



COMMUNITY CARE AND DEVELOPMENT

(BMHP6022_LON)

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INTRODUCTION

MUSLIM COMMUNITY IN BIRMINGHAM

Community is a group of people living in the same area which have a specific characteristic in common.

(NHS, 2023)

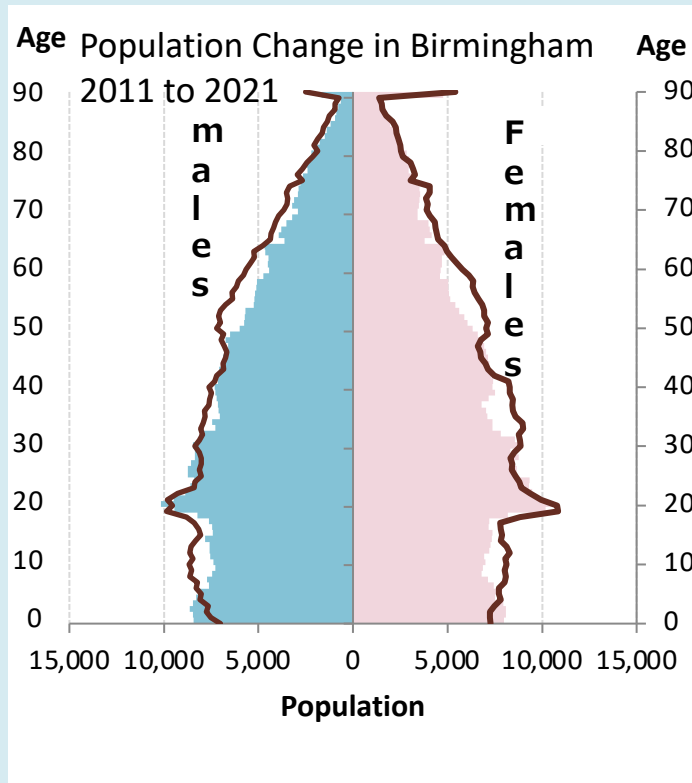
Community development is a process where individuals come together to take action on what's significant to them.

(SCDC, 2023)

Aim of the project - To address the issue of poverty surrounding the Muslims in Birmingham, and to raise awareness about the negative consequences which they experience.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS IN BIRMINGHAM

Population



Ethnicity

White British - 491,179

Asian or British Pakistani – 195,102

Asian or British Indians – 66,519

Asian British Bangladeshi – 48,232

Black British Caribbean – 44,673

Religion

Christian – 389,406

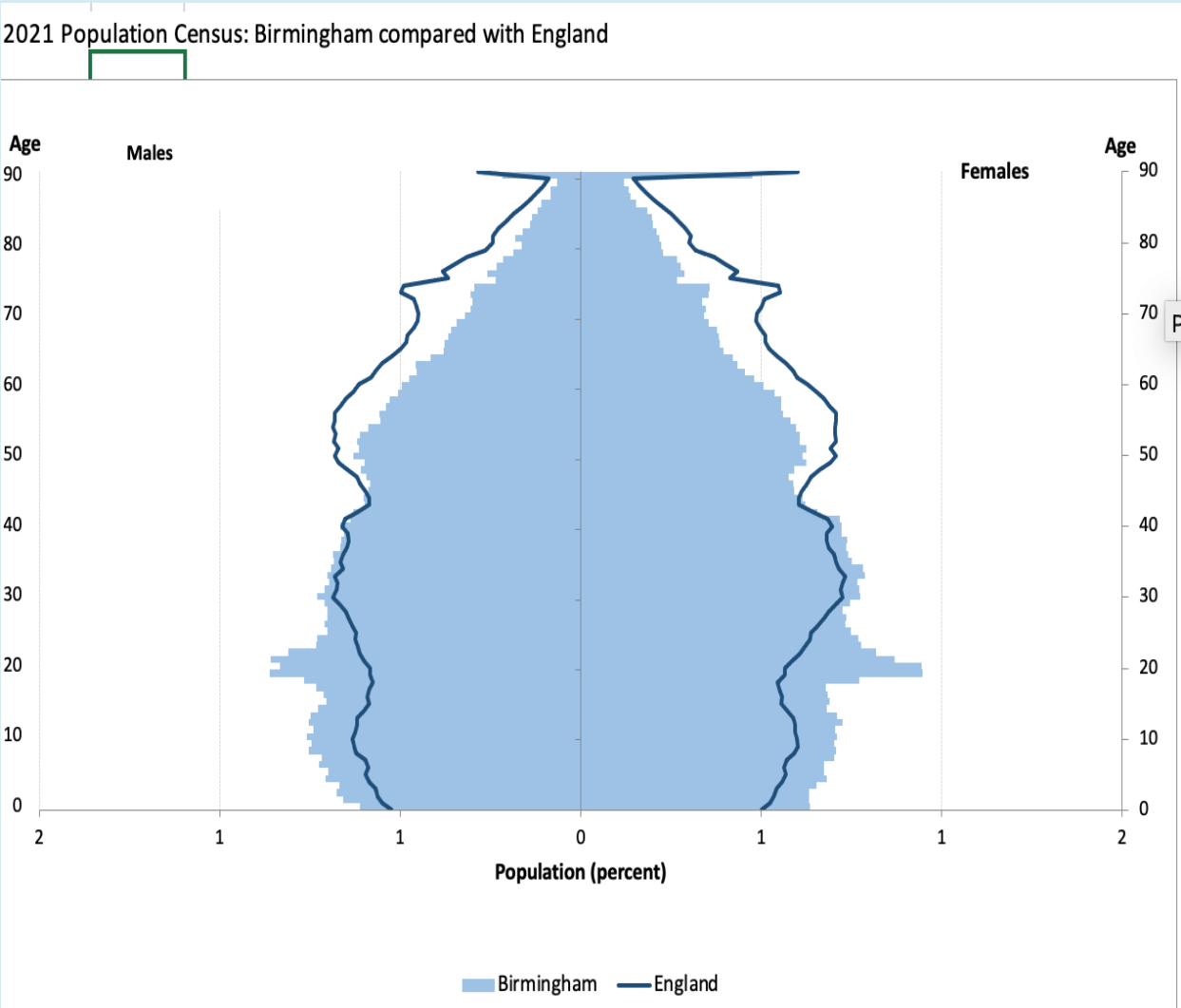
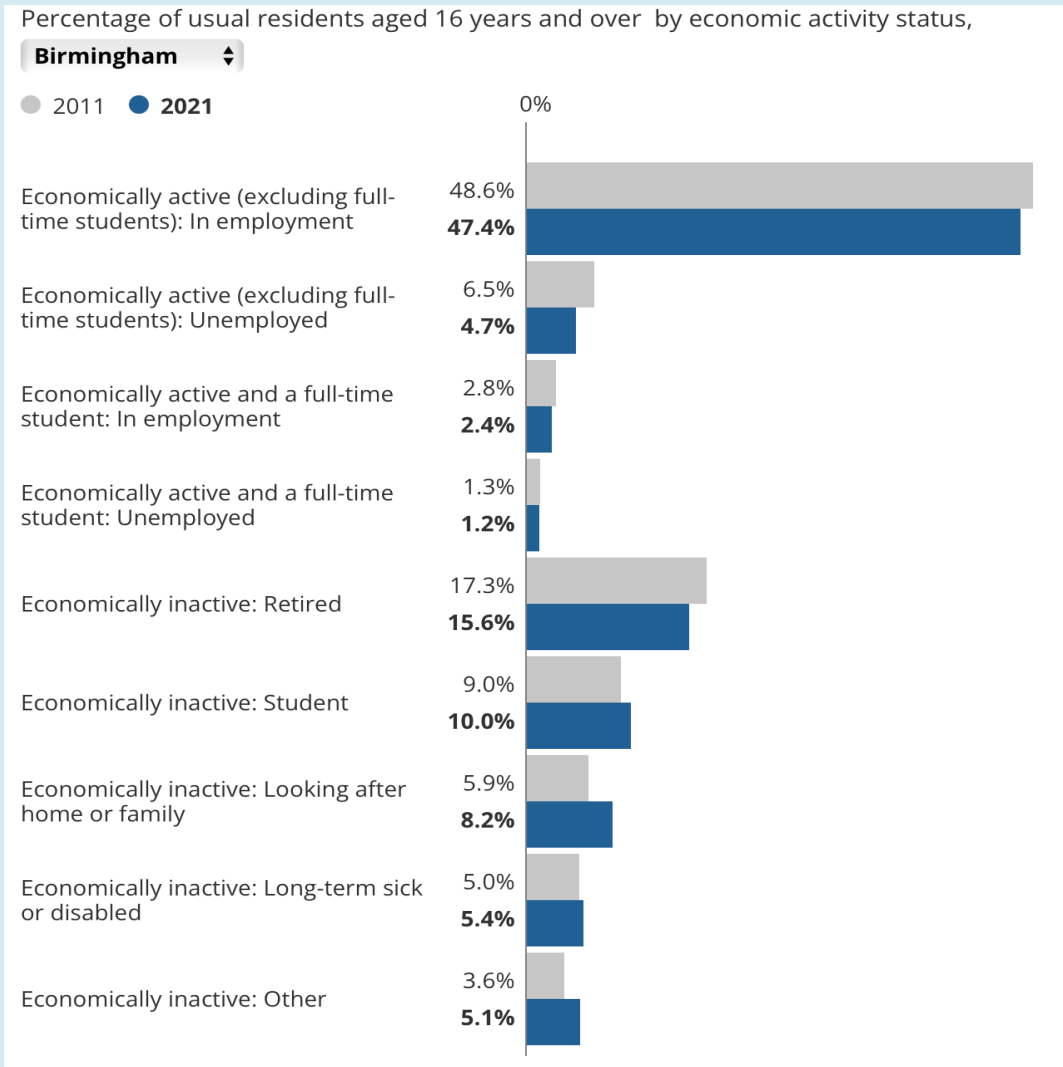
Muslim - 341,811

No religion – 276,327

Sikh – 33,126

Hindu – 21,997

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS IN BIRMINGHAM



MUSLIM COMMUNITY IN BIRMINGHAM

Muslims are the second biggest ethnicity group in Birmingham - 341,811.

Muslim population is relatively young.

Employment – the community faces higher unemployment rates compared to other communities, with many working in low-paying jobs.

Education – muslims have a higher rate of uneducated people who lack knowledge and qualification.

(Office for national statistics, 2023)

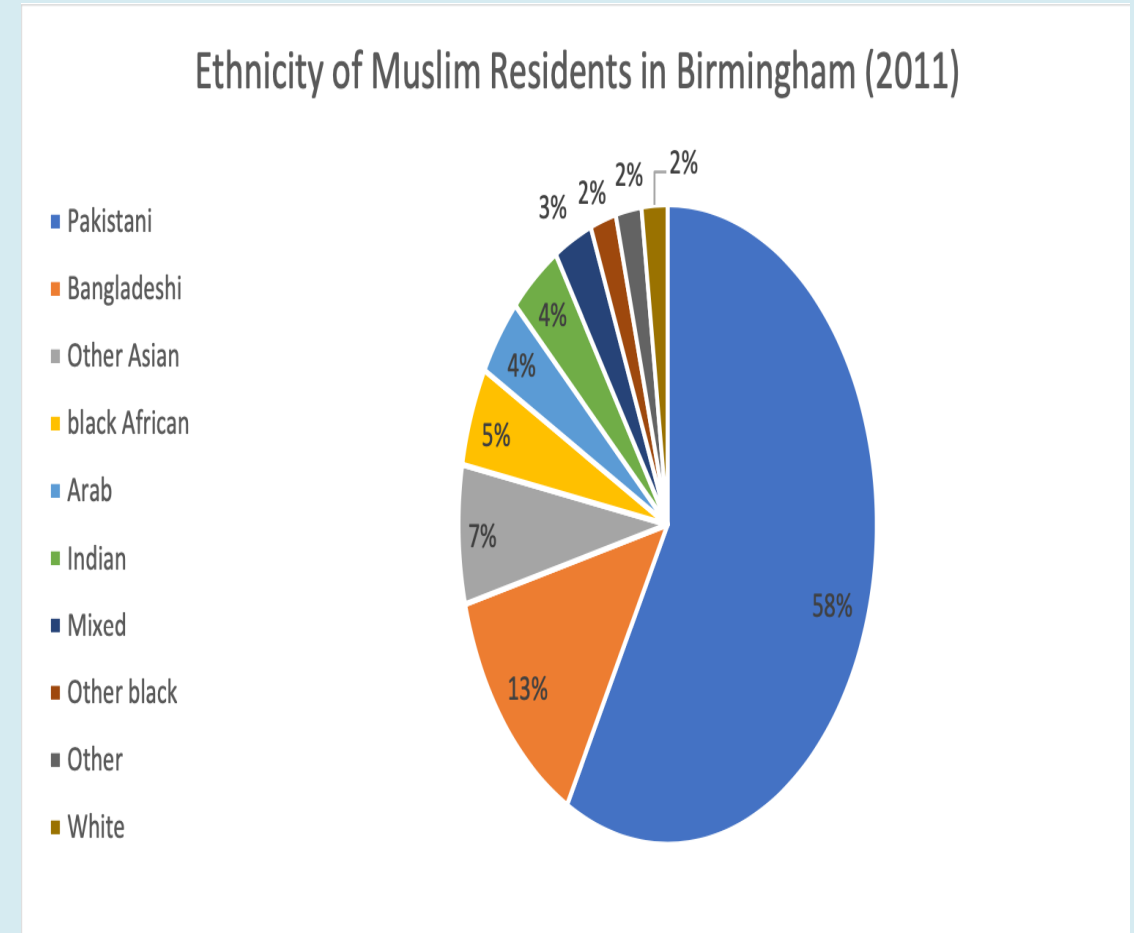


Photo credit: ONS, 2011.

PROBLEM IN THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY

The biggest issue affecting Muslim community is poverty.

Poverty have huge impact on human's physical and mental health.

(Alen, 2017)

Health issues due to poverty:

- Malnutrition – weak immune system
- Mental health issues – depression, anxiety
- Chronic illnesses – diabetes, cardio-vascular disease
- Higher mortality and lower life expectancy

(Muslim community health profile, 2020)

POLICIES AND LEGISLATIONS ADDRESSING POVERTY

Welfare Reform Act 2012 implemented a variety of adaptations and modifications to UK's wellbeing system. (Department for work and pension, 2023)

Universal credit is a benefit that makes the benefit system simpler and its purpose is to motivate people for employment. (Department for work and pension, 2023)

Child Poverty Act 2010 produce strategies to lower child poverty in the United Kingdom. (Kenedi, 2014)

Equality Act 2010 protects individual from discriminations based on race, religion, gender, social status. Poverty can be a reason for discrimination.

(Equality and human rights commission, 2020)

INTERVENTIONS TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

Birmingham city council is using social media platforms such as: Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to introduce intervention to improve the health of the muslim community. Some of these interventions are:

➤ **Pathways to Recovery**

Public Health England, in a partnership with Birmingham City Council – have created a guide to support mosques in their work to improve health of people who are a part of their community, and to prevent illness. (Public Health England, 2017)

➤ **Healthy Faith Communities Toolkits** for the largest faith communities in Birmingham. (Birmingham city council, 2023)

➤ **Islamic Faith Settings Toolkit**

(Ahmad, *et al.*, 2022)

EXISTING MEANS OF COMMUNICATION

Birmingham Poverty Truth Commission is organisation which focuses on dealing with poverty while working alongside businesses for support. (Birmingham city council, 2022)

Hazrat Sultan Bahu Trust is a charity organisation which educates Muslims and provides necessary resources and educational programs.

(Charity commission for England and Wales, n.d.)

Muslim Hands is international aid agency delivering aid, food banks and clothes.

(Muslim Hands, 2023)

Islamic Relief provide healthcare, education and pleasant activity scheduling for the community in need.

(Islamic Relief, 2023)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Poverty is a complex issue that requires multifaceted approach.



Education – providing programs that help people achieving and develop the skills they need for better jobs



Job opportunities – investing in infrastructure projects to create new working places



Community development -providing safe and supportive environments that foster social and economic development.



Advocacy for policies and programs that prioritize poverty reduction at the local and national levels.

CONCLUSION

Poverty is more than just a lack of income, it is about lacking the basic needs that are required for survival such as: goods, access to education and healthcare services, shelter etc.

Reducing poverty requires a range of many approach that involves government policies, community development, education, job creation. This can be done by implementing effective strategies to help reduce poverty in Muslim communities and improve the lives of the people.

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