

Fitting Into the Diasporic Space: The Impact of Diasporic Experiences on the Lives of Bangladeshi Migrants in Canada

Abu Saleh Mohammad Sowad, Concordia University

Abstract

This paper provides a comprehensive overview of the current trend and the issues addressed by the academic scholarship on Bangladeshi Migrants in Canada. Reviewing the existing literature, this study focuses on how diasporic experiences impact the lived realities of Bangladeshi migrants in Canada. Starting with a synopsis of the Canadian immigration policies that encouraged Bangladeshi people to migrate here, the background of the paper also provides the history and trends of Bangladeshi migration to Canada. Later the discussion segment provides an expansive discussion of the significant points presented in the literature, including the discussion on identity dynamics, lived realities and everyday experience of Bangladeshi migrants, their major driving factors of migration, their formation of post-migration identities, generational tensions, struggle with securing employment and their process of the assemblage with Canadian and diasporic Bangladeshi culture. Finally, this paper concludes by emphasizing the gaps that need to be fulfilled to better portray how diasporic experiences impact Bangladeshi migrants in Canada.

Keywords: Diaspora, Migration, Bangladesh, Canada

Biography:

Abu Saleh Mohammad Sowad is an FRQSC doctoral candidate in Social and Cultural Analysis at Concordia University, Montreal. His research focuses on the constructions of diasporic masculinities among Bangladeshi men in Canada. He is also working as a research professional at the Research Chair on Gambling at Concordia University, Montreal, where he leads the research team on gender and gambling. Previously, he obtained an MSc in Gender, Development and Globalisation at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), where his thesis focused on the aftereffect of migration on the deconstruction of masculinities among Bangladeshi immigrant men in the United Kingdom. He also has an MSS and a BSS degree in Women and Gender studies from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. He has been working as a faculty member in the Department of Women and Gender Studies, University of Dhaka, since 2014 and is currently on study leave. He also has extensive experience working as a consultant with various INGOs like ActionAid Bangladesh, NETZ Bangladesh, OXFAM and USAID/Bangladesh.