team is very good although the football is more popular than cricket. In their team they has Australian cricketer. So for him it was very good matter that he is playing here in national level.

There are also Bengali refugee, asylum seeker and people from different parts of Bangladesh living here so he has a very good communication with them. However he always felt that he didn't get the professional job yet what he expected. He thinks in IT job Denmark prefer European first then Indian as people from Indians have good reputation and Indian people also

come here with job, so in that case he thinks that Danish company has a mind set to hire those people first. So in that case he think there is a discrimination in job. Moreover, he believes that where he has 3.5 years restaurant job experience in McDonalds but still I didn't get that job although he knew McDonalds top to bottom so it makes him think that there is discrimination.

About Denmark overall he stated that he likes Denmark then London, Danes behaviour is very good and they try to accept the people but the politicians here are hippocrates because they misbehave with the green card holder because they brought them (green card holders) promising that if they work 10 hours per week they will get PR but later they forced them to earn 306000 dkk and for this pressure or stress he thinks he lost his 2 years here for searching professional job here.

Hence for the changing rules he needed to stop searching job and there was a stress from their side as the politicians were continuously changing the rules. He opined that as politicians are constantly changing rules so what they previously passed in parliament was wrong so they need to change again. So he thinks that the Danish immigration policy is very unstable and for this reason he cannot get professional job as he was always busy to fulfil the newly changed rules.

Furthermore, when he finished Danish language he could search for professional job as per his plan but the reality was different. He also opined that, the politicians says the green card holder they do not have Danish language in first 3 years but when he finished Danish he need to fulfil the required income, as a result he lost his 2 years for searching professional job.

He believes that its big mistake by the policy makers as they do not know what they need or much they need, they made the scheme based on the market analysis but when the market was full they still brought people so there are more people then job so it is their fault. He shared the politicians cannot blame them for doing odd job instead of doing professional job as the green card holder still trying to get professional job but it is their failure that the government could not do anything for them. For them he believes he has 2 years professional job gaps and to cover the gap he has started study in Automation Technique in TEC.

He stated that he need support from them to go ahead. Finally he said that, "the general people, social system all are good but I think the politician who set up immigration policy their planning should be human (29 minutes 15 second- 31 minutes 43 seconds)".

In free time he usually spend time with family, visiting park and travelling to other European countries. He has no Danish friend in social life but in work life so he usually do not spend

time with them as they have two different food choices spicy and non-spicy and drinking alcohol and going to bar. As a Muslim he has a different religious psychology to do all that activities.

Moreover, he also added that Danish people are introvert and as they do not call them or invite them in their house so he also avoid it but he thinks it can be solved easily but no one step forward. He gave one example about his Danish colleague's wedding where he was not invited but only Danish were invited so he thinks there is a gap as they do not know his culture. However he opined that he should also invite neighbours in his house but somehow it did not happened. He think whatever Danish people are not trying to be close to immigrants but they are at least not doing any harm for them so it is good.

He celebrates or observes different Bangladeshi festivals here with the community people in houses, or embassy and during Eid they go to Mosque for prayer. He mentioned that couple of years ago in Valbyparken all the Muslim people can pray together in the open space and there were different food stalls and kids playing area but now it has stopped he does not know the reason but he believes that it was a good opportunity for the Danish people to understand and experience Bangladeshi culture as well as Muslim people.

Now everything they are doing in house so there is no exchange and networking with other community people. Usually he does not attend any Danish cultural events unless different job fair including yearly party in his restaurant. Again he mentioned about the food habit is a big factor here. He thinks Denmark is a closed country they never try to be close and his friends also do not have Danish friends even though they drink together they never become friend. He shared that Bangladeshi people have friend from different European countries but not Danish.

In Denmark he thinks the health care is very good as his younger son was in very critical condition but the health care helped them and saved their son. He also think in terms of social security, transportation Denmark is very good but in job he think in Bangladesh he could get professional job but he does not feel secured. In Denmark the financial condition is very good than Bangladesh and about education he does not yet know about it as he just started.

Moreover, while discussing about his home country politics he showed less interest but he follows what is happening but he does not feel to vote there. As he is living in Denmark for long time now but because of language barrier he cannot feel like danish. At home he speaks Bengali and with his children it is not a problem as the teacher from the school told them to be

expert in one language to express themselves well so they communicate in Bengali and sometimes English.

His future plan is to study here well and find professional job and besides that he wants to campaign Islam religion among the people here in Denmark so that they can know about it and live peacefully. He wants to spread peace and goodness of Islam.

INTERVIEW: 4

Date of Interview: 22 March 2019

Place of interview: Brøndby Strand

Duration of Interview: 40 Minute

Audio Recording is Available

1. Name: Rakibul Hasan Rony
2. Age: 30
3. Family status (Married/Unmarried/Number of Children): Married, 1 children
4. Citizenship status (PR/Green Card holder/Student) in Denmark : Family Reunification
5. Country of Origin: BD
6. Duration of staying/living in Denmark: 5 year 3 months

Rakib has been living in Denmark since 2015. His wife came to Denmark for studying for this reason he joined her later and start living here. When his wife came here for educational purpose then he also planned to study here in future and he always had a plan to have another degree from Scandinavian countries mainly from Sweden and Norway but he never knew that he would be coming in Denmark. Besides, it was a breakthrough moment in his educational life as he was going to come to Denmark for accompanying his wife.

He recently moved to Copenhagen from Aalborg after finishing his Masters from Aalborg University, Aalborg. He mentioned that, before coming and joining his wife he had decent work in Bangladesh but to follow her and give support to his wife in her educational journey he came here.

Before coming to Denmark he did not much about Denmark as in Bangladesh people are mostly interested about England, Australia, New Zealand but he always like the Scandinavian countries for instance social welfare system, art, aesthetic and Scandinavian way of thinking,



living. However, when his wife got admission here in Danish University he did quite lot research about Denmark particularly about Aalborg city and other cities, geography, weather, about people how they behave, what they wear in summer and winter season.

In terms of process coming here in Denmark it was quite smooth for him as his wife did prepared all documents for visa processing. In the beginning stage of living in Aalborg he states that Aalborg is quite Dane area than Copenhagen as Copenhagen seems international. For him Aalborg is typical Danish and their way of thinking is different in terms of friendliness, openness and their perception towards international felt different he thinks.

In the starting he felt isolated from the mainstream society, most of the time he used to spend most of the time with his wife, exploring the city as they both did not have job so they spent isolated time. He also opined that when he landed in Aalborg he felt like home already because the city he dreamt about Aalborg was the same like, the transportation system, everything will be nearby home and also his wife is living here. He felt self-welcomed here and felt like home. He went to Kommune to get CPR registration, visit police station to do immigration process everything was very smooth to do compared to his home country what felt very good to him. Moreover, after coming here he learned all the Danish system like the transportation system and using the app called rejseplanen what made him feel that it is a very systematic country and he loved all about it as he always wanted to see his country very systematic.

Rakib really appreciate the social welfare system as it is very unique in the world as it is seen in the Scandinavian countries. He also shared about the work culture here what he finds very open and good as people are very eager to listen what other says, no hierarchy, openness, creating arguments which he likes most. He also did volunteerism in two different organizations in Denmark Students association where he was the very first hired international volunteer and in that organization they were really helpful and interest to integrate him with as they are also getting new perspective from his point of view and a different paradigm. In addition to this he also worked with another program Young Professional in Copenhagen to know how the Danish different companies works and also he is a board member of AMCA purposively as it will accolade with citizenship test.

Regarding food culture he finds Danish food is kind of boring food and they use lot of pork and as a Muslim he avoid pork. In that way he thinks he has a gap in food culture. Hence, when he is with his Danish classmates and hangout outside he also find himself not closed to them as they drink beer and he usually consumes other non-alcoholic drinks. He thinks that if he

could drink beer then he might be more closed to them. Moreover, he said, “If you drink beer with them that’s easy to integrate with them, with friends then you become part of their community” (33 second-38 second, 2<sup>nd</sup> part of Rony interview audio Clip). However from his religious philosophy he thinks there is a lack of mixing with food culture. He believes drinking beer could help him more with other people than friends to become part of their society.

Furthermore, about politics he said it was quite open as the social democratic party was ruling who were emphasizing on everyone Danish, immigrants or refugee but when the conservative government came to ruling party then he realised that they do not like immigrants or refugee and the party started complaining about the immigrants not to integrate but he think there is a policy level problem and he thinks to integrate they also need to come up as well and it is a both way process. Here he also raised question what the politicians are doing to integrate with immigrants.

Additionally he thinks the gap is going deeper day by day. Recently from one article he came to know that one minister stated that to be Dane one must be 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> generation and one need to marry a Dane so in that sense he feels deprived and as he stated before that he felt this country like home and he is very happy to have Danish education with scholarship and being part of different program he already started felt like the ambassador of Denmark whatever he is in Denmark or another country.

However he opined that when it comes to integration policy or immigration policy and the government way of thinking that the Dane id Dane and they are the only people and other people are here only to earn money, use resources it makes him think differently. He gave example from USA that Gorge W Bush recently said that immigrants are the blessings of the US and Rakib believes immigrants are blessings for any country as it creates a new diversity in the team especially in the international company and economic perspective as the immigrants who have Danish education and other market knowledge besides Denmark so they can get more synergy. Hence the recent Danish immigration policy seems difficult him.

On the other hand, for him language is another barrier for integrating in the Danish society, people can speak and understand English but in the job sector they like Danish speaker and in some international company in international position they still need Danish speaker. As he moved in Copenhagen so he will see and find job where there is open place for international. For language barrier he has limited job market, even though getting Danish job while it would

be a time to hang-out with colleagues then language is also important. In Aalborg he worked in different places in restaurants and he did internship in Danish company too.

Likewise, Rakib studied in Aalborg University with scholarship but not getting living cost for bear the living cost he had to work. He had worked with low skilled job experience and high skilled jobs and he finds there is some differences between this two sectors in terms of way of thinking, treating international people, taking leadership, capabilities of stress management. In low level job he felt like he feels like he is in Bangladesh as they are discriminative and they also do not feel comfortable to speak with internationals in English but in high skilled job they are very cooperative and they try to integrate.

In holiday he usually spend time with family. He played in Danish Cricket League in 2<sup>nd</sup> Division where the players are from different countries including Denmark and he believes this is a good platform to integrate in the Danish society, however cricket is not popular in Denmark like back in 1960s. In his spare times he attended many international workshops, seminar to understand the society and way of thinking. He shared that he cannot attend hangout with friends in bar being Muslim.

Furthermore he also invited Danish neighbour to his house and they also invited him and he shared that he has very good neighbour. He also added that as single and family person has two different life and as he has a daughter so he needs to drop her in kindergarten and also need to attend the meeting and share thoughts or opinion which is very good way of integrating in this society. He thinks his child is already part of their society. He also shared that his wife is a board member in that school. So he thinks it's a good process to be integrated.

Subsequently, in terms of community festivals he used to enjoy with his small community people and he has some friends from same university back in Bangladesh. He also attend Danish cultural events or festivals as he always want to integrate with Danish society however most of the Danish events are mostly targeted for the Dane and there are few events are international.

He is interested in politics in Bangladesh as he does not have time to think about it and he does not feel to vote in his home country however he is little bit interested in Danish politics because politics can really change the society. He gave example of New Zealand terrorist attack recently and how the government response on it in terms of policy and leadership changed the public's perception. On the other hand, Danish politics right now from the conservative government

they are directing in the opposite direction, he thinks they are trying to spread Islamophobia and anti-immigrant sentiment. That is why he try to follow Danish politics to see the changes.

Besides, he also shared that during previous government he felt like he is part of the society but this government as well as the policy represents that he is not part of the society. He believes that Denmark will always be in his heart as he is the ambassador of this country in terms of his study and career so wherever he will go he will represent Denmark. From current perspective it is a closed country although it has good social security and education than his own country. However he feels that it is also his land but he does not know how it feels to be pure Danish. For the current government he is scared and he thinks he is not dane anymore and that is why he decided to move to another country and in near 6 months he is going to move to Bangladesh or other country where immigrants are more welcomed.

INTERVIEW: 5

Date of Interview: 23 March 2019

Place of interview: Brondby Strand

Duration of Interview: 44 Minute

Audio Recording is Available

1. Name: Fouzia Hasan
2. Age: 30
3. Family status (Married/Unmarried/Number of Children): Married, 1 children
4. Citizenship status (PR/Green Card holder/Student) in Denmark : Student now establishment card holder
5. Country of Origin: BD
6. Duration of staying/living in Denmark: 5 years

Fouzia came to Denmark in 2014 for a Master's Programme in Aalborg University, Aalborg. She has been living here for past five years with her family. She recently moved to Copenhagen from Aalborg for searching professional as well as other jobs. Before coming Denmark she did not have much idea about social life or other information.

Besides one of his teacher from Bangladesh who is now working with Aalborg University assisted her to come here. She also added that when her teacher got PHD in that university then she started thinking about Denmark and how she can also study here and she got information that there is a possibility to get tuition waiver too what also motivated her to come to Denmark.

After living in Aalborg for 5 months then her husband joined her and then at the end of her study she also become mother.

In the beginning she did not know anyone here except her teacher so it took sometimes to find her community people through her teacher. She opined that she was very upset in the beginning as she did not know anything and how to do all things but Bangladeshi community people helped her to do all the post processes.

In the first month she was very busy to find a job as the living cost is very high then she started working in the restaurant owned by a Bangladeshi couple. She shared that to find a job in Aalborg was the most difficult part of her life as she never experienced to submit CV by hand in different places and job center gave her a list of workplaces where she can apply for job. Fouzia walked around the city and talked to different restaurant and hotel for jobs. Besides the weather also surprised her.

On the other hand, she expected quality education and she opined that her expectation is fully satisfied. However, she never thought that it will be very difficult to get professional job here so in this case she is not satisfied. She thought that after getting the degree it will be easy for her to get job. She also added here that Danish language is so tough to learn which is very important for her field in marketing.

After finishing her study it was even very tough to get odd job too in Aalborg and it is her personal thought that because being muslim and wearing hijab was one of the reason. Recently she did internship after 2.5 years after her studies. So after struggling 5 years of getting right job in Aalborg now they moved to Copenhagen and now she is doing odd job and faced one interview with an international company.

Furthermore, she likes Danish culture, she like the people here as they smile. She likes the tax system which results no hierarchy in the society. However she thinks Danish society do not accept the immigrants as a part of their society. She thinks as this country titled them multicultural society so they should implement that. Hence every day the government is changing the rules for immigrants.

About the permanent residence rules she shared that when she came to Denmark it was very easy in term of time and language but then every year they are changing the laws and making very hard to fulfil which making her thinking for leaving plan and she will see this year if she can get good job or not then she will leave the country.

She has a very good relation with her Danish neighbour in Aalborg but in holiday and every week Bangladeshi community get together have Bangladeshi food. However most of the time spent time with family. At home they speak Bengali and they communicate with her baby in Bengali and kindergarten teacher advised them to speak in Bengali at home. The community also observed different national days or cultural festival together. She also participated in the world kitchen and cooked Bangladeshi food and she thinks it is a good way to close to Danish people. She also attend Danish events organized by job center.

Moreover, she is very interested in her home country politics and she strongly feels to vote in Bangladesh. Besides, in terms of education she feels represented in Denmark. When she first came here she felt Denmark is open country but the new rules for immigrants represent Denmark as a closed country. She also added that Danish is Danish and Danish people think no one can be Danish as well as the politician recently shared that to be Danish one needs to be 4<sup>th</sup> generation and sacrifice religion and marry Danish so it shows its closed country.

Subsequently, she thinks in terms of job in her home country she has bigger opportunities than Denmark but in other issues Denmark has bigger opportunities. She does not feel like Danish, she shared her all documents are representing Bangladesh so she can not feel Danish. Living in denamrk overall she likes it as it is worlds 2<sup>nd</sup> happiest country. In future she would like to do Phd or finding a good job in Danish company. If they cannot do stay here then she will try to find job in Bangladeshi universities.

INTERVIEW: 6

Date of Interview: 26 March 2019

Place of interview: Ishoj

Duration of Interview: 35 Minute

No Audio Recording

1. Name: Lipi Akter
2. Age: 32
3. Family status (Married/Unmarried/Number of Children): Married, 1 children
4. Citizenship status (PR/Green Card holder/Student) in Denmark : Green Card Holder
5. Country of Origin: BD
6. Duration of staying/living in Denmark: 4.5 years

Lipi was a school teacher in her home country and during her work life there she met his husband and after 8 years long relationship they got married and now they have one baby girl who is 3 years old.

Moreover, they both have very good career in Bangladesh and her husband studied from Belgium in Nutrition and he was a nutritionist in UNICEF Bangladesh. She shared when her husband came back from Belgium they got married and as Lipi's parents are dead so she had to decide everything about her life. On the other hand her husband is orphan. They choose to come to Denmark in a green card visa because in Bangladesh they had hectic life with work and they both were working in two different places and they do not have any family.

Basically it was her idea to come here, as her husband informed her how life was hard in Belgium however she thought they both can overcome any struggle as they are well educated. The country's (Bangladesh) corruption and insecurity made them tired. When she lived alone she was always scared of being assaulted and robbed by someone.

Subsequently, Lipi motivated her husband to apply and then she also applied for green card and when they came here in Copenhagen she was 4 months pregnant. After coming here they thought it would be easy for them to get job but the reality was totally different. She also added that her husband's two other friends also applied in that time but they got visa first and they are one group here. She spends her holidays with her family and sometimes with those friends. In the beginning they did not have any idea about what is Kommune and CPR then when they get registered they understand the system. She mentioned they struggle a lot to find place for stay. First they lived in one place and their CPR registrations were in the other place. Then after 6 months living like that they got a company house and they gave their all saved money to get the house. They visited Kommune many time to get help for finding a housing as she was pregnant but they did not help. Then they stop going to Kommune for housing help at least.

Furthermore, she shared that as her husband and she both are green card holder so they are very busy couple. They both work full time and they manage their baby based on their schedule. Lipi said that she has become old after coming here due to odd job, she shared now for hard jobs and maintaining children she is totally broken but she has to earn certain amount of money to ensure her extension and secured visa.

Besides, she shared that each and every day they realize the decision they took was life changing and mistake but now she also cannot go back home as they both do not have parents

and her siblings are busy with their own life and if they go now they will not accept her like before. The reason she mention in this discussion was her brothers think she can grab the property as she has more money now so they feel in-secured. She said that she sometimes feels like her class here in Denmark is like the garment workers from Bangladesh.

Now Lipi is working in a packaging company and working full time there. She got the job from Bangladeshi community and her husband is working with one canteen. So in their busy life they do not have time to make new friends here especially Danish. She is focusing on more getting PR but she is also scared if something changes in law because they do not want to get back to Bangladesh as there is no hope there. In the end of this year they will try apply for the PR.

Additionally she also shared that now her daughter cannot speak Bengali and do not have interest to learn Bengali so she thinks there is no point to get back. Even now they are having problem with communicating with their children as she does not response to Bengali, only Danish or English as she is like Danish people so they are very upset right now how to handle this situation. The couple speak English and they started Danish now to communicate easily with their baby and understand what baby is saying.

She informed that she does not know about the Danish politics but she is very concern about the law and she take all the information from her husband. About Danish culture she shared that women and men have equality and the society is very safe for women to work late night too so she does not have any problem working late night which is impossible. She is happy with the safety and social security here.

Besides she also believe that the Danish job market and social security create more opportunities for the immigrants who want different life style modern life style. However she also thinks Denmark is closed country for the immigrants. Moreover, she is not interested to attend Danish cultural event as she is very busy. Her future plan is to complete Danish language course and apply for PR.

**Experience while taking interview:** she is very focused on getting PR and secure green card requirements. She is introvert but if she can rely on someone she talk. As she was meeting me first time she was not sure what really she should say and she told me to wait for her husband and then she can discuss more.



INTERVIEW: 7

Date of Interview: 28 March 2019

Place of interview: Farum

Duration of Interview: 40 Minute

No Audio Recording

1. Name: Does not want to share her name (Sumi-fake name used for this interview)
2. Age: 32
3. Family status (Married/Unmarried/Number of Children): Married
4. Citizenship status (PR/Green Card holder/Student) in Denmark : Student, now Establishment Card Holder
5. Country of Origin: BD
6. Duration of staying/living in Denmark: 3.5 years

Sumi living in Copenhagen for past 3.5 years. She came here as a student in Copenhagen university as law student. She was a full time law practitioner in Bangladesh. In worked in a recognized law firm in Bangladesh for 3 years and she also practiced in high court. She choose to come in Copenhagen for higher studies. She got offer letter/acceptance letter from Australia and Denmark but she choose Denmark as it was free education. She received tuition waiver for study. She came with her husband. They both are experienced lawyer. However her husband came independently here. She shared that they were long time classmates and best friends and they did all university application together so when she decided to come here her husband proposed him and just 7 days before travelling to Denmark they got married.

She always had a plan to build a better career in this country and she wanted to have global level experience in law so that she can contribute to international law. After coming here it was very easy for her to get housing as a student however 1<sup>st</sup> 6 months were worst in her life she said because the living cost is very high here. She did not wanted to focus on job but only study but for the living cost she needs to work in restaurant. She mentioned that it was very hard for her and her husband as they both were student and they had limited working hours and at the same time huge study pressure.

Moreover, she is always focused on the networking and for future career in Denmark she thinks it is one of the best way. On the other hand, she was very active in LinkedIn and communicating with people with same interest to discuss and fixed date and time for having coffee in café. She said it was her networking techniques to connect with more Danish people and integrated. She

is a coffee lover and she knows Danish culture so she try to be assimilated and integrated with Danish people more. Additionally she spends more time in networking than hanging out with Bangladeshi community.

Subsequently, she writes article in daily basis in home country's newspaper and also she write about European law and its changes and impacts in Denmark in LinkedIn. She shared in her linkedin many Danish lawyer and bankers and organization follow and read her article and appreciate and she also discussed about the issue and give legal advises. In this way she got job professional job (she doesn't want to share the name of the organization). She worked there 5 months only because of bitter experience and discrimination so she resigned her from that job. She shared only that she was not accepted by the colleagues and her idea or thoughts were not valued or respected.

Also, sumi said she was treated like normal immigrants but not as an Expats. She said they told in her face when she argued that she is also an expats but her colleague told her only European are called expats not Asian. It was one of the occurrence what made her to resign and she does not want to talk about what happened with her in that office as she said she feels so sick and frustrated when she remember all these. She shared when she left her dream job she was so frustrated and demotivated and depressed and it took long time to cover it up as she does not trust joining in other companies. She shared it took 3 months and many tough exams and steps to get that job and that job make her feel worst and surprised.

Likewise, now she is working in a restaurant just for getting money to bear the living expenses but working virtually with Bangladeshi law agencies and farms and earning money. She regularly write column in newspaper. Now she is looking for scopes to immigrate in Canada as Canada is very friendly and welcoming with the immigrants. Beside Canada is an English speaking country so she thinks it will be very easy for her to get professional job in more welcoming manner.

About her life right now in Copenhagen is closed she does not waste time meeting people. She is focusing on career in Canada and as after six months she will be finishing her visa so before that she wants to move from here. However her husband is still looking for professional job here. In her free time she stays at home now. She only meet two Bangladeshi families here when she has extra time otherwise she stays at home. She learnt Danish until 4th module so it helped her to get job and now she thinks it results nothing now as she have to go away from this country.

She follows Danish as well as European law and rules in general and write her thoughts. About Danish politics she is not happy as the current politician's attitude and tough law for the immigrants. She thinks the government is choose by the people of Denmark so in most of the cases Danish people are like the current ruled politicians. She mentioned about the immigration and integration minister that she is racist and she is spreading hate towards to immigrants and Danish citizens are enjoying it.

Hence, sumi is also very interested in her country's politics too but she does not like the corruption and bureaucratic problem in Bangladesh. She attended Bangladeshi festivals in embassy couple of times but what usually happen within the Bangladeshi community like getting together in regular basis and travelling in group, she is not interested and she does not like that because she heard that in that kind of party they do not enjoy time playing games or gossiping something meaningful but they always talk about who is not mixing with the community or not, who is not attending in the Mosque programs and events so she tries to avoid all these.

On the other hand, she used to celebrate Danish cultural festivals and visit friends house for Christmas and have dinner but now she does not feel like doing all these. She does not like living here now and she shared that she gave all effort, love, passion to be successfully established here but the result is nothing so she is looking for better place and she believes it is far way better to start respectable career in home country rather doing odd job here. As she mentioned that her husband is still trying but she thinks it is her husband's career but not her she will follow her passion. However she thinks in Denmark in every sector there is bigger opportunities than her home country and that is why she is here but she thinks it is the failure of the Danish government not to get benefit and skills from people like her. She wants to contribute to this society through her knowledge and skills but she is not accepted here.

In near future she is going to take final decision about staying here and apply from here to Canada which might be easy for them to get visa easily than Bangladesh. She wants to establish in her law career successfully in global level.

**Experience while taking interview:** she is very focused on her career rather just staying here for PR. She seems like hating this country and the immigration law. She tried to integrate through food habit and attending Danish cultural events and hanging out but the discrimination she experienced from her dream job really affect her badly. She stopped everything what she was doing with passion but the struggle and perception towards her make her feel bad.

INTERVIEW NUMBER: 8

Date of Interview: 30 March 2019

Place of interview: Tingbjerg

Duration of Interview: 32 Minute

No Audio Recording

1. Name: Does not want to share her name
2. Age: 33
3. Family status (Married/Unmarried/Number of Children): Married, one daughter
4. Citizenship status (PR/Green Card holder/Student) in Denmark : Accompanying family member
5. Country of Origin: BD
6. Duration of staying/living in Denmark: 3 years

She came here in Denmark following her husband, her husband is a PR holder. They have one girl child 2 years old. She like living in Denmark but she badly miss her country and parents and her office. Here she does not work and her husband do not want her to do jobs here as it is very tough physically. She spends her time in every week meeting or visiting Bangladeshi friends house and have food together. She also always fixed the menu for the party then all other families bring food based on that.

She doesn't have any Danish friend, she never thought about it. She also does not have any European friend. She has only Bangladeshi friends. She passed PD2 level Danish language. As her husband has PR so for her it is not a problem to stay here longer too. She does not like Danish culture. She completely stays at home all day and go to kindergarten to take her baby. She is not aware of politics in Denmark but about Bangladesh she is very interested. Every year she visits to Bangladesh otherwise she become mentally stress. This year she will also go. She does not like the school culture as they eat pork so in future she is going to admit her daughter to international school so that her daughter do not forget her culture.

INTERVIEW NUMBER: 9

Date of Interview: 30 March 2019

Place of interview: Tingbjerg

Duration of Interview: 25 Minute

## No Audio Recording

1. Name: Does not want to share her name
2. Age: 30
3. Family status (Married/Unmarried/Number of Children): Married, one daughter
4. Citizenship status (PR/Green Card holder/Student) in Denmark : Accompanying family member
5. Country of Origin: BD
6. Duration of staying/living in Denmark: 4 years

She came here following her husband. When her husband got accommodation only then she came to Denmark. Right after coming Denmark she got pregnant. Now her daughter is 3 years old. Her husband living in Denmark for 5 years and before that her husband lived in Sweden. Now her husband has PR and her daughter too but she does not have, she always need to extend her visa according to her husband.

She is learning Danish language PD2 level, as it will help her to get PR although she is not working but her husband will manage a light job where she can work fulltime and fulfil the working hours requirement.

She does not have any Danish friend. She only prefer Bangladeshi people as friend. She maintain one particular group of people from Bangladesh. She does not like as her daughter like Christmas songs, Halloween culture that's why she started playing Arabic rhymes so control her daughter not to be interested in Christian culture but muslim culture. She never felt voting here in Denmark and also in Bangladesh too. But she do care about Bangladeshi politics.

## **BANGLADESHI CULTURAL PROGRAM**

Bangladeshi immigrants in Copenhagen organize every traditional cultural festival among themselves mostly in home or attending programs organized by the embassy. I personally attended the Bengali New Year this year to observe how they celebrate. They do one dish party in all the parties. They wear traditional dresses and cook traditional food. The women and men sit separately and chat in two separate room. The women first serve food for their men then after that they eat the food, following the most traditional Bangladeshi male dominated society's culture.

So to be like them I also sit separately then listen their discussion. They most of the time talked about who's husband got PR or not and how long it will take, about Danish language exams, jobs and changing laws. They are also concern about their children if their children is taken by the municipality so they are very careful about taking care of their children. They also organize next meeting or party and who is responsible for what. Then few women go outside with their husband for Sakura festivals and other stays at home, some of their husband went out for having coffee too. They also took pictures and they celebrate his way.

There were 2 new couples attending that party and they become facebook friend with each other and that is the way of networking with own ethnic group of people and they were also inquiring about cleaning job as they want to do work, as they are not highly educated so they want to do any kind of odd jobs.