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**[0.00]**

*Hello, thank you for coming today, could you just tell us your name, your age, your ethnicity and your generation please?*

Yes my name is Farida Akhtar, 22, I'm Bangladeshi and I am on 2nd generation.

Ok can you tell me a little bit about yourself?

Yes, I've... I just finished my studies for business management in Salford university, hopefully graduating next month. I did do business management like I said, got a 2.2 wasn't the best grade but happy with it... I just left one of my jobs, so I worked at LBM for quite a bit now and I've got a new job with AA. I'm hoping to get a career in marketing or like merchandising or something like that. I've got 7 brothers and sisters, then quite a few nieces, there are quite a lot of us at the moment and still expanding... Can't think of what else to say.

*Interests?*

I really can't think.

*It's ok, so you got a degree recently with a 2.2?*

Yeah.

*How did you feel when you got your degree?*

I was happy with it because I knew I was gona get 2.2, but I was disappointed in a certain way because I was only 3% of 2.1 so when you hear that it just... Just 3 %, and you try and see what you can do to improve it but obviously you can't do much about it even if you get it remarked or anything. But because of my previous grades and everything, I knew I was bound to get a 2.2 so in a way I was fine with it as long as I dint get a 3rd or anything like that. 2.2 was great and my family was almost happy with it, it was just my eldest sister she wasn't too happy because obviously with her she's got a 2.1, well both my sisters they've got a 2.1 and my brother Imran he's got a 2.2 but he was happy with it. Anyway, and obviously because my eldest brother he hasn't graduated and he's never even finished college so obviously if there's more people in our family graduating my parents are happier in that sense, so yeah that's what it was.

*And how did your parents feel about your grade?*

My mum and dad were fine because obviously I passed it. I am graduating now so they're happy with everything there, as long as I've passed it and got my grade and obviously they weren't expecting too much out of me in that sense and because at the end of the day like, I got a 2.2 so they are happy with it. It was just the fact that my eldest sister wasn't happy because I could have done better, I know I could have done better but I was just messing about too much in the last year and I know I should have not done all that, but I'm still happy with it. Like I said, I passed 1st year and 2nd year and I was getting 2.2 and everything and like some assignments and some exams I did get a 1st or a 2.1 or something but over all I knew that was going to get a 2.2. But I just didn't tell everyone because I knew there we're going to be some people that were going to be disappointed, but at the end of the day, it's my grades if I'm happy with it shouldn't matter that much to anyone else because it's going to be with my future anyway, so yeah.

*And you said that you worked at LBM?*

LBM yes.

*What did you do there?*

So I worked at O2 just selling contracts and everything to customers but that was only nearly a year so I like had a month left so it would have been a year, but I did leave there now as I've got a new job with AA. But I don't start that till another month so after Ramadan so that works out perfectly in a sense but obviously you have to think about financial issues. If it's going to be like benefits for me I try and manage some way but as long as I've got a job for my future and everything, I am still applying for like jobs for my career and everything so I've had a few interviews and everything for marketing and some were just like... Like the other day I had a, they said it was a graduate marketing assistant job so I went for it and everything and they said I've passed 1st stage and the 2nd stage was to come in and be in the office and go out the office every now and then but they didn't exactly tell us what we're going to be doing. But obviously its a marketing assistant your gona be trying to advertise and go out you know, but staying in the Manchester area within the town centre or something, but what happened was we ended up going all the way near Preston doing door to door sale which was like, hold on this has nothing to do with my graduate degree. Like my actual marketing assistant which really really took the mick like it did get really inside I was fuming because I was thinking this has nothing to do with it and every time I asked the guy, like because obviously there were quite a few of us, but every time I'd ask the guy what was the job and what are we doing exactly, he was like we're doing this we're doing that but they didn't want to make it out as in it was just a basic door to door sales. They kept saying after a few months you can be a manager and everything but it's like, at this moment I still want to do something that's more relevant to my degree. I didn't come all the way here to go all the way near Preston really and the fact that we were there until about 9 o'clock at night so about from 11 o'clock till 9 and it was just... I hated it and the fact was that we were going in to houses and it was a white area and there were dogs and all these animals and I hated animals in that sense, the fact that dogs are touching and going in to their peoples' house was just disgusting for me. I didn't like as people enjoy stuff like that but for me that was nothing like what I wanted to do but at the end of the day when we came back to the office and everything I just told them I'm not going to go for it because of the fact that you didn't say it was door to door sales. It's been advertised as a graduate position but it was just basic door to door sales and the fact that there were other people that were like much younger than me so 18 and whatever it was but it was just fuming and I was just fuming inside thinking they advertised it and everything, and then yeah... I had another interview before then I found out quite a few things like the fact that they don't recruit Asian people which was really like... And the fact that it was a graduate marketing assistant job as well and it was in Oldham... I went for the interview and everything was perfect I had to do a presentation so obviously I prepared the presentation before hand and emailed it to them and I did the presentation on the day and everything and what was it... Yeah, and the question on the presentation was just basically they received an award and how basically they can maximise the effect of using that award, the queen's award and obviously I gave them some pointers like you can do this, they can do that some marketing tools basically. Then on their letters because obviously I received a letter beforehand like thru post and everything, they had logos and everything, their company logos at the bottom of the letter but then I suggested that you can have that queen's award and put it on the letter as well and obviously, when I found out I found out through the letter as well. They gave another letter saying unfortunately you didn't get the job like, I called them up and found out why and she was like everything was fine it was just down to experience but like how it is down to experience if you've seen all my CV information compared it to other people. So how is it got to do with experience because obviously beforehand you knew about the experience so clearly it's not about experience. But I thought alright leave it and when I saw the new letter I was thinking comparing the old letter and I was thinking, yes they used my marketing tool information to their advantage. Because they ended up using that queen's award as a logo and put it on their new letter I was thinking they used all my information and use it to their advantage and yet they still didn't recruit me and then I think a few days later my sister was telling me her brother in law tried to go for one of the jobs for that company as well but he knows people that work there and he found out that there's not a single Asian person in that company. Obviously in a recruitment situation they still need to try and gather different ethnicities as such as well but yeah... Apparently they don't

recruit Asian people whatsoever. It doesn't matter how much experience you've got and especially because my sisters brother in law, he has got a lot of experience he's got all like degrees and everything you need for that role but he still didn't get it. That's like, I'm going through stages where I've seen how companies are and just fuming inside, but it just shows that there are companies that do this do that, one day I'll try and find my job, the one that I want but yeah

*How do you feel when that happens?*

I do get really annoyed and everything but then I just think there just hurdles you are going to be bound to go through all these hurdles. You are bound to go through all this hurdles, this is just the begging of it and I've just graduated now. So it's just the begging, hopefully within a few months' time I will find that job that I've been wanting for such a long time. Because of like my sisters and my brother and everything it took them a few months until they found their jobs, so I just need to take it like, see what they've gone through and try just take that in. But then I've seen like one of my best mates, she's graduated she still hasn't found that job that she been wanting, so it just shows nowadays more people are graduating and its harder for them to get jobs. I've seen that, so in a way I'm just trying to understand that's just how. So I'll just try and be patient with it, I will find my job just be patient keep applying, keep applying so I'm got going to try and take it to like... Emotional in that sense so not try and be too sensitive about it.

*How do you feel as a British Asian person who's looking for a job and facing these difficulties? Where in your opinion your ethnics becoming an issue?*

It is an issue because especially with that marketing job in Oldham, that one it was frustrating to hear that it was down to the fact that I was Bengali and I was a Muslim or something. But it was frustrating but you think that there's loads of companies out there that just being so corrupt in that sense. You are bound to find that and you are bound to find all these people. I've seen some of my friends go through like racial arguments and everything... Like in their work environment, I know how it is but with me because I've always been open to different ethnicities and obviously like I was always multi-cultural, we was always brought up to be multi-cultural so like I've got best mates that are Pakistani's and I've known people black, white and everything. I've experienced different ethnicities so I can obviously be open minded in that sense, but obviously there are people that are not like that and you just have to understand from their perspective if it's like that and let them be if companies are like that. Forget it's better that you don't get that job obviously because there are going to be like, don't want to be in that environment as well so in a sense obviously it's frustrating but at the same time you just think whatever let it be just try and find something else.

**[10.39]**

*How does your religion, how is your religion a part of your everyday life?*

It's... I don't know, its mixed kind of like that other day when I had that door to door sales one fact that as I think was part of our religion. I'm sure you were not meant to touch dogs and such, I told the guy that and the guy was like what the hell, I was like it's just part of it and he was like trying and didn't give a monkeys about it. He didn't even give a monkeys about my religion, and then when he was saying stuff to customers, don't worry we don't have customer service like in India and what not, it's like sometimes it is quite annoying to hear stuff like that. Because they are trying to say we are all English, we are all this and were all that you know, those little comments that people do make about stuff like there's people that are multicultural different religions and they hate the fact like... Obviously if I remember when I was working at LBM, some customers used to hate the fact of being an Asian person on the phone. I did have the odd few customers but I tried to ignore it but it's just one of those things, there are some people that are not used to the fact that there's Asian people living in that area or speaking to Asians or anything like that. There's quite a few racist people you just have to get used to it but... I don't know.

*Ok, let's move on to your gift. So what gift have you brought here today?*

So I got a guess bracelet, it's from my 2 elder sisters. I brought it with me because like with my sisters obviously, when we were younger we did have the little immature sibling arguments and everything but as time grew and as time went by my elder sister Mushooda, when she got married we all realised like what our family meant. I know it sounds crazy but when she had left, and obviously she only went to Oldham which isn't far anyway, but it was the fact that my brother got married obviously but that was my sister-in-law coming in to our family. So that was different but for one of the family members to go away its completely different and it was so hard on all of us, because she was the elder sister and if mum wasn't around she was the one to deal with anything. If I dint tell mum things I always used to ask her for like if I can do this and if I can do that. She was the second mum basically and then because it was quite hard on us and then we started to become close and everything and all of us brothers and sisters especially like my younger sister she is deaf and she can't speak, so it's like different. But I mean like us 3, the elder 3, we started to become tighter and closer and more opened. Before, I went through a different situation and I used to be so scared of my sister like the elder one Rasheeda. I used to be so scared to go to her and everything because obviously she was strict in that sense. She had to be and I'm glad she was. She went off getting married and everything but I wasn't as close to her. My second sister Hameeda, she got married last year so we all started to get closer especially just us sisters, like boys wise they do their own thing and everything, so all the brothers are in their own world. But us sisters became much closer and then both my sisters, Mashooda and Hameda, they both gave me this and I wanted a bracelet anyway in general, but yeah I wanted it for my birthday so they ended up giving me this. It's one of those gifts that I'm always going to keep and I know that I'm going to keep it because I went through quite a few hard times and everything relationship wise. For example, my ex-boyfriend, I was with him for about 4 and a half years and after like obviously I told my friends and everything, I wasn't one of those people that I was. It was a weird situation to be honest with you because I didn't go through that phase where I'm crying loads; I actually went through a phase where I was so angry. I don't know what it was, I was just fuming for a few months and the only person after my friends because I don't know why, I couldn't just relate back to my friends at that point, but the only person I could talk to was my sisters. So they were there and obviously they were happy that I'm out of that relationship and they dint know what actually happened in that relation, but the fact that I was not in a relationship they were happy with it because obviously that's true to our religion. But the fact that they were there for me and it was nice having my sisters, it was weird in a sense because obviously we have been through that whole phase of my stricken sisters and you don't go to sisters at times like that but they were amazing when it came down to it. They were there for me and everything when I needed them, I called them for everything from that day onwards. Even to this day I do have my emotional break downs here and there for such things like family and stuff or friends and stuff or something but I can always come back to my sisters for it. And obviously you do have your friends like I've got quite a few good best friends and everything but it's not always the same. Especially because my friends are all growing up, some of them are married and some of them are doing this and doing that and everything. But it's harder and my sisters, I know they are always there so that is one of the reasons, like main reason that I've got this bracelet it means allot to me right now.

*So you talk to your sisters about relationships and stuff like that?*

Hmm...

*And how do they take that?*

Obviously they felt bad at the time but it's good for you because I explained how it was hard on me and everything. I didn't exactly explain what exactly went on and everything but I explained that it's such a hard relationship and I have to get out of it. I couldn't go in to detail of it because obviously if they found out like the majority of the stuff, they would have been fuming more and it was just basically like... It's just... physical

violence... Emotional and everything...

*So for the record, we talked about a few things that you want to keep off the record, so what we're going to do now is we're going to talk about where you keep that gift, this lovely bracelet?*

OK, so obviously I don't wear it at home or anything but I do keep it on my left arm. I don't know why the left arm but I only wear it when I'm out and about, its just one of those things. If I wear it at home I know I'm going to damage it somehow, like scratch it on the surface or something but I only wear it on occasions when I'm out and about.

*How do you keep it when you are at home?*

I have my little, I have this little jewellery stand thing so I only keep my prime position for that certain jewellery. I do have other jewellery boxes and such but its just in my room on one of the draws. I just keep it on there just nice where it doesn't scratch against anything else or anything, just keep it nicely and tidy on there.

*Why is it kept with your prime possessions?*

It's one of them bracelets and obviously it's not expensive it's just the fact that I got it as a gift and it was from my sisters. So its just one of those presents that I always want to keep as long as I can, and obviously wear it as much as I can. So I don't know, I just leave it there because I'm gona wear it when I go out and it's nice to just keep it there rather than have it in one of my wardrobes or something like that.

*Do you wear it every day?*

Yeah, when I go out basically but not like if I'm just popping out to Asda or something like that, nothing like that. But if I'm just going out, you know what I mean, nothing like just on a casual shopping or something like that.

*So, what would you do if it got lost, damaged or stolen?*

To be honest not sure, I really don't have a clue never thought of that to be honest with you.

*How would you feel if you lost it?*

It wouldn't be one of those... I won't be crying over it or anything because at the end of the day it's just materialistic stuff. It doesn't matter at the end of the day I suppose, just obviously it was a gift from my sisters an everything but as long as I got my sisters around me it won't matter as much. But obviously I do want to keep it an everything, I don't want it to get lost or damaged or anything like that but I don't think I'll make a huge fuss about it. I will moan to my sisters and be like go get me another one go (laughs), get me another one or something but it won't be such a massive deal.

*What does this bracelet mean to you?*

It means a lot it's just the fact obviously my sisters gave it and that's what makes it... I mean like, it doesn't have that money value, obviously it's just a guess bracelet but it's just the fact that someone gave it to me. Well both my sisters gave it and everything and it's just that the value of the bracelet is so much, it does mean quite a bit to me but at the end of the day it's just materialistic stuff it and doesn't matter as much.

**[20.06]**

*As much as what?*

As much as I've got my sisters round as long as I know... Obviously if I lost this then this wouldn't matter much in a sense but it does have that value but it's just not as strong as what I've got between my sisters. At the end of the day I know how my sisters are there and I get to speak to them and see them on a casual basis, like a daily basis... So as long as they are there it's not as valuable, I hope you know what I mean.

*Ok, so I'm going to ask you about the gifts you've given to your family now. So let's start off with your mum, what occasions do you buy presents for your mum on?*

With mum out of everyone, well I do buy her gifts every now and then. So it's just mainly things like she might wear every now and then, things like little stuff like the odd few jewellery or scarfs or something like that. Because it's like if I'm going shopping and I've seen something for myself and I might think that'd be nice for mum. It's mainly scarfs to be honest with you, I don't know what it is obviously with mum, she's traditional and she wears her saris at home and everything. I am not going to go buying her a sari every time I go out but when I go shopping and see something I think mum would like, I might get that.

*What type of scarfs? To wear around the neck?*

No, just head scarfs. So if she wears it because she does compare to us sisters and obviously when it comes on to "hijaby" girls they like to buy loads of scarf's and obviously with us sisters we do buy loads of scarf's between us. But with mum because she doesn't go out as much and to places where we normally get our scarfs or something like that, my mum obviously the only time she goes out is when she needs house stuff or something like that. But with her, she's not one of those to go shopping just because she feels like it or anything like that, she is much older now and because of her illness she doesn't go out much. It's nice when I do buy her few things, like she does come when I give it to her and she will be like: oh why did you buy this? It's like I wanted to give it to her so that she'd be happy and grateful and everything. But it's just like why am I spending my money that's all, because obviously at the moment she just thinks we should save our money and don't go spending on this or that, but she is grateful with it and everything.

*So what celebrations would you buy your mum presents on?*

With mum it'll be, if its celebration wise, it'll be her birthday. We don't do mother's day or anything like that because we just think with mother's day and father's day we just think that's just pointless.

*Why?*

Because obviously why do you want to show your love for your mum and dad on just one day and not just show it on the rest of the other days and everything. So I find that it's just one of them things, just a normal day and yeah. So it will be on her birthday or Eid. We don't always do presents on Eid but there are 2 main occasions to be honest with you.

*Coming back to mother's and father's day, is that just you, you think?*

No, we have done presents and stuff before like every now and then, we do buy the presents because we are getting older and we think there's so many people in the family now, we just think especially with the kids because nieces and nephews it all adds up and obviously we are not all loaded in that sense. We can't keep buying all these presents just for one day, that just means nothing. Obviously you are meant to love your mum and dad every single day and show them that love everyday and everything why would you just want to show it on that one day. I know you obviously want to spoil them but the fact is that we do spoil them every now and then. Anyway, so why would you wanna make a whole shebang, one special occasion because obviously

there's quite a few people they just do mother's day and father's day and they forget about all the other days in the year. So to us it doesn't mean as much and obviously with the birthdays we do the presents and everything, we do give our mum and dad presents and everything, it doesn't matter what it is. With dad he's one of them people that if you take him shopping, oh gosh, he spends God knows how long in shopping and then he'll go for the expensive stuff so with dad we treat him like he gets all the luxury stuff he always wants. With mum, she doesn't want all that fuss and everything with her and so she likes all the minimalistic type of stuff but with us we're like why'd you want to go for this instead, so mum does get all that treatment, that VIP treatment and everything on her birthday. So does dad, dad loves it, if you keep giving dad presents every single day he would love it, he is one of those people... How us girls love our shopping and if you treated us here and there, dad loves all that and that's how we got our love for shopping and such, from dad basically. Whereas with mum, nah she'd rather not.

*Coming back to mother's and father's day is that just you, you think?*

No, that's like we have done presents and stuff before, like every now and then we do buy presents we just... Because we are getting older and we think there are so many people in the family we just think especially with the kids, because nieces and nephews it all adds up and obviously were not all loaded in that sense. We can't keep buying all these presents just for one day, that just means nothing like obviously you are meant to love your mum and dad every single day and show them that love every day. Why would you just want to show it on that one day, why would you? I know you obviously want to spoil them but the fact is that we do spoil them every now and then. Anyway, so why would you want to make a whole shebang on one special occasion because obviously there are quite a few people that just do mother's day and father's day and they forget about all the other days in the year. So to us it doesn't mean as much and obviously with the birthdays we do the presents and everything, we do give our mum and dad presents and everything, doesn't matter what it is. Like with dad he's one of them people that if you take him shopping, he spends God knows how long in shopping and then he'll go for the expensive stuff. So with dad we treat him like he gets all the luxury stuff he always wants and with mum she doesn't want all that fuss and everything with her and so like, she likes all the minimalistic type of stuff but with us we're like why'd you want to go for this instead. So mum does get all that treatment, that VIP treatment and everything on her birthday and so does dad. Dad loves it, if you keep giving dad presents every single day he'd love it, he is one of those people he's like how us girls are, we love our shopping and if you treated us here and there, dad loves all that. That's how we got our love for shopping and such, from dad basically, whereas with mum she'd rather not.

*So what do you get for your dad then? And on what occasions?*

Dad, April was his birthday so we got him quite a few shoes, like between us brothers and sisters. We all chipped in and got him shoes I think. The year before that we got him a suit and everything, he goes for the higher things and he's not one of those people that just pop in to top shop and top man or something like that. He'd prefer to go in Trafford centre and go in to all the higher brands and he thinks we're loaded or something (laughs). But yeah, he loves that treatment.

*And when do you gift him then? On which occasions?*

That's mainly on his birthday, it's just compared to mum, because dad is always out and about, he's living that luxury life because he's going here and he's going there. Like we always moan to him that he goes Wales with all the boys and it's like your 50 old years old man, why don't you take us out, why don't you take mum out and everything. But with mum, we treat her more because obviously she does so much for us compared to what dad, obviously dad comes home with the money or whatever it is, but what mum does compared to him its noting, so we do treat mum more in that sense but yeah...

*What about your brothers and sisters, do they gift you or do you gift them?*

It's both ways, with my elder brother Mijan, I don't know why but he was never the type who wanted the presents, like I want this and I want that. He was just the oldest brother, he does his own thing so we hardly give presents. Obviously he'll get presents of his family like his wife and such but we don't really bother. With his birthday, he's going to be 30 in August, so when it comes down to us brothers and sisters we all do presents, when it comes to us sisters we'll do it together.

*Together? What does that mean?*

For example, for my birthday my sisters gave me this.

*Ok, so birthday presents?*

Yeah... If it's one of our other sisters' birthday we'll do it as us sisters giving it to the other sister. So for example if it's Hameedas birthday it'll be me, Mashooda and my younger sister. It'd be like that's how we do it, just sisters doing it together and then... With the nieces and nephews, my brother Imran he's the lazy one... Yeah... Imran, so yeah he's older than me a few years, he's lazy and the fact that he's so busy with his work and everything he doesn't have time to buy presents and such. So obviously in our family it's only me, Imran and my 2 younger brothers and sisters left in the house and mum and dad obviously. And everyone else has their own houses, so because me and Imran are the oldest ones we tend to get the presents together so when it comes down to nieces and nephews we'll do it together or with the 2 younger sisters. But when it comes to us sisters it's completely different and I know it's confusing.

*I sort of understand, between you sisters your share is it equal amounts?*

Pretty much yeah... With my younger sister it's not much because obviously she's not working and she's going college, it's just the fact that she's involved with it.

*But for your nieces and nephews or between you and your brother?*

Yeah, mainly or with my nieces and nephews to be honest with you I tend to buy presents every now and then. Even like with birthdays and such, but on top of the birthdays mum always shouts at me for it because obviously there are so many of them now, there's like 5, yeah 5 of them.

So would you buy them presents when it's not even an occasion?

Yeah that's what it is, if I see something, clothes wise, especially if it's a girl obviously with my nieces I can just buy them clothes

*Yeah.*

Because I tend to go shopping quite a bit but I'll go in the kids section and think, oh that's really nice ill just get it, doesn't matter what the price is. It's one of those things and obviously with us brothers and sisters like, I'm the favourite aunt in that sense especially with my eldest nephew which is Zain. Because I don't know, since he was born I've been his favourite and he's been my favourite. I don't even know why, it is just one of those things, obviously he was the eldest one out of all of them and he got the most love but as time grew by and everything, like everyone my parents my mum and dad and everything they spread the love around between all of them, whereas with me I always had my Zain and then Zara.

*So what do you buy for your brother and sisters and what do you buy for you nieces and nephews?*

It's a mixture to be honest. Obviously we do ask them what do they need and everything. It's a mixture, there

isn't anything specific when it comes down to nieces and nephews, it's mainly clothes or something or toys. But with like my nieces Zara and Maleeha they've got so much toys that they don't need it. The fact that they've got so much shoes and clothes they've got everything, they are like spoilt in that sense but we just tend to give them clothes with them 2, and then with my nephews we tend to buy toys and such. Obviously with Amaara, she's only a few months old, she's like 3 or 4 months old so she obviously hasn't really got all the gifts but she has the odd few things right now. But it's a mixture, even with my brothers and sisters it's a mixture. With Imran, its perfume or something or clothes, or with Isman it's whatever he needs so it's mainly shoes with him. The other day I just bought him shoes because he wanted a pair but with my younger sister it's just whatever she wants, like I'll just take her shopping and she will buy what she wants.

**[30.45]**

*So I am going to ask you about Eid, when Eid happens do you exchange gifts with your family?*

Not between us brothers and sisters, we grew out of it.

OK.

Before we used to buy the odd few presents or something. With mum, she does tend to buy us outfits for all the kids, so between us brothers and sisters and the nieces and nephews.

*What types of outfits?*

So with us sisters it's Asian clothes. The majority of the time it will be Eid outfits for the day just like chooridars or something like that or whatever it is...

*For the guys?*

For the guys it's a top or something but between us lot, none of us brothers and sisters do presents between us. But because we've got another generation now it's different so we spoil them lot more. We'll just give them clothes, so they'll get brand new clothes; Eid comes twice a year so I'll do outfits for both the occasions. But now there's so many of them it's harder. Obviously financial ways, you have to think about it as well and I've got so much other things I need to pay out for but mum and dad always buys them clothes no matter what, but with us lot it is clothes and it'll just be with the nieces and nephews.

*In the past, what would you gift each other on Eid?*

Between us lot I just can't even remember. Like money or something, it was just rear like obviously get the odd few money here and there and clothes wise or shoes or something like that but it wasn't major expensive stuff it was just little stuff.

*Your parents on Eid, do they give you money or?*

With mum and dad they buy us clothes even to this day, so yeah it's just clothes.

*So they've always bought you clothes?*

Yeah pretty much...

*And your grandma and grandparents?*

There not here anymore, none of them but I've put it on the tree because with my mum's side none of us to see them unfortunately because they passed away and because they lived in Bangladesh and obviously we're all here. So we didn't get to see them but with my parents they both lived with us and we did get to see them but with dad's mum she passed away a year and a day after my birthday so I have no memories with her. I just have one dream but no memories whatsoever, but she means a lot because obviously I've heard stories about what she's done for me. She means a lot to me in that sense and obviously with my younger two... They got to see my grandad he got to see all us brothers and sisters so my dad's dad but after that obviously they went and they didn't get to see the great grandkids but yeah.

*And do you have family back in Pakistan?*

Bangladesh.

*Bangladesh sorry.*

Dad's like... Dad's got his sister and nieces and nephews and something but with my dad's side we're kind of not as close with my mum's. Like mum's got her uncles and such and whoever but we are so much closer to my mum's side than my dad's. My dad's family in a sense, they are all corrupt in a sense because like they've gone through legal stuff against my own dad.

*Oh ok.*

Because he was the only brother boy in the family and obviously everything went down to him like the land and everything and obviously his sister didn't like the idea so... A lot of issues started from there but dad doesn't have that relationship that he had before. But he's much closer to my mum's side and the fact that my mum's side have taken him in like their own literally, so even when we go Bangladesh or something we're always at mum's side more than dad's side. Even like we don't even stay in our own house and everything, we stay at mums families house or something but yeah... And then mum has family scattered around the UK as well whereas dad's majority of the family is in the same area so it's in Hyde and everything.

*You know when you go to Pakistan...*

Bangladesh.

*Keep saying Pakistan, when you got to Bangladesh do you take presents for people there?*

I've only been there twice, I went in 1992 so I was 3 months old.

*OK.*

And then in 2003.

*Yeah.*

I would never go back, I hated that place.

*Why?*

I've had bad experiences like loads of bad experiences in there like...

*Like what?*

When in 92, some woman tried to kidnap me so thank God, my grandmother was there. My dad's mum was there that's one of the major things... Yeah that's what happened and then in 2003 a lot of other crap happened I don't even want to say but I would never go back.

*Do you like Bangladesh?*

Hate it.

*Really?*

I would never go back, even if I'm married and such I would just never go back.

*How do you feel about being a British Asian Bangladeshi then?*

Like that has nothing to do with it, it's just the fact that its going back to Bangladesh. It's completely different being Bengali in the UK, it is completely different. The people in Bangladesh that are so messed in the head and the things they do like black magic and such things, that's how scary it is. You don't want to go there and because you hear all these stories and how guys are and paedophiles. I've heard so many stories it's disgusting, so I would never go back, that being the main reason but it's completely different to here obviously.

*So what does it mean to be a British Bangladeshi to you then?*

I don't know, it's just... I never thought about it like that, I think that in Bengali don't look at it much, I'm just Bengali but I don't know.

*So do your parents go back?*

Yeah, mum and dad love it because obviously they've been brought up there and everything. Dad goes every few years or something. My mum has been dying to go for such a long time but because we've got so much going on she can't. And especially with my younger sister Majeeda, because she's deaf and she can't speak its harder, so obviously we've got so many thing's with her and everything. Mum and dad love it, they'd go as much as they can, they even want to live there but they wouldn't because they've got all of us here and with the boys in my family, my brothers they love Bangladesh because obviously with boys they get that freedom in Bangladesh, whereas with girls you have to stay indoors. Because of the way men are down there, but yeah...

*So when your mum goes does she take gifts for family in Bangladesh?*

Yeah even like... When our relatives go, my mum tends to give certain gifts to her uncles because it's her actual uncles, her dad's brother so she'll give certain stuff to pass it to her uncle... When they went the last time they always get gifts, they always take gifts to them sorry, so it doesn't matter what type of gift it is whether its clothes, shoes or whatever, they always takes something.

*Are they Bengali type gifts or western gifts?*

Asian gifts basically so it varies to be honest. Because with my dad's uncle, sorry with mum's uncle because he's really ill she'll try and give him stuff that will benefit him. So like clothes wise, something that's thick clothing because obviously material wise it's completely different there, and won't be getting that quality clothing in Bangladesh compared to what we have and everything, so mum will give certain stuff like that.

*So will it be unstitch fabric or something like that?*

No, it'll be stitch like I don't know, for example... Its different clothing like cardigans or do you know things like that but when it comes to women and such, the woman side of family, it'll be like saris or something... So or Asian dresses or like salwar kameez something like that so it's just that the majority of the time.

*And when they give gifts over there?*

Yeah.

*Do they get gifts back?*

I don't know. I'm not too sure to be honest with you but in Bangladesh they are not as rich as we are and such. The majority of the families aren't, its just the way it is but I don't think they get as much gifts as well treat them but... Yeah, I'm not too sure to be honest with you.

*You mentioned you give gifts on Eid, do you give gifts on birthdays as well?*

Umm...

*You don't do mother's day and father's day?*

Yeah.

*How do you decide on what occasions to give gifts on?*

We don't actually decide like that, its just if we feel like it or we think financially it's alright for now or like if we've missed out 1 occasion we didn't do that or we didn't give it last year we'll give it this year. It's like that but it varies. It's not like dad's birthday is coming up we have to give it, it's not like that. It's whether we feel like it or if they need anything; last year I don't think we gave dad anything but this year we gave him a present because he needed it as well. He needed more shoes and we ended up giving it with mum, she gets it pretty much every year or like some of us will give it and some wont, so it's just a mixture every year it's not one of them planned stuff.

**[40.19]**

*Do you celebrate Christmas?*

We don't actually celebrate it we do have the meal and everything so we'll have the whole... We don't get the turkey I think but actually the Christmas that just went by we went to our cousins and they had the turkey and its quite nice. Then, within our family, we've just done big massive chickens and then the whole roast and everything... But yeah, we'll do the whole big family meal but we try not to class it as Christmas because obviously we're Muslims and you're not meant to do Christmas and everything. It's just nice though to have that meal. Everyone comes together, for example during Ramadan, that is one of the main times when the whole family comes and eats together, whereas on a casual daily basis everyone eats in their own times.

*Do you give gifts on Christmas?*

No, we don't do gifts on Christmas at all.

*Never?*

Nope.

*Why not?*

I don't know. Christmas, we just think of it as a meal together, why should we do I know it's stupid because we doing Christmas and we are Muslims. But presents wise we never do presents at all, we don't try and class it as Christmas.

*Easter?*

No

*Valentine's day?*

I used to... Obviously if I was in a relationship that's different but because obviously with me, when it comes to relationships, I'm a completely different person.

*Ok.*

So I'd be giving the presents more and everything, even if it's not valentine's, birthdays or anniversaries but yeah.

*Why'd you do that?*

It's just one of them thoughtful stuff isn't it? And its nice even if I don't get the gifts back it's just nice. I'm just one of those people, even on a casual basis and even with my mates I'll just buy a present if we're going out shopping or something and then oh why don't you just get that, why don't you just do this? I'm one of those type of people, I know sometimes I should be like alright chill out with it but I've always just been one of those people that just gives presents every now and then here and there.

*How does it make you feel when you give presents?*

It's nice, it's like even if I don't receive it I will be thinking that as long as they are happy with it I'm fine so I'm not gona be thinking selfishly like, oh I gave that person a present I want it back as well [laughs]. But I don't know... It's a nice idea to give it to someone else it's nice to have them smiling, doesn't matter like even if the values a bit higher than what you want to be spending, you just think it doesn't matter it's just one present.

*Do you have any traditions in your family regarding the way that you give gifts? So are gifts wrapped and do they come with cards or?*

We don't have traditions in that sense. Mum always when she wants to give a gift to someone, she always wants it in a gift bag whereas with the guys, we do tend to do gift bags we don't want to give it in like some carrier bag or something like that. But wrapping presents, if it's a wrapped up present it'd be to the kids, to the nieces and nephews but between us brothers and sisters we are a bit too old for unwrapping the presents and everything. But yeah, its more gift bags with them and it has nothing to do with tradition, it's just however we want to give that present too.

*Ok, I'm going to ask you a question about the difference between your generation and your parents' generation. Do you think there's any similarities or differences between the way that your mum gives gifts and*

*you give gifts?*

There are similarities because we do buy similar presents and such, like clothing wise or toys. When it comes down to toys, they don't change as much, it'll be similar... The fact is that with us guys, with us brothers and sisters, we tend to give more presents than mum and dad do. Mum and dad prefer to give it just on occasions but with us like I said we tend to do it in occasions as well as here and there, but there aren't any specific traditions or anything like that.

*And are there any differences between what you and your parents do? You just mentioned that you do it more frequently than they do it for example.*

Yeah, that's all it is, just the frequency of it. But present wise pretty much similar and everything but we tend to do with mum and dad, they just give whatever they want they won't be asking what do you need or is anything you want. Whereas with us brothers and sisters we'd try and find out what we'd want or what we need or anything, or even when it comes down to the kids we'll ask the parents what do they need and obviously if mum and dad are going to buy a present, we just think well why don't you just get her that because that's what they need. But when it comes to mum and dad, they just end up buying what they see that's nice and that's the only difference with it.

*Ok so you mentioned earlier on in the interview that you have friends of different ethnicities, black, white, Asians. Do you give similar gifts to the same ethnic background as yourself?*

Presents wise, when it comes down to friends, we won't be separating which is... For example, I'm a Bengali and I'm getting these certain stuff it won't be nothing like that. Just whatever like with me with presents when it comes down to friends, if its birthdays as such I'll ask them if they want anything because obviously you do want sometimes, you do go through a phase of wanting stuff. Why not just get someone else to buy it for you, do you know what I mean? So with friends, I'll ask if they need anything if not then I'd get whatever I think they'd like. For example shoes or perfumes or something like that, there's no differences between us so it doesn't matter which background they come from they'll still get similar stuff in that sense.

What determines what they get?

Their personality, so obviously if they like certain stuff or like with me if they are family or friends or something if they were to give me presents, like for my birthday I get shoes more or less or makeup. This birthday I just got makeup and shoes more than anything or a bag. If I want luxury stuff there is small products that I want so it just depends on what they like and their personality and everything.

*Are there any gifts that you would not consider giving to friends of an ethnic back ground?*

No because it doesn't matter as long as at the end of the day, when you give a present to someone, you don't think about yourself and you just think about if that person would like it and if they are going to be happy with it. You can't be selfish in that sense and obviously you have to come to a point if you like it as well, but you always have to think... If they're going to be happy with it, would they like it? So it doesn't matter what the present is as long as they are happy with it.

*Are there any gifts you would not give to people that you believe are forbidden?*

I don't know, I never thought about that so... Like I'll do an example, so alcohol I wouldn't give that because obviously I don't drink alcohol, I never have and I never will, so that's to do with my religion so I would never... I've got a Sikh mate, she drinks and everything but I would never give her alcohol.

*Why?*

Because the great thing about her is she respects all that, like even when we go out we do let her drink even though she feels she shouldn't do. Because she's with Muslim people around her and everything but we say to her don't stop, but friends wise like I don't know she understands to a certain point. Obviously out of us to give her alcohol it's just a bit... I don't know, I don't know how to explain it to be honest with you but I wouldn't give her alcohol in that sense. It's just one of those things and it's meaningless as well. When it comes to presents you want them to keep it for long term or something or for them to benefit, whereas alcohol they are going to just drink it up and that's it, it's not going to benefit them in the long run.

*Is there anything you want to add about your gift giving and what you do that we might not have covered today?*

I can't think of anything to be honest [laughs].